

ANGUS COUNCIL

ARBROATH HARBOUR JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

MINUTE of MEETING of the **ARBROATH HARBOUR JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**, held remotely, on Friday 1 October 2021, at 3.00 pm.

Note: This Meeting was originally scheduled for 17 September 2021.

Present:

Council

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

Harbour Users'

Representatives: PETER ANELLI (Arbroath Sailing and Boating Club).

Guest Speaker: SCOTT MURRAY

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); 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 David Fairweather and Derek Wann;
Alex Smith (Fare Paying Passenger Boat Owners);
Paul Simpson (Boat Builders / Repairers);
Professor Bernard King, CBE (Leisure Craft Users);
Bob Teviotdale (Arbroath and Montrose Static Gear Association); and
PC Gordon Smith (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 21 May 2021 was submitted and approved as a correct record.

4. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising from the previous minute.

5. POLICE REPORT

With reference to Article 5 of the Minute of previous Meeting of this Committee, there was submitted a Report in the name of Chief Inspector Leanne Blacklaw, Local Policing Area Commander, Angus LPA, Tayside Division of Police Scotland. by Police Scotland, Tayside Division, Angus LPA. It contained details of recent crimes and issues in the Harbour area from the date of the last Meeting, 21 May 2021 to today, 1 October 2021.

The Police had received 13 calls about incidents in the Harbour or near to it, during the relevant period, including the following which directly related to the Harbour:

- an attempted break-in at the Signal Tower, resulting in the detention of one individual (this incident was too late to be included in the previous report to this Committee, but had been verbally reported at the last meeting);

- a local fisherman finding sand and grit in the fuel tank of his boat after its engine had cut out while at sea;
- a member of this Committee having reported damage to his boat and to another, overnight, to the cabin doors of both craft;
- a group of abusive male and female youths jumping into the Harbour, subsequently traced and warned;
- a local fisherman reporting that his store at the Harbour had been forced open.

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

6. ARBROATH HARBOUR - AUTUMN REPORT

With reference to Article 6 of the minute of previous meeting of this Committee, there was submitted Report No. 306/21 by the Service Leader – Roads & Transportation, 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, particularly highlighting the following points:

(1) Administrative Matters

(a) Financial Update

With reference to Article 6(1)(i) of the Minute of previous meeting of this Committee, it was reported that the estimated outturn position as at 31 March 2022 would be an underspend of £37,000. The budgeted expenditure was slightly lower than budget, and budgeted income slightly higher than budget, all considered within reasonable operational and financial variances.

(b) Oil Spill Contingency Planning and Response

With reference to Article 7(1)(ii) of the Minute of previous Meeting of this Committee, the Harbour Master reported that the Harbour had not experienced any oil spillages of significance, and staff were fully compliant with the relevant oil-spill qualifications and training requirements. The Harbour Master and Senior Harbour Assistant continued to be qualified to MCA Level 4/5 and after refresher training all Harbour Assistants were now qualified up to MCA Level 2 – Sorbents and Equipment.

The Council also continued to retain Briggs Environmental Services to deal with higher-level pollution incidents.

(c) Scottish Ports Meeting

With reference to Article 6(1)(iii) of the Minute of previous meeting of this Committee, the Harbour Master was now able to attend these meetings remotely via MS Teams, and had done so for the meeting on 25 June 2021, but was unable to attend the 7 September meeting. The next Scottish Ports meeting was due in November 2021, but an exact date had yet to be confirmed.

The Harbour, and Angus Council, are represented at these meetings as a member of the Scottish Ports Group of the British Ports Association. The Committee noted that the Harbour Master saw these meetings as a useful tool, and an opportunity to share experiences and discuss compliance issues with colleagues from around the country.

(d) Compounded Berths / Pontoon Berths

No further compounded berths had been granted since the last meeting of the Committee.

With reference to Article 6(1)(iv) of the Minute of previous meeting of this Committee, the Service Leader, Roads and Transportation, advised that there were 53 annual/pontoon berths, with 6 designated for use by visiting yachts. The annual lift-out of craft for the winter period would take place in the next few weeks.

Cllr Durno queried whether, when an individual sold a boat, they could sell the berth at the same time. Peter Anelli advised that people often bought a boat so they could take on its berth, often selling the boat on again and using the berth for their new, replacement, boat. If, however, the person selling the boat wished to retain their berth, then the purchaser of the boat had to remove it from the berth, and the Harbour, unless of course, they already had another berth in the Harbour.

The Committee noted that currently, there were 29 names on the waiting list for a berth.

(e) Visiting Boat Numbers

Report 306/21 advised that 150 pleasure boats had visited the Harbour from 1 April and 31 August 2021. This was an increase of 111% over the previous year, which period had been significantly affected by Covid 19 and related lockdowns.

