

**APPENDIX I to the minute of meeting of
the Communities Committee of 20
January 2015 (Article 5(ii) refers)**

MINUTE of MEETING of the **ARBROATH HARBOUR JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**, held in Room A, Bruce House, Arbroath, on Friday 5 December 2014 at 3.00 pm.

Present: Council Representatives

Councillors BOB SPINK, DAVID FAIRWEATHER, MARTYN GEDDES and ALEX KING.

Harbour Users' Representatives

ALEX SMITH (Fare-Paying Passenger Boat Owners); RON CHURCHILL (RNLI); BRYAN BECKETT (Arbroath and Montrose Static Gear Association); CLARK ROSS (Leisure Craft Owners); and PETER ANELLI (Arbroath Sailing and Boating Club).

In Attendance: BRUCE FLEMING (Angus Council, Acting Harbour Master); RORY TOSH (Angus Council, Corporate Improvement and Finance); and ANDREW WILSON (Angus Council, Committee Services).

Councillor SPINK, Convener, in the Chair.

1. APOLOGIES / SUBSTITUTES

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf on Councillors Ewan Smith and Sheena Welsh; Mr Harry Simpson (Boat Builders/Repairers); and Walter Scott (Angus Council).

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 5 September 2014 was submitted and approved as a correct record.

4. ARBROATH HARBOUR WINTER REPORT

There was submitted Report No 498/14 by the Head of Technical and Property Services, providing details of operations at the Harbour since the previous meeting of the Committee, 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 4(a)(i) of the minute of the previous meeting of this Committee, Appendix 1 to the Report detailed actual net expenditure to 31 October 2014 of £12,000, due to a reduction in costs from the current acting-up position of Harbour Master and additional staffing costs for the usual summer work placement at the Harbour. The Supplies and Services budget included an underspend on dredging of £80,000 and a request would be made to the Policy and Resources Committee to permit this to be carried forward to the next financial year.

(ii) Revision of Harbour Charges – Biennial Review of Charges for Implementation from 1 April 2015

With reference to Article 3(a)(iii) of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 23 November 2012, proposed revisions to the Harbour charges were attached to the Report as Appendix 2 for the period April 2015 to March 2017. The Head of Technical and Property Services had consulted with Mackay Boatbuilders in reviewing the charges. The proposed increases were represented by percentages in each of the two years, and represented a shift in balance to pleasure craft rather than commercial boats.

Alex Smith expressed his strong preference for a flat monetary rate and suggested that the proposals were not proportional across the range of increases. The Acting Harbour Master advised that the intention was to make the increases similar across the full range of charges, but the proposals required to be approved by the Communities Committee of the Council.

(iii) Port Marine Safety Code

With reference to Article 5(a)(ii) of the minute of the meeting of this Committee of 18 April 2014, the Acting Harbour Master confirmed that the Council continued to progress the updating of the Port Marine Safety Code Manual for Arbroath Harbour.

(iv) Oil Spill Contingency Planning and Response

With reference to Article 4(a)(ii) of the minute of the previous meeting of this Committee, there had been no further significant pollution or spillage incidents in the Harbour since that time. Harbour staff maintained adequate qualifications and remained fully competent in oil spill contingency planning and response. The Council also retained the services of Briggs Marine & Environmental Services to deal with higher level pollution incidents should they occur. The Harbour's contingency plan, updated in February 2012, had an approved lifespan of five years from that date.

(v) Scottish Ports Meeting

With reference to Article 4(a)(iii) of the minute of the previous meeting of this Committee, the Acting Harbour Master had been unable to attend the last meeting of the Scottish Ports Committee on 12 November 2014 in Edinburgh, due to operational duties at the Harbour. The minute of the meeting would however be available for inspection by members of the Committee in the Harbour office in due course.

The next meeting of the Scottish Ports Committee was due to be held in spring 2015; the date and venue remained to be set. The Acting Harbour Master would attend the meeting depending on the agenda content and would feed back any relevant issues to this Committee.

(vi) Pontoon Berths

With reference to Article 4(a)(iv) of the minute of the previous meeting of this Committee, the pontoon berths were currently at maximum occupancy with the allocation of 53 annual berths and six visitor berths available for use. Six pontoon winter berths had been granted in the Harbour for the period 1 October 2014 to 31 March 2015. The waiting list currently comprised 42 names. As usual, in January 2015, letters would be sent to each person on the waiting list, highlighting their position on the list, indicating the number of new berths taken up in the last year and asking if they wished to have their names removed or kept on the list.

Clark Ross was concerned that bigger boats of a deeper draught, moored on the outside pontoons and inner Harbour, were potentially at risk should there be sufficient loss of water from the Inner Harbour, causing them to keel over. The Acting Harbour Master considered that this eventuality would be unlikely; however he would monitor the situation as required.

Following a question from Alex Smith, the Acting Harbour Master confirmed that the charges on the Pontoon Berth and Compounded Berths would be the same if boats were required to move from one to the other.

(b) Engineering Matters

(i) Inner Harbour Gates

With reference to Article 4(b)(i) of the minute of the previous meeting of this Committee, the opening and closing times of the gates had moved to the winter schedule from 1 October 2014 until 1 April 2015. The times were posted outside the Harbour office as usual, and on the security gate leading on to the pontoons, generally one month in advance, as well as being posted on the Angus Council website.

(ii) Maintenance Dredging Operations

With reference to Article 4(b)(ii) of the minute of the previous meeting of this Committee, the Acting Harbour Master confirmed that the dredging contract had been procured and that this was the last year of the extraction licence in conjunction with Marine Scotland. The Council would wish to increase the dredging limits when the licence was due to be renewed at the end of the year. It was not possible in terms of the licence to roll over any unused part of the fixed limit to the next year. Shearwater Dredging Ltd was the contractor, with the *Shearwater* expected to begin work in Arbroath Harbour on 8 December 2014. 8250 metres³ of material from the Inner and Outer Harbours and navigational channel would be removed and dumped at sea at the spoil grounds.

