

## AGENDA ITEM NO 3(2)

MINUTE of MEETING of the **ARBROATH HARBOUR JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**, held in Room D, Bruce House, Arbroath, on Friday 21 September 2018 at 3.00 pm.

**Present:**

**Council**

**Representatives:** Councillors ALEX KING, BRENDA DURNO and RON STURROCK.

**Harbour Users'**

**Representatives:** Professor BERNARD KING CBE (Leisure Craft Owners); PAUL SIMPSON (Boat Builders/Repairers); ALEX SMITH (Fare Paying Passenger Boat Owners); NEIL SWANKIE (RNLI); PETER ANELLI (Arbroath Sailing and Boating Club) and BOB TEVIOTDALE (Arbroath and Montrose Static Gear Association).

**In Attendance:** WALTER SCOTT (Angus Council, Service Leader - Roads and Transportation); BRUCE FLEMING (Angus Council, Team Leader – Arbroath Harbour Master) and ANDREW WILSON (Angus Council, Legal and Democratic Services, Committee Officer).

Councillor King, Convener, in the Chair.

**1. APOLOGIES / SUBSTITUTES**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors David Fairweather, Derek Wann and Lois Speed; and Sam Clow, Neil Swankie 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 23 March 2018 was submitted and approved as a correct record.

**4. ARBROATH HARBOUR - AUTUMN REPORT**

With reference to Article 4 of the minute of previous meeting, there was submitted Report No 299/18 by the Head of Infrastructure, outlining plans for future programmes of works, and considering contemporary matters of relevance to Harbour activity.

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

**(a) Administrative Matters**

**(i) Financial Update – Appendix 1 to Report No 299/18**

With reference to Article 4(a)(i) of the minute of previous meeting of this Committee, the estimated outturn position as at 31 March 2019 was anticipated to be on budget as at 31 August 2018. A budget carryover of £27,000 had been allowed for dredging as outlined in paragraph 3.2 of Report No 299/18.

**(ii) Harbour Reserve Fund**

The fund currently stood at £252,000, from which £24,000 would be drawn down to assist in funding the urgent repair works to the West Breakwater. European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) funding had contributed 40% of the total £135,000 cost of the Outer Harbour pontoons leaving the Harbour Reserve Fund to provide the remaining 60% of the costs, amounting to £81,000. The Reserve Fund after these deductions would total £147,000, well above the minimum level of £100,000 set by the Communities Committee at its meeting on 16 January 2018 (Report No. 17/18, Article 5 refers).

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

With reference to Article 4(a)(ii) of the minute of meeting of this Committee, there had been one significant diesel spillage whereby approximately 300 litres of diesel had been discharged into the Harbour from a moored fishing vessel. Harbour staff took appropriate action deploying appropriate booms and pads in various locations around the Inner Harbour and over the following two days were able to clear up the spill using Harbour's oil spill equipment. The Council is currently recovering the costs associated with the clean-up operation from the owner of the vessel responsible. Relevant authorities were notified and SEPA visited the Harbour to observe the clean-up operation, while representatives of the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) attended the following week to inspect the vessel and meet with the vessel's skipper. All Harbour staff continued to hold their relevant qualifications to deal with such incidents and the Council continued to retain the services of Briggs Marine and Environmental Services to deal with any occurring higher-level pollution incidents. The cost of the clean-up and replacement of equipment was anticipated to cost approximately £1,200.

**(iii) Scottish Ports Meeting**

With reference to Article 4(a)(iii) of the minute of previous meeting of this Committee, the Harbour Master had attended the last meeting of the Scottish Ports Committee on 22 June 2018 in Invergordon. Discussion had included the Scottish Maritime Strategy, Ports and Transport Policy, safety issues and sustainable development. The minute of the meeting would be made available for inspection through the Harbour Office by Committee members once published. The Harbour Master intended to be present at the next Scottish Ports Committee meeting on 5 December 2018, in Edinburgh. This meeting would be specific to ports and harbours operated by local authorities which made it of special interest. The Committee would be updated at its next meeting on any relevant issues which arose.

