

ANGUS COUNCIL

ARBROATH HARBOUR JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE – 22 SEPTEMBER 2017

ARBROATH HARBOUR – AUTUMN REPORT

REPORT BY THE HEAD OF TECHNICAL AND PROPERTY SERVICES

ABSTRACT

This report provides details of operations at the Harbour since the previous meeting of the Arbroath Harbour Joint Consultative Committee (AHJCC), outlines plans for future programmes of works, and discusses contemporary matters of relevance to harbour activities.

1 RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the committee agrees to note and approve the contents of this report.

2 ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

2.1 Financial Update

2.1.1 Information to follow as addendum.

2.2 Oil Spill Contingency Planning and Response

2.2.1 With reference to item 4(a)(iii) of the minute of the meeting of this committee on 31 March 2017, there has been one occasion on 9 June 2017 where there was a diesel spill detected in the outer harbour. Harbour staff deployed absorbent booms and pads in various locations around the outer harbour and over the course of two days were able to clear up the spill using the oil spill equipment at the harbour. Approximately 500 litres of diesel had spilled from the fishing vessel *Marigold*. The vessel's owner was informed of the incident and Angus Council will be recovering the costs associated with the clean-up operation from the vessel's owner.

2.2.2 Immediately after the above incident, oil spill equipment to maintain a full Tier 1 quota was restocked as per the harbour's Oil Spill Contingency Plan.

2.2.3 The Senior Harbour Assistant attended a refresher course in April 2017 to maintain his MCA Level 4/5 Oil Spill Response Manager's Certificate. All other permanent harbour staff maintain Oils Spill Certification. The Harbour Manager and Senior Harbour Assistant hold the MCA Level 4/5 Oil Spill Response Manager's Certificate and the two Harbour Assistants hold the MCA Level 2 First Response – Sorbents & Equipment Certificate.

2.2.4 The council continues to retain the services of Briggs Marine & Environmental Services to deal with the higher-level pollution incidents. The harbour's Oil Spill Contingency Plan expired in February 2017 and a new updated Oil Spill Contingency Plan, which will be due for renewal in May 2022, is now in place and available at the harbour office.

2.3 Scottish Ports Meeting

2.3.1 With reference to item 4(a)(iv) of the minute of the meeting of this committee on 31 March 2017, the last Scottish Ports Committee meeting was on 7 June 2017 in Kirkwall, Orkney Islands. The Harbour Manger did not attend this meeting. The minute of the meeting has not been sent out as yet but will be made available in the harbour office for inspection by the members of this committee.

2.3.2 The date of the next Scottish Ports Committee meeting is on 15 November 2017 in Edinburgh and the Harbour Manager will be attending this meeting. This meeting is specific to ports and harbours which are operated by Local Authorities and any relevant issues from this meeting will be fed back to this committee at future meetings.

2.4 Pontoon Berths

- 2.4.1 With reference to item 4(a)(v) of the minute of the meeting of this committee on 31 March 2017, the pontoon berths continue to be well used and are still at maximum occupancy. There continues to be 53 annual berths allocated and 6 visitor berths available for use.
- 2.4.2 The waiting list currently consists of 40 names and is kept on a database in the harbour office. When a berth becomes available, names are taken from the top of the list and offered a berth.
- 2.4.4 Several boat owners who currently occupy an annual berth on the pontoons choose to have their boat lifted out and stored in the boatyard between the months of October and March. The Harbour Manager is currently taking names of boats wishing to take up available winter berths on these vacant pontoon berths.

2.5 Compounded Berths

- 2.5.1 With reference to item 4(a)(vi) of the minute of this committee on 31 March 2017, there has been no further compounded berths granted in the harbour.
- 2.5.2 Over the last 5 years the commercial fishing fleet in the harbour has increased by 40% from 15 commercial fishing boats to 28. This has resulted in changes to berthing arrangements within the harbour in order for these increases in numbers to be managed. These changes are necessary to accommodate the current operation of the harbour and the Harbour Manger appreciates the cooperation of all harbour users.
- 2.5.2 Eleven summer berths were granted in the harbour for the period 1 April to 30 September 2017. These berths are allocated in the “lazy hole” area of the outer harbour.

2.6 Visiting Boat Numbers

- 2.6.1 The numbers of visiting boats to the harbour in the period from 1 April 2017 up to 31 August 2017 was 202. This represents a 5% decrease on the summer months of the previous year. However, as the table below shows pleasure boats visiting Arbroath are on average staying in the harbour longer each year. This trend has been on the increase for the last 5 years.

