

**APPENDIX I to the minute of meeting of
the Communities Committee of
17 January 2017 (Article 3(b) refers)**

MINUTE of MEETING of the **ARBROATH HARBOUR JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**, held in Room D, Bruce House, Arbroath, on Friday 25 November 2016 at 3.00 pm.

Present: Council Representatives

Councillors ALEX KING and MARTYN GEDDES

Harbour Users' Representatives

ALEX SMITH (Fare Paying Passenger Boat Owners); Professor BERNARD KING CBE (Leisure Craft Owners); RON CHURCHILL (RNLI); and PETER ANELLI (Arbroath Sailing and Boating Club).

In Attendance: WALTER SCOTT (Angus Council, Interim Service Manager (Roads)); RORY TOSH (Angus Council, Senior Accountant, Finance Services); and ANDREW WILSON (Angus Council, Legal and Democratic Services, Committee Officer).

There being no Convener in post since the retirement from the Council of Councillor Bob Spink, it was agreed to appoint Councillor King as Chair of the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES / SUBSTITUTES

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Paul Simpson (Boat Builders/Repairers); and Bruce Fleming (Harbour Manager).

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (ELECTED MEMBERS ONLY)

No declarations of interest were made.

3. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minute of meeting of this Committee of 2 September 2016 was submitted and approved as a correct record.

4. ARBROATH HARBOUR WINTER REPORT

With reference to Article 5 of the minute of previous meeting, there was submitted Report No 432/16 by the Head of Technical and Property Services, providing details of operations at the Harbour since the meeting of the Committee on 2 September 2016, outlining plans for future programmes of works, and discussing contemporary matters of relevance to Harbour activities.

The Committee agreed to note, and approve as appropriate, the contents of the Report as follows:-

(a) Administrative Matters

(i) Financial Update

With reference to Article 5(a)(i) of the minute of previous meeting of this Committee, the estimated outturn position as at 31 March 2017 showed an underspend of £99,000. As the Committee had previously noted, a budget carry-over of £118,000 had been allowed for the forthcoming round of dredging. The out-turn cost of these works on the revised £164,000 dredging budget resulted in an underspend of £77,000, and a request for a further budget carry-over would be made.

(ii) Revision of Harbour Charges – Biennial Review of Charges for Implementation in April 2017

With reference to Article 4(a)(ii) of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 5 December 2014, proposed revisions to the Harbour charges were attached to the Report as Appendix 2 for the period April 2017 to March 2019. The Head of Technical and Property Services had consulted with Mackay Boat Builders in reviewing the charges. The proposed increases were represented by percentages in each of the two years, and would be subject to approval by the Communities Committee at its meeting on 17 January 2017.

The Committee agreed to endorse the charging proposals as detailed in Appendix 2 to the Report.

(iii) Oil Spill Contingency Planning and Response

With reference to Article 5(a)(iii) of the minute of previous meeting of this Committee, the Council continued to retain the services of Briggs Marine and Environmental Services for dealing with higher level pollution incidents. The Interim Service Manager (Roads) was currently carrying out the procurement process to produce a new five year oil spill contingency plan for the Harbour to replace the current oil spill contingency plan which was due to expire in February 2017.

(iv) Scottish Ports Meeting

With reference to Article 5(a)(iii) of the minute of previous meeting of this Committee, the Harbour Manager had attended the last meeting of the Scottish Ports Committee on 17 November 2016 in Edinburgh. Relevant topics covered included the publication of a new Port Marine Safety Code, and presentations from other local authorities on their harbour developments. The date and location of the next Scottish Ports Committee had not been determined.

(v) Pontoon Berth

With reference to Article 5(a)(iv) of the minute of previous meeting of this Committee, there were currently 53 annual berths allocated and 6 visitor berths available for use. They continued to be well used. The waiting list currently comprised 40 names and while this was a reduction from previously, the list would be capped at 50.

(vi) Compounded Berths

With reference to Article 5(a)(v) of the minute of previous meeting of this Committee, no further compounded berths had been granted. A list of boats requiring a summer berth in the Harbour had been completed. Small pleasure boats would take up their berths from 1 April 2017 to 30 September 2017, in the "lazy hole" area of the outer harbour.

(b) Engineering Matters

(i) Inner Harbour Gates

With reference to Article 5(b)(i) of the minute of previous meeting of this Committee, the opening and closing times of the gates had moved to the winter schedule on 1 October, and would revert back to summer hours on 1 April 2017. Opening and closing times continued to be posted outside the Harbour office and on the security gate one month in advance; and also on the Arbroath Harbour page of the Council's website.

