

ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the **ARBROATH HARBOUR JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**, held in Room D, Bruce House, Arbroath, on Friday 31 March 2017 at 3.00 pm.

Present:

Council

Representatives: Councillors DAVID LUMGAIR and BRENDA DURNO.

Harbour Users'

Representatives: ALEX SMITH (Fare Paying Passenger Boat Owners); Professor BERNARD KING CBE (Leisure Craft Owners); PAUL SIMPSON (Boat Builders/Repairers); BRYAN BECKETT (Arbroath and Montrose 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, *Senior Accountant, Finance Services*); and ANDREW WILSON (Angus Council, Legal and Democratic Services, Committee Officer).

There being no Convener in post since the retirement from the Council of Councillor Bob Spink, it was agreed to appoint Councillor Lumgair as Chair of the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES / SUBSTITUTES

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillor Alex King (Councillor Durno substituting); and Councillors David Fairweather, Martyn Geddes, Ewan Smith and Sheena Welsh; and Ron Churchill (RNLI).

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 25 November 2016 was submitted and approved as a correct record.

4. ARBROATH HARBOUR SPRING REPORT

With reference to Article 4 of the minute of previous meeting, there was submitted Report No 144/17 by the Head of Technical and Property Services, providing details of operations at the Harbour since the meeting of the Committee on 25 November 2016, 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 estimated outturn position as at 31 March 2017 showed an underspend of £133,000, resulting from additional property rental and berthing/fishing dues income of £50,000; underspend on supplies and services, including the dredging budget of £87,000; and underspend on Roads recharge costs of £18,000; all of which had been partially offset by decreased income from fuel of £25,000. The fuel spend by the Council was actually increased as compared with last year due to the requirements of three trawlers currently working out of Arbroath. The fact that the Harbour

income had increased overall illustrated that the local economy was also benefitting from the increase in Harbour activity.

The Council had, at its special budget meeting on 16 February 2017, approved the carry forward of the 2016/2017 dredging underspend as £76,000 into the next financial year (Article 5 refers).

(ii) Harbour Charges

With reference to Article 4(a)(ii) of the minute of previous meeting of this Committee, the Communities Committee had approved the adjustments to the Harbour charges as endorsed by this Committee (Article 10, 17 January 2017 refers).

(iii) Oil Spill Contingency Planning and Response

With reference to Article 4(a)(iii) of the minute of previous meeting of this Committee, a spillage incident involving approximately 100 litres of diesel had occurred in the inner basin on 12 December 2016, with harbour staff taking appropriate action, deploying sorbent booms to contain and collect the spilled diesel, which was all cleared from the Harbour by the end of the following day.

A second incident had taken place on 18 February 2017, involving a vehicle which had driven too far down the ramped access to the beach to retrieve a boat, becoming stuck in the sand. Following the overnight deployment of sorbent booms to prevent any potential pollution in the harbour waters, the car was retrieved the following day and removed from the Harbour. There were no injuries or pollution resulting from this incident.

Members agreed that this was an opportune time to re-circulate the bye laws to all users of the Harbour to remind them of the necessary precautions which must be taken to avoid such incidents.

All Harbour staff continued to maintain their appropriate certification for dealing with such incidents and to attend refresher courses as appropriate. The Council also continued to retain the services of Briggs Marine & Environmental Services to deal with higher level pollution incidents should these occur.

(iv) Scottish Ports Committee Meeting

With reference to Article 4(a)(iv) of the minute of previous meeting of this Committee, the Harbour Manager had attended the meeting of the Scottish Ports Committee in Aberdeen on 2 March 2017 which had covered topics relevant to Arbroath Harbour including port skills and safety, ports and transport policies, marine pollution and navigational safety. As usual, the minute from the meeting would be issued in due course and made available for inspection by members of the Committee in the Harbour Office. While it was advantageous to attend these meetings, the Harbour Manager would only do so if there was relevant business on the agenda and/or the venue was reasonably easy to reach. Given that proviso, it was unlikely that he would attend the next meeting which was to be held in Kirkwall in June.

(v) Pontoon Berths

With reference to Article 4(a)(v) of the minute of previous meeting of this Committee, the pontoon berths continued to be well used and remained at maximum occupancy, with 53 annual berths allocated and six visitor berths available for use. All boats stored in Mackay Boatbuilders over the winter would be returned to the Harbour on 6 April 2017 to take up their annual pontoon berth; all boats taking up a winter berth on the pontoons would vacate the pontoons before 6 April 2017. The current waiting list for a pontoon berth comprised 40 names kept on a database in the Harbour Office.

(vi) Compounded Berths

With reference to Article 4(a)(vi) of the minute of previous meeting of this Committee, no further compounded berths had been granted in the Harbour.

For the information of members, a compounded berth is a berth given to a vehicle against the quay as opposed to pontoons. Currently, 28 commercial fishing boats, six fare paying passenger boats, ten pleasure boats and eleven summer berth boats were operating from the Harbour. A list of boats requiring a summer berth in the Harbour had been completed. Boats taking up their summer berth from 1 April 2017 to 30 September 2017, would be allocated a berth in the "lazy hole" area of the Outer Harbour. The numbers of boats doing so had increased over the past four to five years, with consequent increase in income from harbour dues.

