

**APPENDIX to the minute of meeting  
of the Communities Committee of  
2017 (Article refers)**

MINUTE of MEETING of the **ARBROATH HARBOUR JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**, held in Room D, Bruce House, Arbroath, on Friday 22 September 2017 at 3.00 pm.

**Present:**

**Council**

**Representatives:** Councillors BRENDA DURNO, DAVID FAIRWEATHER, ALEX KING, LOIS SPEED (from 3.25 pm), RICHARD MOORE and DEREK WANN.

**Harbour Users'**

**Representatives:** RON CHURCHILL (RNLI); Professor BERNARD KING CBE (Leisure Craft Owners); 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).

**Also Present:** Sergeant STEVE CAMPBELL, Arbroath Community Policing, Police Scotland.

**1. APPOINTMENT OF CONVENER**

The Clerk advised that this was the first meeting of the Committee since the Local Government Election in May 2017, and that therefore it was necessary for the Committee to appoint a Convener.

On calling for nominations, Councillor Fairweather, seconded by Councillor Durno, proposed Councillor Alex King.

There being no other nominations, Councillor King accepted the nomination and took the Chair.

**2. APOLOGIES / SUBSTITUTES**

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillor Ron Sturrock (Councillor Richard Moore substituting); Bruce Fleming (Angus Council, Harbour Manager); Alex Smith (Fare Paying Passenger Boat Owners); and Paul Simpson (Boat Builders/Repairers).

**3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (ELECTED MEMBERS ONLY)**

No declarations of interest were made.

**4. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minute of meeting of this Committee of 31 March 2017 was submitted and approved as a correct record.

**5. ARBROATH HARBOUR AUTUMN REPORT**

With reference to Article 4 of the minute of previous meeting, there was submitted Report No 335/17 by the Head of Technical and Property Services, providing details of operations at the Harbour since the meeting of the Committee on 31 March 2017, 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 previous meeting of this Committee, the estimated outturn for 2017/18 included increased income of approximately £60,000, reducing the deficit from £172,000 to £112,000. The increased income came from increased visitors fees and fuel sales.

**(ii) Oil Spill Contingency Planning and Response**

With reference to Article 4(a)(iii) of the minute of previous meeting of this Committee, a spillage incident involving approximately 500 litres of diesel involving the fishing vessel *Marigold* had occurred on 9 June 2017. Harbour staff had taken appropriate action, the owner of the vessel had been informed of the incident, and Angus Council would be recovering the costs associated with the clean up operation from the owner of the vessel.

Oil spill equipment utilised during the incident was restocked in accordance with the Oil Spill Contingency Plan operated by the Harbour. All Harbour staff are trained to the required level and hold MCA qualifications. Briggs Marine & Environmental Services continued to be retained to deal with higher-level pollution incidents. A new updated Oil Spill Contingency Plan for the Harbour has taken effect, and will be due for renewal in May 2022.

The Convener expressed his concern that this was the third incident of spillage at the Harbour this year. The meeting considered that the Harbour Byelaws, now digitalised, should be highlighted to all users, and the Interim Service Manager – Roads agreed to circulate them to all members of the Committee following this meeting.

**(iii) Scottish Ports Committee Meeting**

With reference to Article 4(a)(iv) of the minute of previous meeting of this Committee, the Harbour Manager had not attended the latest meeting of the Scottish Ports Committee which had been held in Kirkwall on 7 June 2017. He would however attend the next meeting on 15 November 2017 in Edinburgh, which is more assessable, and was specific to ports and harbours operated by local authorities and was therefore of particular relevance for Arbroath.

**(iv) Pontoon Berths**

With reference to Article 4(a)(v) of the minute of previous meeting of this Committee, the popularity of the pontoon berths continued with all 53 annual berths allocated and six visitor berths available for use. The waiting list currently stood at 40 names. Several boat owners who currently occupied an annual berth on the pontoons had chosen to have their boat lifted out and stored in the boat yard between October and March. The Harbour Manager was currently taking names of boats wishing to take up available winter berths on those vacant pontoon berths.

**(v) Compounded Berths**

With reference to Article 4(a)(vi) of the minute of previous meeting of this Committee, the commercial fishing fleet in the Harbour had increased by 40% from 15 commercial fishing boats to 28, a major success story. The bulk of these boats were lobster creelers. Berthing arrangements had been changed within the Harbour to manage the increased numbers while accommodating the current operation of the Harbour. The Harbour Manager appreciated the co-operation of all Harbour users.

In addition, eleven summer berths had been granted in the Harbour for the period 1 April to 30 September 2017, allocated in the “lazy hole” area of the outer harbour.

