

ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the **ARBROATH HARBOUR JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**, held in Room D, Bruce House, Arbroath, on Friday 29 March 2019 at 3.00 pm.

Present:

Council

Representatives Councillors ALEX KING, LOIS SPEED, and RON STURROCK.

Harbour Users'

Representatives PAUL SIMPSON (Boat Builders/Repairers)
SAM CLOW (RNLI)
BOB TEVIOTDALE (Arbroath and Montrose Static Gear Association).

Officers in

Attendance

WALTER SCOTT (Angus Council, Service Leader – Roads and Transportation);
BRUCE FLEMING (Angus Council, Team Leader – Arbroath Harbour Master);
RORY TOSH (Angus Council, Team Leader (Finance and Legal) and ANDREW WILSON (Angus Council, Democratic Services, Committee Officer).

Councillor King, Convener, in the Chair.

1. APOLOGIES / SUBSTITUTES

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Brenda Durno, David Fairweather and Derek Wann; Alex Smith, Professor Bernard King CBE; Peter Anelli; and Police Scotland.

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 7 December 2018 was submitted and approved as a correct record.

4. ARBROATH HARBOUR SPRING REPORT

With reference to Article 4 of the minute of previous meeting of this Committee, there was submitted Report No 94/19 by the Head of Infrastructure, outlining plans for future programmes of works, and considering 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 underspend anticipated in the 2018/19 revenue budget was now £22,000, primarily due to reduction in Roads Section staff recharges. In addition, greater than budgeted income receipts fully offset an overspend on budgeted employee costs. These contributed to overall better receipts than originally expected.

(ii) Harbour Reserve Fund

The Fund had contributed £24,000 towards repairs to the West Breakwater, as well as meeting the Council's contribution to the chill room (£5,000) and £81,000 towards the £135,000 cost of the pontoons in the Outer Harbour.

(iii) Oil Spill Contingency Planning and Response

Some low level pollution had occurred on the Brothock Water, dealt with by the Harbour Master and his team. All Harbour staff continue to have up-to-date MCA Oil spill Response certificates and, as backup, the services of Briggs Environmental Services Ltd were retained to deal with higher level pollution incidents should they occur.

(iv) Scottish Ports Meeting

With reference to Article 4(b)(iii) of the minute of previous meeting of this Committee, the Harbourmaster had attended the last meeting of the Scottish Ports Committee in Glasgow on 20 March. As usual, the minute of that meeting would be made available in due course to Committee members via the Harbour office.

(v) Pontoon Berths

With reference to Article 4(b)(iv) of the minute of previous meeting of this Committee, the berths continued to remain at maximum occupancy with 53 annual berths occupied and six available for visiting yachts. Those boats which had been stored over winter at Mackay's Boatyard would be lifted back into the water on 2 April. The waiting list for an annual pontoon berth remained at 31 names.

(vi) Compounded Berths

With reference to Article 4(b)(v) of the minute of previous meeting of this Committee, the commercial fishing boat *Lunan Lass* had been granted one new compounded berth for 2019/2020.

(vii) Staffing

The post of temporary Harbour Assistant had been advertised. The deadline for applications was 5 April, with the planned starting date for the successful applicant being in early May 2019. This addition would assist with cover during the busier summer months with extended opening times for the Harbour.

(b) Engineering Matters

(i) Inner Harbour Gates

With reference to Article 4(b)(i) of the minute of previous meeting of this Committee, this had been an incident free period for the Inner Harbour gates.

The opening and closing times of the gates would move to the summer schedule on 1 April 2019 with details being posted on the Arbroath Harbour page of the Council's website.

(ii) Maintenance Dredging Operations

With reference to Article 4(b)(ii) of the minute of previous meeting of this Committee, the dredger *John Madsen* had completed operations on 14 January 2019, having removed 9,000 m³ of silt from the navigation channel and Outer Harbour. The next proposed dredging works would be carried out in January/February 2020 which, happily, coincided with the times suggested as appropriate by Professor King and Alex Smith.

The Council was currently preparing an application for a new licence from Marine Scotland for dredging and sea disposal of dredged spoil and Crown Estate consent to carry out further dredging of the Harbour and the disposal of the dredged spoil. The current licence and consent was due to expire on

19 May 2019 with the new licence and consent being valid for three years from date of issue.

(iii) Outer Harbour Pontoons

The pontoons to be located in the Outer Harbour had been fabricated off site. The Contractor, Inland & Coastal Marine Systems UK Ltd, would carry out piling operations during May which would last for one week with the pontoons being installed the following week. A barge was likely to be employed to do the piling, which most likely could be achieved from a single set position for the barge. It was anticipated that the barge would only require to move position for the final pile to be positioned. The works required a licence from Marine Scotland, for which the Council had already applied.

(iv) Programme of Works

With reference to paragraph 4(b)(iv) of the minute of previous meeting of this Committee, the list of projects had been further updated. Besides those projects previously mentioned above, the following Harbour infrastructure improvements were highlighted as being dealt with as follows:-

- **Ice Making Facility:** Costed at £50,000, subject to budget identification - currently on hold.
- **Wifi and Payment Card Reader:** Costed at £5,000, subject to budget identification - priority project.
- **Harbour Vehicle:** Costed at £20,000 - a small van had been decided as the most appropriate option, to be sought via leasing, funded from the revenue budget.
- **Vehicular Barriers:** Costed at £10,000, subject to budget identification – (1) to be designed and fully costed for installation at the boundary of the adopted road off and located between the RNLI building and the Inner Harbour; and (2) detailed consideration to be given to installation of a vehicular barrier at Marketgate, noting the boundary of the adopted road overlapping into the Harbour boundary. Both projects were subject to budget identification.

