

AGENDA ITEM NO 3(2)

MINUTE of MEETING of the **ARBROATH HARBOUR JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**, held in Room D, Bruce House, Arbroath, on Friday 23 March 2018 at 3.00 pm.

Present:

Council

Representatives: Councillors ALEX KING, BRENDA DURNO, DAVID FAIRWEATHER, LOIS SPEED, RON STURROCK and DEREK WANN.

Harbour Users'

Representatives: Professor BERNARD KING CBE (Leisure Craft Owners); LYNN SIMPSON (Boat Builders/Repairers); ALEX SMITH (Fare Paying Passenger Boat Owners); BOB TEVIOTDALE (Arbroath and District and Shore Static Gear Association) and PETER ANELLI (Arbroath Sailing and Boating Club).

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

Councillor King, Convener, in the Chair.

1. APOLOGIES / SUBSTITUTES

An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Paul Simpson, Lynn Simpson substituting.

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 8 December 2017 was submitted and approved as a correct record, subject to the correction to Bob Teviotdale's name in the sederunt.

4. ARBROATH HARBOUR SPRING REPORT

With reference to Article 4 of the minute of previous meeting, there was submitted Report No 108/18 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 previous meeting of this Committee, the summary position was set out in Appendix 1 to the Report, including a budget underspend of £9,000 which had come about due to greater than budgeted income receipts of £55,000 and an underspend on dredging costs of £27,000. A contribution to the Arbroath Harbour Reserve Fund of £3,000, and general supplies and services of £28,000, with employee costs of £24,000, partially offset the increased income receipts and underspend. The Council had approved the underspend on dredging of £27,000 as a carry forward to the 2018/2019 budget.

(ii) Oil Spill Contingency Planning and Response

With reference to Article 5(a)(ii) of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 22 September 2017, there had been no further significant pollution or oil spillages in the harbour since that incident. Harbour staff held up-to-date appropriate professional certification and the Council continued to retain the services of Briggs Marine & Environmental Services to deal with higher level pollution incidents.

(iii) Scottish Ports Meeting

With reference to Article 4(a)(ii) of the minute of previous meeting of this Committee, when, as noted, the Harbour Manager had been unable to attend the meeting on 15 November in Edinburgh due to operational considerations at the Harbour, the minute of that meeting was now available, as usual, in the Harbour Office where it could be inspected by all Committee members. The Harbour Manager hoped to attend the next meeting due to take place in Glasgow on 17 April 2018.

(iv) Pontoon Berths

With reference to Article 4(a)(iii) of the minute of previous meeting of this Committee, there had been a reduction in the waiting list. This was due to a variety of reasons including the availability of more facilities along the coast and the fact that many people who intended to give up their berth tended to have a change of heart at the last moment. The waiting list was now down to 32 but that should not be taken as a popularity indicator. Professor King pointed out that Tayport had a waiting list of 6 which he considered to be realistic.

(v) Compounded Berths

With reference to Article 4(a)(iv) of the minute of previous meeting of this Committee, the Inner Harbour had been filled to capacity during recent storms as Outer Harbour-based craft moved in for increased protection. There had been no change in the number of compounded berths taken up.

(vi) Staffing

With reference to Article 5(a)(vii) of the minute of meeting of 22 September 2017, staffing levels continued to be stretched at the Harbour, particularly over the summer months. An additional Harbour Assistant continued to be employed to cover the long term sickness of another Harbour Assistant.

(b) Engineering Matters

(i) Inner Harbour Gates

With reference to Article 4(b)(i) of the minute of previous meeting of this Committee, no further operational problems had occurred with the harbour gates during the intervening period. The opening and closing times of the gates would move to the summer schedule on 3 April 2018 and details would continue to be posted outside the Harbour Office, on the security gate leading on to the pontoons and on the Arbroath Harbour page of the Council's website, generally one month in advance.