(ii) Maintenance Dredging Operations

With reference to Article 5(b)(ii) of the minute of previous meeting of this Committee, the dredger *Shearwater* was currently undergoing repair in dry dock at Peterhead. It was due to return to Arbroath to remove the remaining 700 cubic metres of silt from the inner basin of the Harbour. Members considered that the boat located at Perth might be considered suitable to dredge between the pontoons within the Harbour; however discussions with Perth Harbour/Perth and Kinross Council had not yet taken place.

(c) Programme of Works**(i) General Position**

With reference to Article 5(c) of the minute of previous meeting of this Committee, the Report detailed an updated list of projects which had been budgeted for currently along with additional proposals. The ice making machine had been identified as being a matter of priority and would be delivered in the current year within the available budget. Options, including external funding sources, were being developed for the other proposals, and the Committee would be kept informed on progress. Tay Cities Deal funding had been sought for the outer harbour pontoon development, amounting to £250,000 over two years 2017/2018 and 2018/2019. This however would be subject to budget setting and confirmation of the Council's future years' funding of £250,000 over the same two years.

Along with Dundee Marina and Perth Harbour, Arbroath Harbour had been identified as critical to the wider marine tourism infrastructure on the River Tay. Closer collaborative working with Dundee City Council and Perth and Kinross Council, as well as Fife Council, would form the basis of the River Tay Project which sought to realise the full potential of the river for Tayside and North Fife. The outcome of the Tay Cities Deal funding bid would be reported to the Committee in February 2017. This funding came direct from the UK Treasury and indeed the Tay Cities Deal had been referred to in the Chancellor's Autumn Statement.

(ii) Crew Room Facilities

With reference to Article 5(c) of the minute of previous meeting of this Committee, relevant drawings and contract documents had been prepared by the Harbour Manager working in conjunction with the Property Business Unit for the alterations to the Crew Room to provide two additional showers and two additional toilets. The work had been programmed to be completed by 30 April 2017.

(d) Other Items**(i) NESFLAG**

The Harbour Manager had attended a meeting of the North East Fisheries Local Action Group (NESFLAG) on 21 September 2016 in Peterhead. The Harbour Manager was now a member of the NESFLAG Committee and would attend all future meetings.

Bids from Angus Council for works at the Harbour to the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund would require to have completed their expenditure by March 2018 following the result of the EU Referendum which would mean that future funding would cease.

The Harbour Manager and officers from the Council's Economic Development Section would represent Angus Council at the next NESFLAG meeting on 14 December in Peterhead.

(ii) Public Slipway

With reference to paragraph 5(d)(i) of the minute of previous meeting of this Committee, the Harbour Manager had continued to have the public slipway cleared approximately every two weeks over the summer. Over the winter period, the slipway was cleared on a monthly basis.

The public slipway had been tested by the RNLI as a possible launch site for the *Shannon* class lifeboat but had not been considered as suitable. Professor King asked whether it would be possible to charge for the use of the public slip to assist with its maintenance. It was noted that the slipway did not meet modern slipway specifications and the extent of its use by the public was unclear.

(e) Other Issues**(i) General**

In the absence of the Harbour Manager, Alex Smith raised various issues which the Interim Service Manager (Roads) agreed to pass on to the Harbour Manager. An update would be provided at the next meeting.

(ii) RNLI Business

Representatives of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) from RNLI Headquarters at Poole, Dorset had visited the Harbour on 23 November to update Harbour representatives on the results of the trials on the current slipway in connection with the proposed stationing of a *Shannon* class lifeboat. The slipway had proved unsuitable without significant investment so an alternative area had been identified. This was the site of the Old Sawmill, between the Visitor Centre and the Signal Tower Museum, currently empty ground. Further word was awaited from the RNLI, following what had been a very positive and encouraging meeting. A planning application would require to be made to the Council and this was likely to be lodged by the RNLI around March 2017. Councillor King noted elected members of this Committee would require to take a backward step from any discussions on the issue, pending the planning application, all in terms of the elected members' Code of Conduct.

6. CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2017

The Committee agreed the calendar as proposed, with meetings scheduled for 31 March; 22 September; and 8 December. All meetings would take place on a Friday at 3.00 pm within Bruce House, Arbroath.