

ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the **ARBROATH HARBOUR JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**, held in the large Meeting Room, Dewar House, Arbroath, on Friday 30 August 2019 at 3.00 pm.

Present:

Council

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

Harbour Users'

Representatives ALEX SMITH (Fare Paying Passenger Boar owners)
PAUL SIMPSON (Boat Builders/Repairers)
Professor BERNARD KING, CBE (Leisure Craft Users)
PETER ANELLI (Arbroath Sailing and Boating Club)
BOB TEVIOTDALE (Arbroath and Montrose Static Gear Association).

Police Scotland Sergeant GRACE EWING

Officers in

Attendance WALTER SCOTT (Angus Council, Service Leader – Roads and Transportation);
BRUCE FLEMING (Angus Council, Harbour Master); 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 Councillor Lois Speed; Sam Clow (RNLI) and Rory Tosh (Angus Council).

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 29 March 2019 was submitted and approved as a correct record.

4. ARBROATH HARBOUR AUTUMN REPORT

With reference to Article 4 of the minute of previous meeting of this Committee, there was submitted Report No 283/19 by the Director 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 2019/20 revenue budget was £76,000, with budgeted expenditure slightly down on budget while budgeted income was higher than budget. The budget carry over of £46,000 had been approved by the Council which would make a total of £73,000 available for planned dredging next year.

(ii) Oil Spill Contingency Planning and Response

With reference to Article 4(a)(iii) of the minute of previous meeting of this Committee, all Harbour staff continued 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. The Harbour Master had attended a refresher course during August to maintain his MCA Level 4/5 Oil Spill Response Manager's Certificate.

(iii) Scottish Ports Meeting

With reference to Article 4(b)(v) of the minute of previous meeting of this Committee, the Harbour Master had attended the last meeting of the Scottish Ports Committee in Grangemouth on 20 June 2019. As usual, the minute of that meeting would be made available in due course to Committee members via the Harbour office. The Harbour Master intended to be present at the next meeting, to be held in Edinburgh.

(iv) Pontoon Berths (Inner Harbour)

With reference to Article 4(a)(v) of the minute of previous meeting of this Committee, the berths continued to remain at maximum occupancy. The waiting list for an annual pontoon berth remained at a healthy 29 names. Some individuals had come off the list or had moved away.

(v) Compounded Berths

With reference to Article 4(a)(vi) of the minute of previous meeting of this Committee, there were now 30 commercial boats operating from Arbroath Harbour. The latest boat to be granted one new compounded berth for 2019/2020 was the *Jessica May*. With around 3 additional boats per year locating to the Harbour since 2012, Members welcomed this development, and the Convener expressed his pleasure at having witnessed this increase over the years, and in particular the growth in in-shore fishing activity.

(vi) Visiting Boat Numbers

With reference to Article 4(a)(vi) of the minute of meeting of this Committee on 21 September 2018, members welcomed a 9% increase in the numbers of visiting craft, up from 196 between 1 April to 31 August 2018 to 214 in the period 1 April to 17 August 2019 (the final 2 weeks in August this year were not included due to the date of this meeting). The average length of stay was slightly down, but the number of overnight stays was slightly up. More visitors were staying for 2 nights, to the benefit of the local economy.

62 boats had visited Arbroath from Europe, with the majority originating from The Netherlands. Most repeat visits were by UK-based craft, not necessarily in consecutive years. Dutch visitors tended to use Arbroath as a base, using local transport infrastructure – train or bus - to go explore further afield. The incidence of Netherlands-based boats may be partly due to publicity given to an incident involving an Eyemouth-bound Dutch yacht which had become dismasted 35 miles out in the North Sea, but had been brought into Arbroath by the local RNLI boat. (This was the furthest out to sea that the Arbroath Lifeboat had required to travel to a casualty). Professor King had spoken to the boat owners who had been impressed by, and very appreciative of, the hospitality and assistance they had received in the town.

The Harbour Master agreed to maintain a register of visiting craft to help quantify, amongst other statistics, the numbers of repeat visits.

(vii) Staffing

With reference to Article 4(a)(vii) of the minute of previous meeting of this Committee, a temporary Harbour Assistant had been appointed and started work on 7 May for six months. While this would assist with cover during the busier summer months with extended opening times for the Harbour, planning was under way to make the post permanent, the better to cope with the increased work levels which were now evident throughout the full year. Having an additional member of staff on site had already been positively received by Harbour users.