**(vi) Visiting Boat Numbers**

Although the numbers of visiting boats to the Harbour from 1 April 2017 to 31 August 2017 had decreased by 5% from 213 to 202, it was encouraging to note that the number of overnight stays had increased from 470 to 555, with the average length of stay (nights) as between the 1 April to 31 August had increased from 2.21 in 2016 to 2.75 in 2017. This represented a significant increase in the use of the Harbour and was to the benefit of the local economy. Peter Anelli noted that previously, it was accepted that the pontoons would not be used for commercial craft but that this was no longer the case. He was also aware that in the Outer Harbour, visitor berths were never vacant. The Interim Service Manager – Roads agreed that this was a fair representation of the position but was a natural consequence of the greater use being made of the harbour by commercial and visiting craft. The Harbour Manager continued to monitor the situation and put in place arrangements to deal with what was a busy Harbour when appropriate to do so.

**(vii) Staffing**

With reference to Article 4(a)(vii) of the minute of meeting of this Committee, in response to a question from Professor King, the Interim Service Manager – Roads confirmed that rostering arrangements would be put in place to enable the summer opening of the Harbour to take place when scheduled on 1 April 2018. This followed on the deferral of the opening of the Harbour for summer 2017 owing to staff sickness.

**(b) Engineering Matters**

**(i) Inner Harbour Gates**

With reference to Article 4(b)(i) of the minute of previous meeting of this Committee, there had been no operational issues with the Harbour gates. The opening and closing times of the gates would move to the winter schedule on 1 October 2017. Details would be available as usual on the Arbroath Harbour page of the Angus Council website and posted outside the harbour office and on the security gate leading to the pontoons.

**(ii) Maintenance Dredging Operations**

With reference to Article 4(b)(ii) of the minute of previous meeting of this Committee, the dredging contract for 2017 had been awarded to Peter Madsen Raderi, and the dredger *Margrethe Fighter* was due at Arbroath before the end of September 2017 to dredge 12,000m<sup>3</sup> of silt from the navigational channel and both the Outer and Inner Harbours. This was the maximum which could be extracted under the terms of the current licence and the material would be disposed of at a sea bed location. The Harbour Manager would liaise with users during the essential dredging which, it was acknowledged, would be disruptive to the operation of the Harbour. The Inner Harbour however was silting up quite badly and the work had to be completed. The pontoon moorings would require rearrangement to enable the works to take place. Ron Churchill noted the restrictions that the works would place upon the availability of the lifeboat which would be unable to respond to a 'shout' for each of the two per day three hour restrictions due to tidal conditions. The Harbour Manager would expect full co-operation from all owners of boats currently berthed in the Inner Harbour, especially on the pontoons.

**(iii) Boat Hoist**

The boat hoist continued to be used regularly and was utilised by almost all of the commercial fishing boats over the spring and summer months to facilitate their annual maintenance works. It had been out of action for two weeks during May due to a mechanical and hydraulic problem in one of the steering wheels, however this had been rectified and the Harbour Manager was

grateful to harbour users for their patience during this time. The boat hoist continued to be invaluable facility for harbour users.

**(iv) South Quay Repairs**

Large voids had appeared at the base of the South Quay following the removal of large slabs of hardened grout from the bed of the harbour at the location of ladders 52 and 53. Repair works to fill in the large voids had been carried out during August and September. Completion of these works would have no effect on the ability to refuel at this site.

**(v) Programme Of Works**

With reference to Article 4(c) of the minute of previous meeting of this Committee, the updated 2016/2018 list of projects, was detailed in the Report, together with a list of 2017/2018 projects. The ice making machine and refrigerator, and the crew room facilities, had been carried forward to 2017/2018 financial year. The works planned for the crew room facilities improvements had been delayed but it was now expected that dates for completion of this work would be known by December 2017. The implementation of most of the infrastructure plans was dependent upon NESFLAG/Tay Cities Deal (River Tay Project) funding applications together with the identification of match funding from Council budgets. The CCTV Scheme would however go ahead without NESFLAG/Tay Cities Deal monies, and the South Quay Project had already been completed.

**(c) Other Items**

**(i) NESFLAG**

With reference to Article 4(d)(i) of the minute of previous meeting of this Committee, the European Maritime and Fisheries Funding would finish in March 2018 following the result of the EU referendum. Any projects must have completed their expenditure by then. Bids from the Council for works at Arbroath Harbour as detailed under that minute would be part of that bid process.