(ii) Maintenance Dredging Operations

With reference to Article 4(b)(ii) of the minute of previous meeting of this Committee, the Communities Committee on 16 January 2018 (Article 5 refers) had approved Committee report no 17/18 agreeing that "the contractual specification for future dredging be established at the minimum level of quality provided as part of the 2017 dredging contract", in accordance with the recommendation of the Harbour Advisory Committee.

In response to a question from Alex Smith as to whether dredging could be carried out in early Spring 2019, members noted that this would be late in terms of the date for a new licence; however, this could be reviewed as part of the preparations for the new licence. In answer to questions from Councillors Sturrock and Fairweather respectively, Walter Scott confirmed firstly that the timescale for booking the dredger was to have this done two to three months ahead of the contract start date; and that dredging was planned to take place annually.

Marine Scotland would require samples as part of the application process for the new licence; it was recalled that on the previous occasion, three rounds of test samples had been required. It was thought that Harbour staff now had a better idea of what Marine Scotland required, with greater interest being taken in environmental impact. The current Marine Scotland licence and Crown Estate consent to carry out dredging of the Harbour and disposal of dredged spoil at sea was due to expire on 19 May 2019.

(iii) Programme of Works

This constituted the final appearance of the 2017/18 list of projects. Outstanding projects would be carried forward into the programme of works for 2018/19, to be presented in the Summer report to this Committee at its next meeting.

The South Quay repairs were complete. Harbour users gave feedback on the recently installed LED lights installed as aids to navigation. The reaction was universally favourable, the new lights being much more clearly visible from the sea and also being more efficient in terms of energy use, as well as having a longer life.

With reference to Article 4(b)(v)(a) of the minute of previous meeting of this Committee, the crew room facilities work had now been completed, involving the installation of two additional showers, two additional toilets and a new entry system. Good feedback had been received from both staff and Harbour users. The acquisition of a Harbour vehicle now featured as a proposed improvement to Harbour infrastructure. This would ideally be a vehicle with a winch fitted and procurement would be subject to the identification of a budget. Leasing was one possible option to be considered. The ice-making facility, walk-in refrigeration unit, wifi and payment card reader and concrete repairs to the slipway also required budgets to be identified. The pontoons for installation on the Outer Harbour were the subject of an application to NESFLAG for funding or alternatively come under the Tay Cities Deal. The re-submitted bid to NESFLAG for the installation of the pontoons was due to be made by 22 April.

The Reserve Fund might be used in future for match funding for such applications with it being determined annually what could be taken out of the Fund and how much to leave. This had been a hard winter for the Harbour with various issues needing to be funded.

With reference to Article 4(b)(v)(b), CCTV cameras would be in place by the end of March 2018.

(c) Other Items

(i) NESFLAG

With reference to Article 4(c)(i) of the minute of previous meeting, the Harbour Manager was not available to attend the meeting of NESFLAG held in Peterhead on 21 March 2018.

(ii) Public Ramp on to Beach

With reference to Article 4(c)(ii) of the minute of previous meeting of this Committee, Councillor Fairweather noted that the ramp had disappeared under sand and silt due to the weather and that rock armour had been moved

back to the wall area. He was strongly of the view that some use should be made of the ramp which had cost £125,000 even if it was simply the erection of a Notice indicating that the facility could be used at individuals own risk. It was pointed out, however, that such a sign did not remove the liability of the Council as Harbour owner for any incident which should occur. Walter Scott had consulted the Council's legal officers and he would make this information available to Councillor Fairweather. Basically, there was no liability if there were no signs in place indicating that there was a ramp in situ.

(iii) Black Sheds

With reference to item 4(c)(iv) of the minute of previous meeting of this Committee, Estates had confirmed that they were progressing the matter of shed rentals to interested parties. This would open up a new income stream for the Harbour.

5. DATE OF FUTURE MEETINGS - 2018

The Committee noted that its next meeting was due on Friday 21 September 2018 at 3.00pm with a subsequent meeting on Friday 7 December 2018 at the same time. Both meetings would be held in Bruce House.