A notable difference this year however was the collapse to zero in numbers of visiting yachts from the European Community which in 2019, had amounted to 62 of the 214 visitors, 28% of Arbroath's yacht traffic. With no visiting yachts from the EU in 2021, this accounted for the 31% decrease in visitors as compared with 2019. HM Coastguard used Channel 63 to broadcast regular bulletins which included deterrent messages to overseas craft and the threat of incurring a £10,000 fine for any breach of Covid restrictions; for EU-based yachts, another disincentive to visit.

On the positive side, the average length of stay of pleasure boats which did visit the Harbour was 2.71 nights, a slight increase on previous years.

(f) Staffing and Summer Hours

With reference to Article 6(1)(vi) of the Minute of previous Meeting of this Committee, staffing at the Harbour moved to winter hours today, 1 October. The Harbour staffing hours now ran from 7.00am to 6.00pm, Monday to Friday; and 7.00am to 4.30pm on Saturday and Sunday, reverting back to summer hours on 1 April 2022.

(2) Engineering Matters

(a) Inner Harbour Gates

With reference to Article 6(2)(i) of the Minute of previous Meeting of this Committee, a hydraulic hose connected to the West Gate hydraulic ram had burst. It was replaced, along with the other hose on the same hydraulic ram.

The opening and closing of the dock gates moved to the winter schedule from today, 1 October 2021. Opening times for the dock gates up to and including March 2022 would be posted on the Harbour page on the Angus Council website.

(b) Maintenance Dredging Operations

With reference to Article 6(2)(ii) of the Minute of previous meeting of this Committee, the necessary three year licence for the Act of Dredging and Sea Disposal of Dredged Spoil had been obtained on 21 May 2021 after a lengthy and seemingly complex application process, and the licence had to be obtained before any dredging took place. The contractor, Peter Madsen Rederi was able to dispatch two dredgers at short notice to Arbroath, where they arrived on the 14/15 August weekend. *Merete Chris*, the larger of the two vessels, dredged the navigational channel and Outer Harbour, before departing Arbroath on 24 August; while *Peter Madsen* took the Inner Harbour before finishing off remaining dredging in the Outer Harbour, departing on 7 September.

In total, 3,000 cubic metres of silt was removed from the Inner Harbour and 9,000 from the Outer Harbour and navigational channel. The Harbour Master expressed his thanks to Harbour users for their patience and co-operation during the dredging operations; and was particularly grateful to Mackay Boatbuilders and the RNLI for their assistance in moving boats around the Harbour to accommodate the works.

The Convener noted that August seemed an ideal time for the dredging to take place, when the Outer Harbour tended to be emptier with most boats out at sea, giving the larger dredger more room to work. It was also better in terms of weather, and the longer daylight hours; in both respects, summer was a better time for dredging work than Spring.

(3) Programme of Works

With reference to Article 6(3) of the Minute of previous meeting of this Committee, Report 306 /21 set out an updated programme of works for 2021/22, to be delivered if within available budget including external funding sources.

The **WiFi and Payment Card Reader** was now designated as a Priority Project. The Service Leader, Roads & Transportation, stated that this particular proposal had been on the Programme for too long and his intention was to push ahead its completion. It was anticipated that once in operation, it would provide real benefit to Harbour users.

Again with reference to Article 6(3) of the Minute of previous meeting of this Committee, work was progressing on the **Vehicular Barriers**, only one of which would now be installed. and discussions were ongoing with SSE to identify a location and the work to be done on electrical connections. The barrier would help deal with the consequences of increased public access for parking purposes following the introduction of car parking charges at Old Shorehead and eliminate the adverse impact on the RNLI site and the Fishmarket. The barrier would not be installed at present but public access would continue to be monitored rigorously as it potentially affected RNLI access. Between the RNLI building and the Fishmarket, the current signage and positioning of traffic cones had proved successful in discouraging private vehicles from entering on to the quay.

The Committee noted that the residents of **Quayside and Marketgate** had withdrawn their offer of a £2,000 contribution to the cost of the barrier to be installed at Marketgate.

With reference to Article 6(4)(b) of the minute of previous meeting, the **Webcam**, delivered and now operating successfully on top of the Signal Tower Museum, was giving rise to a broader interest in its output and usage. Apart from acting as a security camera, it was also an advertisement for the Harbour. Operated by NW Systems, the five views it offered of the Harbour were live-streamed by a subsidiary company, and the Webcam was being regularly accessed.

With reference to Article 6(4)(d) of the minute of previous meeting, contract had been awarded for the installation of a new **Cathodic Protection System** in the Harbour. The work, to be carried out by Cromarty Firth Marine Services Ltd, would include replacement of the depleted existing system, plus installation of new sacrificial anodes on all steelwork in and around the Harbour, including Harbour Gates, Inner and Outer Harbour pontoon piles, Slipway sheet piles, Oil Pier, Ballast Quay and Inner Harbour Quay Wall.

(4) Other Matters

There were no other matters.

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Committee noted that the next Meeting would take place on **Friday 21 January 2022 at 3pm.**