(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 another incident free period for the Inner Harbour gates.

The opening and closing times of the gates would move to the winter schedule on 1 October 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 dredging completed operations on 14 January 2019, had reduced silt levels in the Harbour to approximately Chart Datum. The Outer Harbour silt level was at its lowest for many years. As a result it was considered that it was not necessary to carry out any dredging until January February 2022, when there would be a greater likelihood that the Council could make full use of its licence limit of 12,000m³.

There had been no link established between the dredging operations last January and the collapse of the Ballast Quay wall.

(iii) Outer Harbour pontoons

With reference to Article 4(b)(iii) of the minute of previous meeting of this Committee, the link to the new pontoons to be located in the Outer Harbour had been successfully installed. There were now more options for arriving boats. The development had also improved flexibility in the overall use of the Harbour by freeing up areas for activities such as enabling the fuelling of boats.

(iv) Programme of Works

With reference to Article 4(b)(iv) of the minute of previous meeting of this Committee, the list of projects had been further updated. The £73,000 carry forward to 2021 for dredging was referred to at Article 4(ii)(b) 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.
- **Vehicular Barriers: (Ref: Agenda Item 6(3))** Now costed at £18,000, specification prepared and advertised via the Public Contract Scotland portal. Quotations received currently under review by officers along with procurement of locations for electrical power connections. The proposed location for a barrier at Old Shorehead/Marketgate is across an adopted road. It will therefore be necessary for the Council to promote a Prohibition of Driving Order

before the barrier can be installed at this location. A report, recommending the promotion and making of a Traffic Regulation Order to prohibit the driving of vehicles on sections of Marketgate, Arbroath, and to approve the designation of 13 parking spaces along the Western Quay of the Inner Harbour for use within the The Shore Car Park where off-street parking charges apply. If there were no objections were lodged to the Traffic orders, the scheme could be implemented within three months of advertisement.

The off-street car park boundary from The Shore to include 13 additional bays, also requiring a variation to a traffic order to be pursued along with installation of new coin operated meter. The new arrangements should offer flexibility at a reasonable cost for residents, visitors to the Harbour and the RNLI; the residents had offered a £2,000 contribution to the barrier scheme. A contribution would also be made from the Car Parking Reserve Fund. The JCC endorsed the request that the Communities Committee at its meeting on 24 September 2019 be asked to approve the remaining £12,000 required contribution to be made from the Harbour Reserve Fund, below the 40% limit of that Fund. It was intended that the traffic orders would deal with all of the outstanding parking issues at the Harbour, including the problem posed by parking of cars in the area to the rear of the RNLI shed, where cars were parked for much of the day by drivers who had nothing to do with the Harbour or Harbour-related activities. It was particularly noted that yellow lines put down in pursuance of the relevant road traffic orders extended to the wall and not only to the ground immediately adjacent to the lines themselves.

In the event of the installation of the barriers proceeding, Pater Anelli raised the question of access to service areas for Harbour Users. The Harbour Master advised that he would ensure that access was maintained for those who required it, and that following installation of the barriers, fobs would be issued to Users to ensure access.

The gear currently stowed on the West Quay of the Inner Harbour would be returned to the Ballast Quay once repairs to the latter were complete. (See Paragraph 4(c)(ii) below.) **(Ref Agenda Item 6(2))**

- **Chill Room/Walk-In Refrigeration Unit:** Installed but still to be electrically connected. Contractor: Chillforce Ltd. Works due to be completed by end September 2019.

(v) Funding for Infrastructure Repairs

Active consideration is being given to the need for, and availability of, funding for infrastructure repairs at the Harbour in light of the collapse of the Ballast Quay; this would be reported upon at the next meeting of this Committee.

(c) Other Items

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

With reference to Article 4(c)(i) of the minute of previous meeting of this Committee, a NESFLAG meeting had taken place in Peterhead on 19 June 2019. The Angus budget (and that for North Aberdeenshire) was fully committed and therefore, as only two more application deadlines would remain, 14 July and 24 November 2019, NESFLAG was now closed for new applications in those two areas. Angus had received three significant grants as under:

£54,165.43 for the Outer Harbour pontoons, primarily to cater for inshore fishing vessels;

£10,314 for the chill room now under development (see Paragraph 4(b)(iv) above); and

£39,829.07 (AngusAlive) for Spotlight on Arbroath's Fishing Heritage, a permanent exhibition in converted gatehouses at the Signal Tower Museum.

