

To ratify a report on the Saltash Ferry Service from the Jubilee Pontoon

Below is a copy of the email (blue text for ease of reference) sent to Town Council Members seeking approval to work in partnership with Plymouth Boat Trips (PBT) approving their new Saltash ferry service and usage of the Jubilee pontoon free of charge.

The deadline date for responses was Friday 17th May at 4pm. Refusal was not received by any Members.

The service commenced on Friday 24 May.

The email approval of the Saltash ferry service is to be ratified at this evening's meeting.

Email dated 15 May 2024

Plymouth Boat Trips (PBT) made contact following the successful transport trial day with a proposal to operate a ferry service from the Royal William Yard to the Town Council Jubilee Pontoon. Commencement date 24th May to 30th September 2024. Attached is a copy of their proposed service/cost.

Today we met with the owner of PBT Ben Squires and his crew to see how the mooring of a ferry could operate from the Jubilee Ponton. A good discussion was had and PBT now await Saltash TC approval to proceed with the service on 24th May. Should the service go ahead PBT will use the Island Princess (IP) ferry (attached picture) not the Tamar Belle (pictures below).

Ben is aware of the Town Council's potential loss of income due to dedicated space for the IP at the pontoon and agreed to drop the 0815 and 0900 ferry service so that the Town Council could continue to maximise its income for overnight stays.

There is an opportunity to introduce landing charges for every passenger using the same charging scheme as Cornwall Council (0.21p) to assist with an potential loss of Town Council income. When discussing this with Ben, he has asked if the fee could be waived for year one. Like us, he doesn't know the success of the service until he starts. Whilst it was a success on the transport trial day, we must not forget, the service was free of charge!

Our Service Delivery Manager and Assistant Service Delivery Manager were also in attendance, they have no concerns regarding the service and don't feel there would be an impact on the department.

PBT would be provided a gate fob for access and are keen to work with the Service Delivery Team. Passengers would be asked to que on the shoreside for safety reasons and to avoid pontoon users not being able to access their boat, the crew would collect/return passengers to the shoreside/ferry.

Signage would be placed on the decking of the pontoon and the timetable and visit Saltash posters displayed in the notice board at the entrance of the pontoon. There is an opportunity for heritage walks to take place.

Saltash TC insurers have confirmed that the use of the pontoon by PBT is perfectly fine as long as Saltash TC make sure that the 'Island Princess Ferry' is fully insured for Hull & Machinery and P&I cover (crew and passenger cover).

By way of explanation, Saltash TC policy covers all liabilities to do with the Pontoon so any incident that occurs as a result of the pontoon (for example) not being well maintained etc. will be covered under this policy .

Should any incident occur in connection with the vessel then that will be recoverable under the vessel policies and would not be covered by Saltash TC policy. The easiest way to explain it would be if anyone was to have a trip or fall whilst on the boat or whilst disembarking the boat this will fall under the vessel P&I policy. Should anyone fall on the pontoon as a result of a raised board or slippery surface, then this would fall under Saltash TC policy.

Speaking with Plymouth City Council's Transport Officer regarding the existing service PBT provides and their professional working relationship with PBT, she confirmed they have no issues and in principle they would be supportive of this ferry service. PCC were pleased to hear of the success from the transport trial day.

Please note; Cornwall Council are trying to obtain a copy of the pontoon assessment to determine if the pontoon is sufficient enough to accommodate the ferry and passenger numbers therefore my professional advice to the Town Council is to approve, in principle, PBT ferry service/usage of the pontoon, subject to receiving confirmation from Cornwall Council that the Jubilee pontoon is suitable for ferry/passenger use.

Should a majority of Members respond approving the request, the above will need to be ratified at the next scheduled Services Committee meeting.

Members, if you have any questions or concerns please contact either myself or one of the Working Group Members.

Deadline date for responses - Friday 17th May at 4pm.

Below pictures show a similar ferry in situ at the Jubilee Pontoon.



**End of Report
Town Clerk/RFO**