

ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the **ARBROATH HARBOUR JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**, held in the large Meeting Room, Dewar House, Arbroath, on Friday 13 December 2019 at 3.00 pm.

Present:

Council

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

Harbour Users'

Representatives ALEX SMITH (Fare Paying Passenger Boat 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).
SAM CLOW (RNLI)

Police Scotland PC Gordon Smith.

Officers in

Attendance WALTER SCOTT (Angus Council, Service Leader – Roads and Transportation);
BRUCE FLEMING (Angus Council, Harbour Master); RORY TOSH (Angus Council, Team Leader, Finance); ANDREW WILSON (Angus Council, Democratic Services, Committee Officer); and SCOTT DRYDEN (Angus Council, Traffic Engineer, Infrastructure (for Item 7).

Councillor King, Convener, in the Chair.

1. APOLOGIES / SUBSTITUTES

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Ron Sturrock and Rory Tosh (Angus Council Finance Service).

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 30 August 2019 was submitted and approved as a correct record.

The Committee agreed to vary the order of items as set out on the Agenda and consider the Police Report as item 4.

4. POLICE REPORT

With reference to Article 5 of the minute of previous meeting of this Committee, there was submitted a Report by Police Scotland, Tayside division, (Angus LPA), and presented by PC Gordon Smith. It contained details of recent crimes and issues in the Harbour area between the last meeting of this Committee on 30 August, to today, 13 December.

One of the incidents involved the theft of crabs from the Harbour quayside; the Convener urged crab / lobster fishermen to ensure that their catches were stored securely in the Harbour area.

Discussion also took place regarding closed circuit TV coverage at the Harbour. The Police Divisional CCTV van was also in Arbroath regularly, and part of its usual remit included the Harbour. Community Officers regularly visited the Harbourmaster's Office to keep up to date with Harbour issues.

The Committee agreed to note the terms of the Police Report.

5. ARBROATH HARBOUR WINTER REPORT

With reference to Article 4 of the minute of previous meeting of this Committee, there was submitted Report No 417/19 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 and set out in Appendix 1 to Report No 417/19, was £58,000, mainly due to greater than anticipated budgeted income receipts. There had been a steady increase in the number of commercial boats working out of the Harbour. Many of these were larger boats, buying more gear. The availability of the boat hoist, which facilitated repairs and also freed up space in the Harbour, attracted boats from all over Scotland and the north of England to Arbroath. Indeed, 80% of the boats lifted out on cradles were from outwith Arbroath.

The balance remained healthy and there were no plans to access those funds.

(ii) Oil Spill Contingency Planning and Response

With reference to Article 4(a)(ii) of the minute of previous meeting of this Committee, at present, Harbour staff possessed the following up to date oil spill response certificates :

Harbourmaster / Senior Harbour Assistant - MCA Level 4/5 Oil Spill Response Manager's Certificate;

One Harbour Assistant - MCA Level 2 – Sorbents & Equipment;

One Harbour Assistant - MCA Level 1 First Response – Sorbents Certificate.

It was proposed that all Harbour Assistants would be trained to MCA Level 2 – Sorbents & Equipment in 2020 at the next available training opportunity.

The services of Briggs Environmental Services Ltd were retained to deal with higher level pollution incidents should they occur.

(iii) Scottish Ports Meeting

With reference to Article 4(b)(iii) of the minute of previous meeting of this Committee, the Harbour Master had attended the last meeting of the Scottish Ports Committee (SPC) in Edinburgh on 13 November 2019. This had tied in with the Annual Scottish Parliamentary Maritime Reception at the Scottish Parliament, hosted by the Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity, Michael Matheson MSP, as well as the Scottish Local Authority Ports Group, both of which the Harbourmaster had also attended. As usual, the minute of the meetings 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.

The date and venue of the next SPC meeting was yet to be confirmed, but it was anticipated that the Harbourmaster would attend as Arbroath Harbour and Angus Council Representative.

