

# Advisory Body to Gloucester Harbour Trustees

Navigation House, the Docks, Sharpness, Berkeley GL13 9UD Tel: 01453 811913 Fax: 01453 810381

## Minutes of a meeting held on Thursday 7 November 2012 at Navigation House, Sharpness

John Christie welcomed members to the meeting, the first to be held since May 2012 after a series of cancellations because of unforeseen adverse weather conditions.

### 1 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the Advisory Body meeting held on 17 May 2012 were agreed as a correct record.

### 2 Report from GHT

A report summarising GHT's recent activities had been circulated prior to the meeting and a number of points were noted in particular.

- **Port Marine Safety Code**

The Harbour Master commented that GHT had a duty to comply with the requirements of the PMSC and report on this as appropriate. The Safety Management plan had been developed following extensive risk assessment and the associated policies and procedures were updated from time to time as appropriate. The full document was available on GHT's website.

- **Incident Reports**

An incident had occurred since the report was circulated to AB members which had given some cause for concern. A small vessel had arrived unannounced at Sharpness one evening (vessels are required to give 24 hours notice of arrival/departure). The skipper had called the Pier Head some three hours before high water, from a position only six miles distant, with a request for advice as there was little water in the channel. The vessel was far too early and was at risk of going aground with potentially dangerous consequences for the vessel and those on board. The skipper was advised not to proceed further until sufficient water was available, but continued to proceed at slower speed, arriving at the port entrance with just over 1m covering the sill. On arrival he was interviewed by the Harbour Master and the CRT Supervisor, when it became evident that not only had he failed to take heed of basic advice for navigating safely in the Severn Estuary, but had no navigation lights, did not carry an up to date chart and had stowed safety equipment in the bilges.

The Harbour Master commented that GHT made great efforts to make passage information available on its website and monitored local cruising guides to ensure that details were correct and up to date. It was disappointing when individual leisure sailors ignored good advice and acted in a potentially dangerous manner.

- **Aids to Navigation**

A number of aids have been upgraded recently with vivid reflective panels to make them more conspicuous in the daytime.

There had been no recent reports of further problems with overhanging trees on the Wye and an inspection visit had now been delayed until the spring.

The metal cabinet housing radar equipment at Severn Beach had deteriorated recently and was due to be replaced within the next few weeks.

- **Severn Bore**

The HM reminded members that he could only follow up reports of inconsiderate behaviour on the Bore if he was given as much information as possible about alleged incidents, including time, place, type of craft, etc.

### 3 **Open Forum**

Don Sutherland had been unable to come to the meeting but he had asked for a number of topics to be raised on his behalf.

- **General Directions**

All harbour authorities were to be given powers to draw up General Directions under the new Marine Act. GHT already had the power to make General Directions under its 1994 HRO and the RYA had been one of the many bodies consulted on their creation.

Although GHT had been able to draw up byelaws under these powers, they were difficult to enforce and evidence for prosecution had to meet the exacting standards of PACE. In practice, peer pressure, education and advice to offenders, when they could be identified, was a better way forward and GHT endeavoured to encourage river users to behave responsibly. There was a right of navigation in the river but activities should not put others, such as SARA, at risk when dealing with the consequences of thoughtlessness or stupidity. In passing, AB members noted the care taken by Lydney Yacht Club and the Hovercraft Association when undertaking risk assessments for their organised activities.

- **Environmental Matters**

Members noted that the environmental agencies had powers to require marine licences even on small works such as moorings, though the marine conservation bodies were being urged to take a proportionate response to these activities. The HM reminded members that consent was required from GHT for moorings in its area.

- **Fishing in the Severn**

Members noted that the case involving a local fisherman who was fighting the EA over the reduction in the number of salmon he could catch was still on-going.

### 4 **Any Other Business**

- (i) AB members noted that the new trainee pilot, Tim Butten, was progressing well and was due to be examined shortly with a view to authorisation at the beginning of December, if successful.
- (ii) Members enquired about the possibility of a visit to look round the docks to give a sense of how the canal connected to the dock and then to the river. It was suggested that trip on the Waverley, should she visit Sharpness again next year, would give an overview of the Harbour area. These possibilities would be explored further.

## **5 Date of Next Meeting**

The next formal meeting will be held on **THURSDAY 13 NOVEMBER 2014 at 7 pm at Navigation House, Sharpness.**

However, AB members would also be invited to GHT's annual Stakeholder Lunch to be held on **Friday 16 May 2014** when there would be an opportunity for informal interaction with Trustees and other stakeholders. A short formal meeting could be held after the lunch should there be any urgent matters of business.

In the meantime, it was agreed that GHT would issue a newsletter to AB members on a quarterly basis to keep them abreast of matters of interest and/or concern in the Harbour area.

## **ADVISORY BODY MEETING – 7 NOVEMBER 2013**

### **Present**

John Christie	Lydney Yacht Club
Martin Quail	Forest of Dean District Council
Colin Evers	Gloucestershire Association of Parish & Town Councils (West Side)
Geoff Dawe	SARA / Geoff Dawe Marine Services
Steve Pocock	Tintern Community Council
Keith Hadley	Severn Estuary Fishermen's Association
Nic Price	Maritime Volunteer Service

### **GHT**

John Beevor	GHT Chairman
Mike Johnson	Harbour Master / Marine Officer
Rosemary Elsey	Clerk to the Advisory Body

### **Apologies**

Nick Worthington	British Waterways
Jean Hanks	Gloucestershire Association of Parish & Town Councils (East Side)
Don Sutherland	RYA (South West) / BCYA
Colin Crick	Newport Harbour Commissioners

### **Copies for Information**

Matthew Riddle	South Gloucestershire Council
Bill Payne	Gloucester Pilots Partnership
Bob Breen	Severn Sands Ltd
Paul Senior	Environment Agency
Jon Phillips	Government Representative
Jerry Stanford	Bristol Port Co
Stephen Phillips	British Canoe Union
Ron Beagley	Gloucestershire Association of Parish & town Councils (Wye)
Stephen Phillips	British Canoe Union
Geri Rowe	Chepstow Town Council
Steve King	Severn Surfer
Fred Larkham	Larkham Ships
Alan Stanley	SARA
Jim Clune	Severn River Crossing plc
Jonathan Everett	Thornbury Sailing Club

Meeting commenced:	19.00
Meeting concluded:	20.55