**(iv) Pontoon Berths**

With reference to Article 4(a)(iv) of the minute of previous meeting of this Committee, autumn is the time of year when some owners, currently occupying an annual berth, can choose to have their boat lifted out and stored in the boatyard from October to March. The Harbour Master was currently identifying boats whose owners wished to take up available winter berths on these vacant pontoon berths.

**(v) Compounded Berths**

With reference to Article 4(a)(v) of the minute of previous meeting of this Committee, no further compounded berths had been granted in the Harbour. Use of the "Lazy Hole" continued to be considered as a location for summer berths, but meantime it was being utilised for the five summer berths from 1 April to 30 September.

**(vi) Visiting Boat Numbers**

While the numbers of visiting boats to the Harbour from April 2018 to end of August 2018 was 194, a 3% decrease from the previous year, most boats were staying for over two nights with the average length of stay now 2.6 nights per visit. Members were pleased to note the information leaflets which has been produced and passed on to Harbour users and Professor King suggested it might be useful to have some specialist leaflets made available for visitors. The opening of the V & A Museum in Dundee should also provide opportunities for tourism marketing to the benefit of the surrounding area including Arbroath.

**(vii) Staffing**

With reference to Article 4(a)(vii) of the minute of meeting of previous meeting of this Committee, the tenure of the temporary Harbour Assistant would be extended over the winter period to relieve the pressure on Harbour staff due to the continued absence on sick leave of another Harbour Assistant. While staff were working hard to cover, several tasks could be required to be done simultaneously including fuelling, assisting the Boatyard and generally dealing with the requirements of harbour users, staff were also finding it difficult to take annual leave because of lack of cover. Bob Teviotdale noted that changes in the method of mooring up boats led to an increase requirement for the involvement of staff to accomplish this. It was noted that while the Boatyard required boats to be lifted out by high water, if creel boats required fuelling at the same time, the lifting out could not take place.

The Harbour Master and the Service Leader – Roads and Transportation, were managing the staff sickness situation in terms of the Council's staffing procedures.

**(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 several operational problems with the Harbour gates, one of which had contributed to the circumstances which brought about the diesel discharge from a vessel affected. A diver had been required to retrieve the debris which was preventing the gates from closing fully, resulting in a significant leakage of water from the Inner Harbour, causing several boats to touch bottom and lean over. Clearance of the debris had resolved that situation. Two further incidents, on the 30 July and 3 August, both involved electrical issues.

Staff continued to deal with faults as they arose and the patience of Harbour users was appreciated.

As usual, the opening and closing times of gates would move to the winter schedule from October 2018 with details available through the Harbour Office and the Council's website.

**(ii) Maintenance Dredging Operations**

With reference to Article 4(b)(ii) of the minute of previous meeting, the dredging contract for 2018 had been awarded to Peter Madsen Raderi. The dredger *Asse Madsen*, was due in Arbroath over October/November 2018 to dredge 9000 m<sup>3</sup> of silt from the navigational channel and the Outer and Inner Harbours. This was expected to take around 3 – 4 weeks to complete and would require considerable movement craft about the Harbour. The *Asse Madsen* had carried out dredging last year and was also dredging in Macduff and Stonehaven before coming to Arbroath. The quantity of materials to be removed was determined by affordability, and the navigation channels would be prioritised following which if it was still financially viable, the Pontoon Fingers would also be dealt with.

The annual extraction licence ran from July to July. In response to a question from Professor King, members were advised that to remove the 9,000 m<sup>3</sup> in November would only leave 3,000 m<sup>3</sup> capacity from the 12,000 m<sup>3</sup> total limit for the rest of the year. Dredging needs were dependent upon weather conditions throughout the year. A fresh licence provision would begin in July 2019 so moving the dredge cycle back in the year would result in a delay of over a year until dredging at the new agreed time. The Harbour had previously experienced a two year gap without dredging which had not been conducive to efficient operation of the Harbour.