(iv) Pontoon Berths (Inner Harbour)

With reference to Article 4(a)(iv) of the minute of previous meeting of this Committee, four winter berths vacated between October 2019 and March 2020 by boats going to winter storage in the Boatyard, would be taken up by boats on the pontoons. The waiting list for an annual pontoon berth remained at 29 names. As usual in January, all names on the list would be contacted to check that they wished to remain on the list.

(v) Compounded Berths

With reference to Article 4(a)(v) 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 commercial fishing boat *Ashley*. There were now 45 compounded berths taken up in the Harbour – including 31 commercial commercial fishing boats, 5 fare paying passenger boats; and 9 pleasure craft.

(vi) Staffing

With reference to Article 4(a)(vii) of the minute of meeting of this Committee on 31 March 2019, Members were pleased to note that it had been possible to extend the contract of the temporary Harbour Assistant previously appointed for 6 months from 7 May 2019, to 31 December 2019, while approval was awaited to make the post permanent.

(b) Engineering Matters

(i) Inner Harbour Gates

With reference to Article 4(b)(i) of the minute of previous meeting of this Committee, in a development since the completion of the Report, a hydraulic hose on one of the Gates had burst, which resulted it impossible to close. Following the attendance of an engineer, repairs were successfully carried out and the Gates closed.

(ii) Maintenance Dredging Operations

With reference to Article 4(b)(ii) of the minute of previous meeting of this Committee, the Committee noted that the next dredging works would be carried out in January / February 2021, when both Inner and Outer Harbours, plus the navigation channel, would receive attention. The licence would permit 12,000 cubic metres of material to be removed. The Council was confident that it would be granted a licence for sea disposal. While members were pleased that dredging was to take place in the spring, it was to be hoped that no problems occurred before 2021.

Peter Anelli expressed some concerns about the time before the dredging was due to be done. The Harbour should have a minimum depth of 2.5 metres. The inner Harbour though had silted up and was not always able to maintain that depth. He used his own boat as an example – it had a draft of 1.5 metres but sat on the bottom, just after the last dredge. He was concerned that the thoroughfare work proposed and the need to find £6.7M of match funding would inevitably take funds essential for dredging.

(iii) Outer Harbour Pontoons

With reference to Article 4(b)(iii) of the minute of previous meeting of this Committee, certain works had been carried out to improve the security in this area of the Harbour. The access gate was now kept locked and users were urged to practice vigilance at all times,

Alex Smith raised the matter of gear being stored on the pontoons. The Harbourmaster had been monitoring the situation, and had issued reminders to users that access required to be kept free, particularly during the summer season, for boat passengers.

(iv) Ballast Quay

With reference to Article 4(c)(ii) of the minute of previous meeting of this Committee, members were pleased to note that gear which had been stored temporarily on the West Quay to enable the comprehensive repairs to the Ballast Quay to be completed, could now be returned to the Ballast Quay. As a consequence, the parking spaces opposite the RNLI station could be brought back into use as available Harbour parking. The Harbourmaster was grateful to Harbour users for their co-operation throughout the process of rebuilding the Ballast Quay wall.

(v) Slipway Repairs and Pointing of Walls

While works were being undertaken on the Ballast Quay, and in response to reports from Harbour users, the opportunity was taken to have the contractor (Delson) carry out additional works including repairs to the concrete surfacing of patent slipway around the low water mark, and pointing of the section of the Outer Wall at the Harbour entrance along the navigation channel, and along the wall at the Outer Harbour side of the Black Shed Quay. Further work was still needed, but the lower wall could not be accessed until March 2020.