The Harbour Master intended to attend the next NESFLAG meeting during October 2019 – date to be finalised. The notion was broached of obtaining some publicity for the Harbour relating to the NESFLAG funding and the improvements so generated as a result of that and related financial support.

(ii) Ballast Quay

The comprehensive repair works to the collapsed Harbour wall were due to be completed by the end of September 2019, when a press briefing was envisaged. There would be a weight limit of 40 tons on the restored Quay, and there would be assessments carried out of weight bearing capacities on all the Harbour's quaysides.

(iii) Northern Lighthouse Board (NLB)

The NLB requires from harbours and ports a rolling three year report of all failures of any Aids to Navigation (AtoNs) Arbroath had experienced no lamp failures in the past three years, as set out in Appendix 2 to Report 283/19. Harbour Users expressed satisfaction with the high standard of these aids, which were clearly visible from out at sea, even in broad daylight.

(iv) RNLI

Arbroath Lifeboat Day had taken place on 13 July 2019. Despite the poor weather, it was well supported by the public, with stalls set up on as much Quayside space as was necessary. Neighbouring RNLI stations Broughty Ferry and Montrose sent their lifeboats, and with live rescue displays, live music games/activities, food and boat trips, the day turned out to be a success.

(v) Arbroath Sailing and Boat Club Yacht Race

Peter Anelli reported that this event, held on 24 August, although enjoyable, had suffered somewhat from taking place on a day of very little wind. Only one participating craft had managed to complete the course successfully out of the six entries while the other five retired; all did make it back to the Harbour before the gates closed. It is hope to repeat the event next year.
(Ref Agenda Item 6(1)).

(vi) Arbroath Places for Everyone

Angus Council had been awarded Sustrans funding for Arbroath amounting to £6.7M, to be match funded by the Council itself with another £6.7M. The project aimed to provide improvements and enhancements along the route of the A92 dual carriageway (Burnside Drive) through the town. It aimed to improve accessibility and encourage and increase the use of active travel and more inclusive forms of transport than the car.

The report noted that Harbour Users may consider that there had been no, or insufficient, consultation carried out with themselves. Alex Smith put this point of view forward strongly, and he believed that many people in the town were opposed to the project.

The Service Leader – Roads and Transportation confirmed that he had been directly involved in the project from its inception and now would have responsibility for its delivery. The project would not have a detrimental effect on Harbour access and should improve accessibility to the Harbour for all users. While there had been various opportunities for community engagement with the proposals, none of which Alex Smith was aware, there would be opportunities to contribute to the design stage. It was proposed to invite the Project Team to present at the next meeting of the Committee, as was being done with the Community Council.

Councillor Fairweather noted that the funding, to come from Scottish Government and be match funded by the Council, was a significant sum to be spent in Arbroath, and stated that the Council could not afford to pass up on the opportunity of applying for it, and would no doubt have been strongly criticised for not submitting an application. While he appreciated the concerns some people may have, there was still plenty of time for local people to have input to the project.

The Convener invited Alex Smith, and any other individual or Group who considered that they had not been consulted properly on this topic, to write to the Clerk to this Committee at Angus Council detailing the terms of their views on the matter. Any such representations would receive an appropriate response.

(Ref: Agenda Item No 6(4)).

5. POLICE REPORT

There was submitted a Report by Police Scotland, Tayside Division (Angus LGA) relating to activities in the Harbour area, and presented by Sergeant Ewing. It contained details relating to four crimes reported in and around the Harbour area during the period 29 March 2019 – 30 August 2019.

There were also several incidents involving individuals with mental health issues appearing at the Harbour, or, in one case, at the nearby cliffs; and other occurrences involving young people. Police continued to engage with local schools 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.

Members thanked Sgt Ewing for her report.

The Harbour Master emphasised to all Harbour Users the need to report to him or any of his team should they see any recurrence of swimming in the Harbour - an offence under the Harbour Byelaws and an extremely dangerous activity – so that the required action could be taken to avoid death or serious injury to the perpetrators.

6. ITEMS RECEIVED FROM MEMBERS

All four items detailed on the agenda had been covered during the meeting.

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Committee noted that its next meeting was due on Friday 13 December 2019 at 3pm when it was hoped that Bruce House would be available again.