(vii) Staffing

With reference to Article 4(a)(viii) of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 4 September 2015, an additional member of staff would be recruited at the harbour over the summer months of 2017, when it was anticipated that the Harbour would again become increasingly busy, to ensure that a satisfactory level of service was maintained for 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, there had been several operational problems with the Harbour gates since November owing to the closing sensor proving faulty and requiring replacement. A new sensor was to be fitted to the gate in the coming week. In addition, the gates had failed to close on two occasions in February 2017, owing to metal trawl bars, thrown into the harbour from the quayside, preventing the gates' closure. It had proved necessary to call out a diver on both occasions to retrieve this debris.

The opening and closing times of the gates would move to the summer schedule on 17 April 2017 with relevant details being posted outside the Harbour office and on the security gate leading onto the pontoons, generally one month in advance. This information was also detailed 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 *Shearwater* returned to Arbroath in December 2016 to remove the remaining 700 cubic metres of silt from the inner basin of the Harbour. The 12,000 cubic metres annual limit of dredging material permitted to be removed from the Harbour under the current licence had now been reached. The new licence would come into effect on 15 July 2017. A new dredging contract to commence dredging works in the Harbour around October/November 2017 would be procured shortly.

In response to a question from Councillor Durno regarding where the dredged material was dumped, the Harbour Manager confirmed that discussions had taken place between the Council the Licensing Authority, Marine Scotland, to identify a suitable offshore site.

(c) Programme of Works

With reference to Article 4(c) of the minute of previous meeting of this Committee, the Report detailed an updated list of 2016/2017 projects, together with a list of 2017/2018 projects. Two projects, the ice making machine and refrigerator, and the Crew Room Facilities, had been carried forward to 2017/2018 financial year. The decision as to whether to proceed with the ice making machine and refrigerator

depended on various factors, including the need for a reliable, long lasting user and the securing of a machine which could produce a reasonable amount of ice in a reasonable time to attract and retain users. It was noted that another Scottish east coast fishing port was currently planning a new ice facility with a £90,000 budget. The Arbroath project costs were proposed as being £50,000 of which £12,000 was immediately available and further funding would have to be sourced externally. European funding agreed before the implementation of the UK's departure from the European Union could be fully utilised, which would potentially take in applications up to the year 2020.

The works planned for Crew Room Facilities improvements were programmed to be completed by 31 May 2017.

(d) Other Items

(i) NESFLAG

With reference to Article 4(d)(i) of the minute of previous meeting of this Committee, the Harbour Manager and a representative from the Council's Economic Development Section had attended a meeting of the North East Fisheries Local Action Group (NESFLAG) in Peterhead on 1 March 2017. Since that meeting, an expression of interest noted for all aspects of the Arbroath Harbour Infrastructure Improvements, as detailed in the programme of works in Report No 144/17, had been submitted via the Council to NESFLAG for consideration.

(ii) Tay Cities Deal

The Tay Cities Deal submission, which included the River Tay Project, which encompassed the improvements to Arbroath Harbour Infrastructure, had been approved by Angus Council on 9 February 2017 (Article 8 refers), for submission to the Scottish and UK Governments, which took place on 1 March 2017. Members would be updated as to progress at future meetings of this Committee.

(iii) Public Slipway

With reference to Article 4(d)(ii) of the minute of previous meeting of this Committee, Professor King referred to a widespread belief amongst Harbour users that the public slipway was not generally used. The Harbour Manager did receive requests to clear it of sand and stones and in any case carried out this work once per month over the winter period. While the ramp's location made it difficult to monitor the amount of use made of it, it was acknowledged that some means of ascertaining usage would be useful.

(iv) Northern Lighthouse Board

The Northern Lighthouse Board required a three year rolling report on failures to any Aids to Navigation (AtoNs). The Harbour Manager updated this item by advising that one light had been noted to have failed, and repaired, yesterday and would feature in the next Report to the Board. The changes to LED lighting made for good efficiency and sustainability as well as reducing running costs.

(e) Financial Implications

It was reported that there was an opportunity to submit bids to the new CHERISH scheme, (Climate, Heritage and Environments of Reefs), European-funded, with the aim of promoting sustainable growth. The particular project had the aim of focusing on old values of fishing communities and had been originally proposed by Fife Council who were no longer proceeding with it and Angus had the opportunity to take it on. The Committee generally supported this opportunity, subject to workload implications.

(i) Representation

Bryan Beckett advised that he had recently resigned as a post holder at the Arbroath and Montrose Static Gear Association. The Secretary undertook to clarify whether he was still entitled to act as a representative of the Association on this Committee.

(ii) Black Shed – Rent/Rates

Alex Smith raised a query regarding eligibility for rates relief on the Black Shed. It was understood that three sheds at the harbour were currently vacant and therefore producing no income for the harbour. Storage capacity however was at a premium at the harbour. It was noted that valuations were set by the Assessor and Tayside Valuation Joint Board. The Service Manager – Roads and the Harbour Manager would seek clarification on rate relief from Angus Council Property Services.

5. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The Committee noted that its next meeting would take place on Friday 22 September in Bruce House, Arbroath commencing at 3.00 pm.