The barriers were considered necessary to deal with the increase in the use of “free” parking along the Western Quay of the Inner Harbour and overspill parking into the quayside area towards the Fishmarket and the fuel dispenser. The 18 parking spaces on the Western Quay would be designated for use by Harbour users only. The remaining 13 spaces on the north side of the Inner Harbour would be included in the Parking Order for charging. The Harbourmaster noted that, currently, members of the public were often abandoning cars at the Harbour for the day, including taking advantage of the “free” parking, and in doing so, also affecting access/operations and RNLI twentyfour hour access. He had consulted Harbour users regarding the possible locations for the barriers and how to manage them. Any barriers installed could be locked in the upright position during the day while the RNLI duty officer would have means to raise and lower barriers as appropriate during a “shout”. A second barrier would be located on the other side of the Harbour, although the legal process would be longer due to the road being fully adopted. There had already been accidents on that side of the Harbour involving vehicles. Any obstructions could be dealt with by Police Scotland on the adopted and therefore public road.

- **Chill Room/Walk-In Refrigeration Unit:** See Paragraph (c)(i) below.

(c) Other Matters

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

With reference to Article 4(b)(iv) of the minute of previous meeting of this Committee, a NESFLAG meeting had taken place in Aberdeen on 20 February 2019 where the Harbour's application for funding support for the chill room had been successful. A grant of £10,314 had been awarded towards the installation of a chill room/walk-in refrigeration unit. The remaining costs of £4,437 would come from the Arbroath Harbour Reserve Fund, as previously noted. Tenders for the installation had been returned and the Council was in a position to award the contract, with the works being carried out in June 2019.

The Harbourmaster was likely to attend the next NESFLAG meeting on 19 June 2019, along with colleagues from the Council's Economic Development Service.

(ii) Ballast Quay

The collapse of approximately 12m of the south wall of the Ballast Quay into the Outer Harbour had taken place on 21 January 2019, fortunately without any injuries to personnel or damage to any vessels or gear. Temporary emergency works have been carried out to stabilise the Quay and a design was being worked up to repair and strengthen the damaged Quay utilising the sections of stone from the collapsed section of wall. A works contract would be procured in the coming weeks with the repair works being carried out early in 2019/20. There had been no detrimental effect on the operation of the Harbour although summer berthing availability for small pleasure boats in the 2019 season in the Lazy Hole may be affected. The Harbourmaster had written to all boat owners who would normally take up a summer berth to advise them of the situation.

Parking availability for Harbour users was also currently restricted by the occupation of the considerable part of the by gear stored on the Western Quay displaced from its usual storage area by the damage to the Ballast Quay.

(iii) Black Sheds

With the leasing out of the previously unoccupied Units 5 and 6, all 22 units of the Black Shed were now occupied by Harbour users.

(iv) Theft of Keys

It had been reported to the Harbourmaster that the ignition keys of four different boats had been stolen, most likely being the night of 3/4 January 2019. Local Police were investigating.

(v) Northern Lighthouse Board (NLB)

Due to a change in the reporting year of the NLB, from now on the rolling three year availability report for the Aids to Navigation (AtoNs) at Arbroath Harbour would be presented to the Committee in its Autumn Report each year.

(vi) Angus Clean Environment (ACE) - Arbroath Harbour

This is a group of residents from across Angus who seek to raise awareness of local issues and effect change for the better. The Group was currently working closely with the Harbourmaster and Council Officers from Waste Services and Parks Services to raise awareness of the harmful effects of litter, encourage proper disposal and explore alternatives to single use plastics with local businesses where practicable. The Council is supporting ACE where possible, through the provision of communications material, school activities, additional litter/recycling, painting benches and carrying out litter monitoring and enforcement. This local project was officially launched on 1 May 2019.

5. POLICE REPORT

There was submitted a Report by Police Scotland, Tayside Division (Angus LGA) relating to activities in the Harbour area. It contained details relating to 6 calls issued by the Police, and a few minor crimes reported in and around the Harbour area during the period 25 November 2018 – 26 March 2019. This included the theft of ignition keys referred to above.

An emerging issue was the incidence of incidents involving teenage youths boarding boats and jumping between them at considerable risk, besides the potential for theft or damage from or to the craft. Police were engaging with local schools on this matter and Community Officers were in regular contact with the Harbour Master about any issues he may have. The Harbour was included in regular patrols by foot and vehicle.

6. ITEM RECEIVED FROM MEMBER

Councillor Brenda Durno had raised two issues, one relating to barriers at the Harbour as discussed at Article 4(b)(iv) above; and also a query regarding the future of the former VisitScotland premises attached to the Visitor Centre. This unit was currently the subject of efforts by the Council's Economic Development service to find a tenant.

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Committee noted that its next meeting was due on Friday 13 September 2019 at 3pm in Bruce House.

The Committee further agreed that its December meeting would take place on Friday 13th at 3pm, also in Bruce House, as 6 December was being taken by the Council as its St Andrew's Day holiday.