Year	Numbers of Visiting Craft	Increase/Decrease (%)	Number of nights paid by visiting boats	Average length of stay (nights)
1 April 2013 – 31 August 2013	238	-	364	1.53
1 April 2014 – 31 August 2014	230	-3%	400	1.74
1 April 2015 – 31 August 2015	206	-10%	420	2.04
1 April 2016 – 31 August 2016	213	+3%	470	2.21
1 April 2017 – 31 August 2017	202	-5%	555	2.75

2.7 Staffing

- 2.7.1 With reference to item 4(a)(vii) of the minute of the meeting of this committee on 31 March 2017 an additional Harbour Assistant was recruited on 22 May 2017 to help during the busy summer

months and ensure a satisfactory level of service was maintained. However due to another Harbour Assistant being off on long term sick leave over the summer months the harbour has still been short staffed, resulting in restrictions on staff being able to take annual leave. The recently appointed Harbour Assistant's contract has now been extended to help with staff cover over the winter period and to allow staff to take their leave.

3 ENGINEERING MATTERS

3.1 Inner Harbour Gates

3.1.1 With reference to item 4(b)(i) of the minute of the meeting of this committee on 31 March 2017, there have been no operational issues with the harbour gates.

3.1.2 The opening and closing times of the gates will move to the winter schedule on 1 October 2017. Opening and closing times continue routinely to be posted outside the Harbour Office and on the security gate leading on to the pontoons, generally one month in advance. The opening times for the dock gates are also posted on the Arbroath Harbour page of the Council's website.

3.2 Maintenance Dredging Operations

3.2.1 With reference to item 4(b)(ii) of the minute of this committee on 31 March 2017, the dredging contract for 2017 has been awarded to Peter Madsen Raderi. The dredger 'Margrethe Fighter' is expected in the harbour before the end of September 2017 to dredge 12,000 m³ of silt from the navigational channel and both the outer and inner harbours.

3.2.2 To maximise the amount of silt to be removed from the inner harbour, there will be a considerable moving of boats required. The Harbour Manager will expect full cooperation from the the owners of the boats currently berthed in the inner harbour especially on the pontoons.

3.3 Boat Hoist

3.3.1 The boat hoist continues to be regularly used and almost all of the commercial fishing boats were lifted out of the water using the hoist over the spring and summer months for their annual maintenance work.

3.3.2 The boat hoist was out of action in May for two weeks due to a mechanical & hydraulic problem in one of the steering wheels. New parts were required to be ordered and fitted. The Harbour Manager would like to thank the harbour users for their patience while the hoist was out of service and the repair work was ongoing.

3.4 South Quay Repairs

After removing large slabs of hardened grout from the bed of the harbour at the location of ladders 52 & 53 on the south quay, large voids appeared at the base of the quay. Repair works to fill in the large voids have been carried out by Dundee Plant Ltd. over the months of August and September.

3.5 Oil Quay Repairs

The timber decking on the oil quay has become rotten and sections have collapsed through the quay. The decking and corroded steelwork has been removed and after assessing various options to rectify the situation, it has been decided to replace the corroded steel framework. The timber decking will be replaced with galvanised mesh decking flooring on both sides of the quay. This work will be carried out by Mackay Boatbuilders Ltd over the coming weeks.

4 PROGRAMME OF WORKS

4.1 With reference to item 4(c) of the minute of this committee on 31 March 2017, the 2017/18 list of projects has been updated below. Options for these proposals are being developed and will be delivered in the current year if within available budget, including external funding sources – see paragraphs 5.1 & 5.2, for which the budget implications will need to be considered. This Committee will be kept informed as progress develops.

Project/ Nature of Expenditure	Budget / (Cost) 2017/18 £000's	Comments
Annual Dredging		
Revenue budget	122	See paragraph 2.1.1 (£76k carry over and £46k annual budget)
Dredging costs	(88)	See paragraph 3.2
Annual Dredging - net underspend	34	Amount subject to request for approval to carry forward residual underspend to Roads revenue account
Additional Budget Resources:		
Supplementary Capital allocation 2015/16	12	Subject to carry over into 2017/18 to fund outstanding priority projects – see below
Net Underspend	(12)	
Crew Room Alterations		
Arbroath Harbour Reserve Fund	30	
Crew Room Facilities	(30)	Outstanding priority project - see paragraph 4.3
Net underspend	0	
Harbour Infrastructure Improvements		
Ice making facility	(50)*	2017/18 – See paragraph 4.1
Walk in refrigeration unit	(20)*	2017/18 – See paragraph 4.1
CCTV	(5)	2017/18 – See paragraph 5.4
WiFi & payment card reader	(5)*	2017/18 – See paragraph 4.1
Concrete repairs to slipway	(30)*	2017/18 – See paragraph 4.1
South quay wall repairs	(50)	2017/18 – See paragraph 3.3
Harbour vehicle	(20)*	2017/18 – See paragraph 4.1
LED Category 1 AtoNs	(10)	2017/18 – See paragraph 5.5
Total	(190)	
NESFLAG Contribution sought	95*	
Match funding required	95*	
Available funding	12	Supplementary Capital allocation from above
Match funding shortfall to be sought	83*	Consider Harbour Reserve Fund
Pontoons in outer harbour	(250)**	See paragraphs 4.1 and 5.1, £250k for 2018/19 also
NESFLAG/Tay Cities Deal sought	125**	
Match funding required	125**	