(c) Programme of Works

With reference to Article 4(b)(iv) of the minute of previous meeting of this Committee, progress on various projects was reported as follows:

Harbour Infrastructure Improvements:

- **WiFi & Payment Card Reader** (£5k) - Now a priority project.
- **Signal Tower WebCam** (£3k) - Seen as not fulfilling the requirements of the visitAngus campaign; more utilised by Harbour users to check the sea state or their boats. No funds currently available to purchase replacement webcam and meet maintenance costs.
- **Vehicular Barriers** (£18k) – Progressing – Funding to be provided from AHJCC Reserve Fund; Car Park Reserve Fund; and Residents' contribution. Following approval of the proposals at the Communities Committee on 24 September 2019, installation contract for the two barriers was awarded. The barrier to be placed at Old Shorehead/Marketgate is across an adopted road which will require the Council to promote a Prohibition of Driving Order before the barrier can be installed. Investigations also taking place to determine arrangements for the necessary electrical connections. The barrier at the RNLI end would likely be put in place first, with the second Order following on.

Sam Clow would liaise with the Harbourmaster with arrangements to secure the installation of infrastructure so that RNLI pagers could open the barriers in a 'shout' emergency. He would forward relevant technical details to Bruce to take this forward.

- **Pontoons, Outer Harbour** – 2018/19 project – Complete.
- **Walk-In Refrigeration Unit** – (£15k) Complete and operational – good feedback from users. Fisherman can now land stock, and place it directly into the Chillroom for the merchants to collect it later. #the harbourmaster confirmed that already it was a well-used facility and appears to have been a good investment meeting a clear need.

Potentially a further attraction to bring more commercial fishing boats to Arbroath.

(d) NESFLAG (North East Scotland Fisheries Action Group)

With reference to Article 4(c)(i) of the minute of previous meeting of this Committee, the last NESFLAG meeting was held in the Signal Tower Museum, Arbroath, on 16 October 2019. The Harbourmaster attended and gave the NESFLAG group a tour of the Harbour, highlighting the facilities to which NESFLAG funding had been so crucial – the Outer Harbour pontoons and the walk in Refrigeration Unit (Chill Room), which together received a total of £64,479.

(e) Webcam at Signal Tower Museum

The Committee agreed to recommend that the webcam at this location, be replaced, subject to the availability of the necessary £2,000 hardware funding and additional associated costs.

6. ARBROATH PLACES FOR EVERYONE

Walter Scott (Service Leader, Roads and Transportation, gave a presentation on the Sustrans Arbroath Places for Everyone Initiative. Under the proposals, the current four lane dual carriageway through Arbroath would be restored to a two lane route with space given over to pedestrian and cycling space. The project would be funded by a £6.7M grant from Sustrans with Angus Council having to make available match funding through its February budget setting process.

Discussions were still taking place with the Community Council meeting with the Council and Sustrans to consider the proposals which had originally emerged following a charette consultation exercise in the town during 2018. The aim was to improve accessibility and encourage active travel and more inclusive forms of transport than the car.

Issues included the impact of the proposals, when implemented, on response time, mainly for the RNLI, but also for the other emergency services. Traffic modelling had shown no adverse effect arising from the proposals. A meeting however would be held in January 2020 with all the 'blue light' services to inform discussion.

Councillor Durno suggested that, if the Sustrans project went ahead, the Westway be utilised as a bypass for articulated lorry traffic. Walter indicated that a trial was being carried out for artics coming from the Montrose direction to bypass the town via the Westway. The Convener noted that the original proposals to develop the Westway as a bypass route had been abandoned. He also indicated that the proposal for match funding would be considered during February as part of the Council's budget setting process. It would be open to those who wished to put forward views on the project, either supportive or in opposition to it, could request to appear at full Council as a deputation to put their case directly to the full Council.

Professor King noted that the report referred to traffic assessments and modelling, and suggested that visualised modelling would show the real effects of the proposals.

Alex Smith reiterated his belief that there had been insufficient consultation on the proposals of which he believed many people were still unaware.

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Committee noted that its next meeting was due on **Friday 22 May 2020** at 3pm when it was hoped that Bruce House, currently undergoing refurbishing works, would be available again.