

**APPENDIX II to the minute of meeting of
the Communities Committee of
18 August 2015 (Article 3(b) refers)**

MINUTE of MEETING of the **ARBROATH HARBOUR JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**, held in Room A, Bruce House, Arbroath, on Friday 15 May 2015 at 3.00 pm.

Present: Council Representatives

Councillors DAVID FAIRWEATHER, MARTYN GEDDES and EWAN SMITH.

Harbour Users' Representatives

JIM SMITH (Fare-Paying Passenger Boat Owners); PAUL SIMPSON (Boat Builders/Repairers); CLARK ROSS (Leisure Craft Owners); JIM SMITH (RNLI); PETER ANELLI (Arbroath Sailing and Boating Club); and BRYAN BECKETT (Arbroath and Montrose Static Gear Association).

In Attendance: WALTER SCOTT (Angus Council, Interim Service Manager (Roads)); BRUCE FLEMING (Angus Council, Acting Harbour Master); and ANDREW WILSON (Angus Council, Democratic Services).

1. APOLOGIES / SUBSTITUTES

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Bob Spink, Alex King and Sheena Welsh; Alex Smith (Jim Smith substituting); Ron Churchill (Jim Smith substituting); and Rory Tosh (Angus Council – Finance).

In the absence of Councillor Spink, it was agreed that Councillor Fairweather take the Chair.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Committee noted that no Angus Council elected member representative had any interest to declare in terms of the Councillors' Code of Conduct.

3. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minute of meeting of this Committee of 17 April 2015 was submitted and approved as a correct record.

4. ARBROATH HARBOUR SPRING REPORT

With reference to Article 4 of the minute of previous meeting, there was submitted Report No 164/15 by the Head of Technical and Property Services, providing details of operations at the Harbour since the meeting of the Committee on 5 December 2014, outlining plans for future programmes of works, and discussing contemporary matters of relevance to harbour activities. This Report had been deferred at the previous meeting of 17 April due to there being no officers present to update members.

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

(a) Administrative Matters

(i) Financial Update

With reference to Article 3(a)(i) of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 5 December 2014, there was an estimated outturn position as at 31 March 2015 showing an underspend of £110,554. This included income from property rental and berthing/fishing dues of £20,000; an underspend on the dredging budget of £80,000, and an underspend on roads recharge costs of £20,000. All had been partially offset by additional net expenditure of £10,000 on miscellaneous supplies and services/property and staff costs.

It was anticipated that the dredging programme would fully utilise the budget for 2015, and the £80,000 underspend on the previous year's dredging would be carried forward.

(ii) Port Marine Safety Code

With reference to Article 3(a)(ii) of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 5 December 2014, Bruce Fleming and Walter Scott were currently working on a published version of the code manual which was expected to be available soon in both hard copy and on line.

(iii) Oil Spill Contingency Planning and Response

With reference to Article 3(a)(iii) of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 5 December 2014, there had been no further significant pollution or spillage incidents in the harbour in the intervening period. Skilled staff had been retained; Briggs Marine covered the harbour and Angus coasts. A briefing/training session on Monday 18 May 2015 would be attended by civil contingency staff.

Members noted that the harbour, in terms of both water and quaysides, was currently in a greatly improved state of cleanliness; no doubt the increasing number of modern boats helped to contribute to this result. Walter Scott noted that the upkeep on boats currently using the harbour was as good as ever.

(iv) Scottish Ports Meeting

With reference to Article 3(a)(iv) of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 5 December 2014, it had not been possible for the Acting Harbour Master to attend the previous meeting of the Scottish Ports Committee on 11 March 2015. The minutes of the meeting would be available in the Harbour Office in due course for inspection by members of the Committee. Depending on the location, and agenda items for the next meeting of the Scottish Ports Committee, Bruce Fleming may attend and if so would feed back any relevant issues to this Committee at the next available meeting.

(v) Pontoon Berths

With reference to Article 3(a)(v) of the minute of meeting of this Committee on 5 December 2014, letters had been sent to each person on the waiting list highlighting their position on that list, indicating the number of new berths taken up in the last year and asking if they wished to have their names removed or retained on the list. Two requests had been received from individuals to remove their names from the list, the reason being that neither currently had a boat, and had basically overlooked the fact that they were still on the waiting list.

The pontoon berths were well used with 53 annual berths allocated and 6 berths available for visitors.

(vi) Compounded Berths

While no further compounded berths had been granted to any vessels since the December meeting of this Committee, in response to a question as to the availability of any compound berths, Bruce Fleming advised that no quayside berths were currently available for leisure boats, although there might be for a commercial boat.

13 summer berths had been granted in the harbour for the period 1 April to 30 September 2015, to be allocated in the "lazy hole" area of the outer harbour.

(vii) Staffing

With reference to Article 3(a)(vii) of the minute of meeting of this Committee on 5 December 2014, George Addison, Technical Assistant from the Roads and Transport Business Unit, had begun work with effect from 1 April 2015, joining the harbour staff to help cater for the summer months, up until September 2015.