* subject to NESFLAG funding and identification of match funding from council budgets

** subject to NESFLAG funding and/or Tay Cities Deal Funding, and/or of match funding from council budgets

4.3 Crew Room Facilities

4.3.1 The Harbour Manager continues to work in conjunction with the Property Services for the alterations to the crew room. The works will include two additional showers, two additional toilets and a new entry system. The Building Warrant has now been granted and the contractor is currently programming the works to take place over the winter months.

5 OTHER ITEMS

5.1 NESFLAG

- 5.1.1 With reference to item 4(d)(i) of the minute of the meeting of this committee on 31 March 2017, the European Maritime and Fisheries Funding will finish in March 2018 following the result of the EU referendum. Any projects must have completed their expenditure by then. Bids from Angus Council for works at the harbour as detailed in the previous meeting of this committee will be part of that bid process.
- 5.1.2 Since the last committee meeting the European Claims Co-ordinator from NESFLAG has visited the harbour to examine the details of the expression of interest (EOI) notice which had been previously submitted by the Service Manager – Roads. He has detailed the procedure to now follow for the various aspects of the EOI. The Service Manager – Roads in conjunction with the Harbour Manager are now looking at the next steps in the process.
- 5.1.3 The next NESFLAG meeting is scheduled for 25 September 2017 in Council Chamber at Buchan House, Peterhead. There will be officers from Economic Development and/or Roads representing Angus Council at that meeting.

5.2 Public Slipway

- 5.2.1 With reference to item 4 (d)(iii) of the minute of the meeting of this committee on 31 March 2017, the Service Manger – Roads instructed the closure of the public slipway on 26 April 2017 after an incident in which a vehicle ended up in a large hole which had formed in the sand at the end of the concrete ramp and was hidden from view under the water. Given the possibility of a recurrence of a similar incident, the slipway was closed. Since the slipway has been closed approximately 1m of sand and stones has built up on the slipway over its entire length, which renders the slipway unsafe for reopening. The slipway remains closed until a more permanent and affordable solution to regular scraping, which had sufficed historically, can be determined.

5.3 Arbroath Sea & Food Festival

- 5.3.1 The Arbroath Sea & Food Festival (ASFF) took place on the weekend of 5 & 6 August 2017. It is considered that the event was a success and was without incident in terms of the operation of the harbour. The weather was mixed and over the course of the weekend around 15,000 visitors attended the Festival. The ASFF committee are already in discussions to look at proposals for the 2018 event.

5.4 CCTV

- 5.4.1 The Harbour Manger has experienced several incidents of vandalism around the fishmarket area in recent months. Quotes have been received from several companies and CCTV will be installed in and around the fishmarket over winter months.

5.5 Aids to Navigation (AtoN)

- 5.5.1 The Harbour Manager has received several quotes to replace the existing leading lights (CAT 1) with new LED lights. These replacement lights will be installed over the winter months.

5.6 Northern Lighthouse Board Audit

- 5.6.1 In July 2017, a representative from the Northern Lighthouse Board (NLB) visited the harbour to carry out an audit of the harbour in relation to the application of the Port Marine Safety Code (PMSC) and Safety Management System. The findings flagged up one observation relating to wording of the harbour's PMSC, which the Harbour Manager has now addressed and the NLB have now closed off the report and are satisfied with the findings of the audit.

6 RISK

The risks associated with the various matters addressed within this report are outlined within the associated sections 2 to 5 of this report.

7 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Any financial implications arising directly or indirectly from this report will be subject to approvals at the relevant council committees in due course. Operational matters will be funded from the Roads and Transport Business Unit revenue budget.
- 7.2 The rental incomes accruing from property lets for harbour premises continue to be managed by the Strategic Director - Communities on behalf of the Council through the Head of Technical and Property Services.

8 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

There are no other implications arising from the proposals in this report.

**IAN COCHRANE
HEAD OF TECHNICAL AND PROPERTY SERVICES**

NOTE:

No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above Report.

ROADS/WS/BF