Since the last meeting of this Committee, the European Claims Co-ordinator from NESFLAG had visited Arbroath Harbour to examine the details of the expression of interest notice previously submitted by the Interim Service Manager – Roads. The Co-ordinator had detailed the procedures to be followed for the various aspects of the expressions of interest, and officers were now working to progress this. The next NESFLAG meeting was scheduled for 25 October 2017 (not September as noted in the Report) and would take place in the Council Chamber at Buchan House, Peterhead. Officers from Angus Council's Economic Development Section and Roads Service would be in attendance.

**(ii) Public Slipway/Ramp**

With reference to Article 4(d)(iii) of the minute of previous meeting of this Committee, members expressed disappointment at the closure of the public slipway, as instructed by the Interim Service Manager – Roads with effect from 26 April 2017, following an incident in which a vehicle had become trapped in a large hole formed in the sand at the end of the concrete ramp and was hidden from view under the water. Since it had been closed, considerable sand and stones had built up on the slipway over its entire length and to a depth of 1m, rendering it unsafe for re-opening. It would remain closed until a more permanent and affordable solution to regular scraping could be determined. It was considered not sustainable to retain a vehicle on full time standby to scrape the slipway free of sand and stone as required. The rock armour had been requested to be removed by the users and had not been recommended by officers. The Interim Service Manager – Roads considered it essential that the slipway be considered as a ramp which had not been designed to be used as a slipway.

Interim Service Manager – Roads agreed to prepare cost figures for the removal of the material which had built up on the ramp; and for the funding of regular clearance of the ramp.

Professor King referred to a widespread belief amongst Harbour users that the public slipway was not generally used. The Harbour Manager did receive requests to clear it of sand and stones and in any case carried out this work once per month over the winter period. While the ramp's location made it difficult to monitor the amount of use made of it, it was acknowledged that some means of ascertaining usage would be useful. It was known that five enquiries had been received relating to the ramp since 31 March 2017.

**(iii) Arbroath Sea and Food Festival**

This annual event had taken place over the weekend of 5 and 6 August 2017 and despite the mixed weather around 15,000 visitors had attended which enabled the event to be seen as a success. The ASFF committee were already considering proposals for the 2018 event.

**(iv) CCTV**

Several incidents of vandalism around the fish market area had occurred. CCTV would be installed in and around the fish market over winter months, and quotations had been received for these works.

**(v) Aids to Navigation (AtoN)**

Several quotations had been received by the Harbour Manager to replace the existing leading lights (CAT 1) with new LED lights, to be installed over the winter months.

**(vi) Northern Lighthouse Board Audit**

With reference to Article 4(d)(iv) of the minute of previous meeting, an audit of the Harbour in relation to the application of the Port Marine Safety Code and Safety Management System had been carried out by a representative from the Northern Lighthouse Board during July 2017. One observation had been made relating to the wording of the Harbour's PMSC which had since been addressed by the Harbour Manager. The NLB had now closed off its report and was satisfied with the findings of the audit.

**6. OTHER BUSINESS**

**(i) Visitors Pack**

The idea of a visitors pack had been mentioned in the past, most recently by Professor King, and had now been taken forward. Packs of information were now available to visitors on arrival at the Harbour and these had proved to be successful. Many visitors had commented favourably upon the packs, and Councillor Speed referred to a conversation she had had recently with a visiting Dutch couple who had praised the facilities provided by the Information Centre at the Harbour.

**(ii) RNLI Update**

A land survey of the proposed Boat House area had been completed and drawings prepared. The new lifeboat would be required to be relocated on the slip at half-tide. The idea would be to run the boat on to the beach and then recover it and place it on the slip. The completion date for the project now was set at 2020/21.

**(iii) Black Shed**

With reference to Article 4(d)(v) of the minute of previous meeting, Councillor Durno raised the possibility of vacant units at the Black Shed being utilised by craft people. The Interim Service Manager – Roads indicated that even after prioritising current users, there would still be some vacant units available and anyone interested should

contact the Harbour Manager. Apparently some 62 expressions of interest had been received.

**(iv) Retirement**

Ron Churchill advised that this would probably be his final meeting as the representative of the RNLI. The Convener thanked Ron for his contributions to the Committee's deliberations over the years.

**(v) Police Scotland**

Sergeant Steve Campbell introduced himself to the Committee. He was responsible for patrolling the area including the Harbour. He was pleased to hear of the installation of CCTV at the Harbour, together with better lighting and he would be interested to take the opportunity to speak to the Harbour Manager, or any of the Harbour users, about any issues.

**7. DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS**

The Committee noted that its next meeting would take place on Friday 8 December 2017 in Room D, Bruce House, Arbroath commencing at 3.00 pm.