(iii) Ladders and Handrails

With reference to Article 4(b)(iii) of the previous minute of this Committee, the Acting Harbour Master confirmed that work was continuing on the phased programme of installing handrails and repairing ladders, utilising available funding. The contractors, Chap Construction, would be replacing eight sets of ladders and handrails in the Outer Harbour over the coming weeks.

(iv) Boat Hoist

With reference to Article 4(b)(iv) of the minute of the previous meeting of this Committee, work had been carried out to level an area of ground in the boatyard so that the hoist could be manoeuvred from the slipway to the storage area and vice-versa. The slipway cradles had been modified, and training and trial runs had been carried out, two vessels to date having been successfully lifted out, blocked off and lifted back into the water.

Discussions were continuing between the Acting Harbour Master and Mackay Boatbuilders as how best to utilise the area within the boat yard for short term storage and repair for boats using the boat hoist.

(v) Harbour Maintenance Works Contract

With reference to Article 4(b)(v) of the minute of the previous meeting of this Committee, the infrastructure works and South Quay Sett Repairs awarded to Chap Construction were due to be completed by the end of December 2014.

(c) Future Programme of Works

With reference to Article 4(c) of the minute of the previous meeting of this Committee, the list of on-going projects was updated in the Report. The update included £30,000 in the budget for the provision of welfare facilities as a supplementary capital allocation for 2014/2015. Utilisation of this project would depend on the results of the forthcoming trials for the replacement lifeboat, which might influence development plans in the harbour.

(d) OTHER ITEMS**(i) Public Slipway**

With reference to Article 5(i) of the minute of the previous meeting of this Committee, over the winter months, usage of the public slipway had been very low. The Acting Harbour Master continued to monitor the build-up of sand and stones on the slipway and, when requested to do so, had the area cleared to ensure accessibility. Between 1 April and 30 September 2015, more regular clearance of the slipway will be undertaken, ensuring accessibility at all times. Councillor Fairweather welcomed this course of action.

(ii) RNLI Business

With reference to Article 5(ii) of the minute of the previous meeting of this Committee, the trial which had been due to take place at Arbroath and Anstruther had not taken place in October 2014 as anticipated, due to the allocation of resources elsewhere within the RNLI. Alex Smith advised that confirmation of a new date was still awaited.

Councillor Spink emphasised that the Council remained keen to assist with the project whenever required. Any change in the working arrangements or location for the lifeboat at Arbroath Harbour, while welcome in securing the future of the service at Arbroath, would obviously have a significant impact on the operation of the Harbour and careful planning was essential.

(iii) Harbour Security

With reference to Article 5(iii) of the minute of the previous meeting of this Committee, the Police had dealt with a recent incident of lobster thefts in a pro-active and most helpful way, which resulted in an arrest being made and an individual charged. The involvement of the Police had been facilitated by the fact that the incident had been first reported to the Acting Harbour Master who had then liaised with the Police. Bryan Beckett commented that the Harbour users had been delighted with the outcome, and he expressed his thanks to the Acting Harbour Master for the action he had taken in this connection.

(iv) Tourism and Marketing of Facilities at and around the Harbour

With reference to Article 5(iv) of the minute of the previous meeting of this Committee, the Acting Harbour Master confirmed that all available tourist leaflets relating to Arbroath town were now available from the Harbour office which greatly reduced the need to direct tourists to the local Tourist Information Centre. This helped to ensure inclusion of the Harbour in the bigger tourism picture in Angus. Peter Anelli suggested that the Arbroath information in Reed's Nautical Almanac could be increased beyond referring simply to the Harbour facilities. Councillor Spink invited members to feed any ideas to the Acting Harbour Master for collation and forwarding to the Council's Economic Development Service. The Acting Harbour Master advised that he had recently put the details regarding Arbroath Harbour on the Sail Scotland website at SailScotland.co.uk.

Councillor Fairweather suggested that many of the smokeries and fish shop businesses at the Fit o' the Toon offered other opportunities for dissemination of tourist information.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

- (i) Discussion took place on the current location of the pontoon moorings. Alex Smith considered that it was not in the optimum position at present to facilitate best use of the space available in the Harbour. He queried whether it would be possible to move the pontoon to the oil pier. He believed that dredging around the pontoon would not be sufficient to enable the larger boats to access it in its current location for more than a few weeks at a time.

Brian Beckett referred to the use of floating walkways in ports such as Fraserburgh. These were secured to angled guides attached to the Harbour wall and were able to move according to the tides. Only one walkway was necessary which would improve security.

The Convener requested that the Acting Harbour Master consider this as an alternative arrangement to the pontoon, subject to availability of funding, and that he report further to the next meeting of the Committee on this matter.

(ii) Inner Harbour – Silting

With reference to Article 3(b)(iii) of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 6 December 2013, Peter Anelli referred to the study being carried out by Aberdeen University in relation to the possible aeration of silt, using Arbroath as a model. It had been hoped that, depending on the results of this study, it might be possible to achieve easier and less expensive removal of silt from the Harbour.

The Acting Harbour Master confirmed that the work was still on-going at Aberdeen University with experimentation going on with various equipment modifications. New work was being carried out by a Post Graduate Masters Degree Candidate at the University. He would continue to update the Committee as the work progressed.

6. CALENDAR OF MEETINGS

The Committee approved the meeting dates for 2015 as follows:-

17 April; 4 September; and 4 December. All meetings would take place at 3.00pm in Bruce House, Arbroath, unless otherwise notified.