Members considered that generally dredging should be done in the spring of the year as being the most suitable period for an optimum result.

**(iii) West Breakwater Repairs**

It was reported that tenders had been issued and a contract awarded to John Langley Construction Limited to carry out the urgent repair work required for the West Breakwater. This had been duly completed in July 2018 at a cost of £63,000, including minor repairs to the patent slipway.

**(c) Programme of Works**

**(i) Updated Projects List**

With reference to Article 4(b)(iii) of the minute of previous meeting of this Committee, members noted the updated 2018/2019 projects list of proposals to be delivered in the current financial year if within available budget, including external funding sources.

**(ii) Closed Circuit Television**

Ten cameras have now been installed in and around the fish market and had been effective in identifying in catching on camera various perpetrators of anti-social behaviour and vandalism on Harbour premises. It was hoped that this, coupled with the follow-up police activity, would be an effective deterrent.

**(d) Other Items**

**(i) North East Scotland Fisheries Local Action Group (NESFLAG)**

With reference to Articles 4(b)(iii) and 4(c)(i) of the minute of previous meeting, the Council's application for funding to assist of the installation of pontoons in the Outer Harbour had been approved at the last NESFLAG meeting on 4 July 2018. A grant of £54,165.43 had been awarded towards the installation of the 50m long pontoon and there would be formal engagement with Harbour users representatives as detailed design of the pontoon was finalised. Work was intended to be carried out in early 2019.

**(ii) Public Ramp on to Beach**

With reference to Article 4(c)(ii) of the minute of previous meeting of this Committee, three members of the public had expressed an interest in using the public ramps since that time. This was not sufficient to justify the re-opening of the ramp so it would remain closed.

**(iii) Black Sheds**

With reference to item 4(c)(iii) of the minute of previous meeting of this Committee, only one unit, a double unit, remained to be occupied and expressions of interests were invited from all Harbour users.

**(iv) Arbroath Sailing and Boating Club**

The Club had organised a week-end of races on 4/5 August 2018 to fill the gap left by the demise of the annual Seafest. This had proved to be successful with 18 visiting yachts berthed in the Harbour over the weekend, many of which participated in two races organised over the weekend. The Club had organised and financially supported a buffet and also bar facilities, and provided a trophy. Both the Club and the Harbour Master were keen to work together to repeat the event in 2019.

Peter Anelli acknowledged the support of the Harbour Master and staff in making the event possible.

**(v) RNLI**

The Convener was pleased to welcome Neil Swankie as representing the RNLI at this meeting in the absence today of Sam Clow who would be the RNLI's permanent representative on the Committee.

Neil updated the Committee on the progress being made with the preparations for the introduction of new *Shannon* Lifeboats at Arbroath and Anstruther. This was being conducted in tandem by the RNLI which was undertaking final reviews next year at both locations. In the meantime, normal operations had resumed at Arbroath RNLI Station at the beginning of July 2018. Both the Mersey-class Inchape boat and the inshore D-class boat were back in full service. Neil raised some concerns on behalf of the RNLI regarding car parking. The position was explained by the Harbour Master that car parking within the Harbour would not be affected by the charges being introduced by Angus Council for its public car parks. There might, however, be an issue with inappropriate car parking in the Harbour spaces and this was currently under consideration by the Harbour Master.

**(vi) Litter Issues**

Councillor Durno had received various comments from members of the public on the litter situation at the Harbour. The litter bins tended to fill quickly, especially in the evening. Three new wheelie bins had been obtained, however, and the position would be monitored. Harbour staff cleaned up in the morning, as far as they could, however, any assistance from community groups would always be welcome.

Issues with parking included frequent instances of double parking taking place outside Marco's premises as well as the Lobster Shack. Harbour by-laws included parking management by the Harbour Master.

**5. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The Committee noted that its next meeting was due to take place on Friday 7 December 2018 at 3.00pm, in Bruce House.