(b) Engineering Matters**(i) Inner Harbour Gates**

With reference to Article 4(b)(i) of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 5 December 2014, there had been no operational problems with the harbour gates since last reported to the Committee.

The opening and closing times of the gates had moved to the summer schedule on 1 April 2015, to revert back to winter hours on 1 October 2015. Relevant information would be routinely posted outside the Harbour Office as usual, and on the security gate leading to the pontoons, generally one month in advance. The times were also listed on the Angus Council website.

(ii) Maintenance Dredging Operations

With reference to Article 4(b)(ii) of the minute of this Committee of 5 December 2014, Shearwater Dredging Ltd. completed the dredging of the harbour on 5 March 2015. 8,250 cu.m of silt was removed from the outer harbour and navigational channel, and dumped at sea at the designated spoil ground. The permitted volume of material which could be removed from the harbour is to be increased from this year onwards. Bruce Fleming would take the lead in liaising with users. The Committee generally agreed that dredging had improved and was providing value for money. It was hoped that Shearwater Dredging Ltd would tender for this year's contract.

(iii) Ladders and Handrails

With reference to Article 4(b)(iii) of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 5 December 2014, work continued on eight sets of ladders and handrails planned to be replaced by Chap Construction, as part of the continuing regime of inspection and maintenance. Walter Scott emphasised that if any of the harbour users were aware of any issue requiring this attention, they should report it to Bruce Fleming.

(iv) Boat Hoist

With reference to Article 4(b)(iv) of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 5 December 2014, the boat hoist was proving a welcome addition to the facilities available at the harbour, with several boats having been lifted out and another six bookings scheduled for the boat hoist to be used in the next few months. The official opening date for the boat hoist remained to be determined by the Acting Harbour Master, but it was likely to happen at some point over the summer, rather in late April as suggested in the Report.

The Acting Harbour Master was in discussion with Mackay Boatbuilders as how best to utilise the area within the boatyard for short term storage and boat repair using the boat hoist. It was noted that the hoist could be adjusted for width; however this could make it less manoeuvrable.

(c) Future Programme of Works

With reference to Article 4(c) of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 5 December 2014, the Committee noted the table which detailed the programme of works at Arbroath Harbour, both undertaken in 2014/2015 and proposed for 2015/2016. In particular, reference was made to the net underspend on welfare facilities – Supplementary Capital Allocation 2014/2015; these facilities would be for

harbour staff who could no longer use the crew room facilities. There was a general need to improve staffing facilities at the harbour, although much depended on the RNLI plans for development of the new lifeboat station.

(d) Other Items

(i) Public Slipway

With reference to Article 4(d) of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 5 December 2014, members welcomed the work being done to keep the public slipway cleared ahead of the summer season. The build-up of sand and stones would be continually monitored, and work done over the summer months to ensure that the area was cleared to make the slipway accessible. It would be cleared on a needs basis. In practice, the slipway was currently being cleared on average once every fortnight.

(ii) RNLI Business

With reference to Article 4(d)(ii) of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 5 December 2014, launch trials for the new Shannon class lifeboat had not taken place in February 2015 as intended. Walter Scott would seek a meeting with the RNLI and update the next meeting of this Committee.

(iii) Harbour Security

With reference to Article 5(d)(iii) of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 5 December 2014, hopes were expressed that the recent court proceedings in which two individuals had been charged with theft of lobsters from the harbour in October 2014 would help to serve as a deterrent. The maintenance of vigilance however remained essential. The closure of the new barrier through the winter months had been helpful in restricting access, particularly during the hours of darkness.

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Grant Funding

Walter Scott advised that European grants were available for fishing-related activities, and he would discuss possible ways of accessing this finance with Bruce Fleming. The Acting Harbour Master had been asked to become involved in the Fisheries Local Action Group (FLAG) for Angus. The purpose of FLAG was to consider applications and decide how funding would be allocated locally, provided by the European Fisheries Fund (EFF). There were 11 FLAGs within Scotland, with Angus eligible to apply for a share of £2.9 million as part of the allocation to the non-Highlands and Islands FLAGs, namely Aberdeenshire, Fife, Scottish Borders, South Ayrshire, East Lothian, Dumfries and Galloway, Moray and Angus. A diverse range of projects was eligible for grant assistance, including projects to provide skills training for local people, enhancing environmental protection, community renewable energy projects and improvements to tourism services to attract more visitors.

Shelley Hague and Alison Smith were the contacts within Angus Economic Development Unit and Bruce Fleming would approach them in the first instance to see what options might be available, reporting back to the next meeting of this Committee.

6. CALENDAR OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The Committee noted that the remaining meeting dates for 2015 were 4 September and 4 December. Both meetings would take place at 3.00 pm in Bruce House, Arbroath, unless otherwise notified.