

ANGUS COUNCIL

ARBROATH HARBOUR JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

MINUTE of MEETING of the **ARBROATH HARBOUR JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**, held remotely, on Friday 4 March 2022, at 3.00 pm.

Present:

Council

Representatives: Councillors ALEX KING, BRENDA DURNO, DAVID FAIRWEATHER AND LOIS SPEED.

Harbour Users'

Representatives: PETER ANELLI (Arbroath Sailing and Boating Club)
PAUL SIMPSON (Boat Builders/Repairers)
SAM CLOW (RNLI)

Also in attendance: Montgomery Smedley, ABPmer

Officers in

Attendance: WALTER SCOTT (Angus Council, Service Leader – Roads and Transportation); RORY TOSH (Angus Council, Team Leader, Finance); and FIONA ANDERSON (Angus Council, Democratic Services, Committee Officer).

Councillor King, Convener, in the Chair.

1. APOLOGIES / SUBSTITUTES

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of:
Councillors Ron Sturrock and Derek Wann;
Alex Smith (Fare Paying Passenger Boat Owners);
Professor Bernard King, CBE (Leisure Craft Users);
Bob Teviotdale (Arbroath and Montrose Static Gear Association);
PC Gordon Smith (Police Scotland); and
Bruce Fleming (Angus Council Harbour Master).

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 1 October 2021 was submitted and approved as a correct record.

4. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising from the previous minute.

5. ARBROATH HARBOUR - SPRING REPORT

With reference to Article 6 of the minute of previous meeting of this Committee, there was submitted Report No. 96/22 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)(a) of the minute of previous meeting of this Committee, the underspend anticipated in the 2021/22 revenue budget was £35,000. This was primarily due to the proposed carry forward of the £43,000 spend on dredging into 2022/23.

(b) Oil Spill Contingency Planning and Response

With reference to Article 6(1)(b) of the minute of previous meeting of this Committee, it was noted that there had been no significant oil spills in the Harbour, 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.

A new 5-year Oil Spill Contingency Plan (OSCP) for Arbroath Harbour had been developed between the Harbour Master and Briggs Environmental Services Ltd., which was currently out for consultation. It was noted that the new plan would be in place and fully operational by May 2022, which was when the existing OSCP expired. The new plan would have a shelf life of 5 years and would be due for renewal in May 2027.

(c) Scottish Ports Meeting

With reference to Article 6(1)(c) 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 virtual Scottish Ports meeting was scheduled for 7 March 2022.

The Harbour, and Angus Council, were 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. The topics discussed over the two meetings included Cruise Update, Crown Estates Scotland, UK Shipbuilding, International Catering Waste, Transport Scotland, Safety Updates and Environment and Fisheries Update.

(d) Compounded Berths / Pontoon Berths

With reference to Article 6(1)(d) of the minute of previous meeting of this Committee, the Service Leader, Roads and Transportation, advised that there were 41 annual/pontoon berths. This was made up of commercial fishing boats (31), fare paying passenger boats (2) and pleasure boats (8).

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

(e) Pontoon Berths

With reference to item 6(1)(d) of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 1 October 2022, it was noted that the pontoon berths continued to remain at maximum occupancy. There continued to be 53 annual berths occupied and 6 berths which were available for visiting yachts.

It was reported that all the boats with berths in the harbour that were stored in Mackay Boatbuilders over the winter period would be craned back into the water on 31 March 2022. Boats that were occupying a winter berth on the pontoons would be vacating the pontoons and the Harbour at this time.

The Committee noted that currently, there were 30 names on the waiting list for a berth. This was the maximum number of names the Harbour Master wished to have on the list and no further names were being taken at this time.

(f) Staffing and Summer Hours

With reference to Article 6(1)(f) of the minute of previous meeting of this Committee, staffing at the Harbour moved to summer hours on 4 April 2022. The harbour will be staffed from 7am to 8pm seven days a week and this would continue through to 30 September 2022 as usual before reverting to the winter hours on 1 October 2022.

(2) Engineering Matters

(a) Inner Harbour Gates

With reference to Article 6(2)(a) of the minute of previous meeting of this Committee, there had been no operational problems with the dock gates during the intervening period.

The opening and closing of the dock gates moved to the summer schedule on 4 April 2022. Opening and closing times would continue to be routinely posted outside the Harbour Office and on the security gate leading on to the pontoons, generally one month in advance. The opening times for the dock gates up to and including September 2022 would be posted on the Arbroath Harbour page of the Council's website by the end of March 2022.

(b) Maintenance Dredging Operations

With reference to Article 6(2)(b) of the minute of previous meeting of this Committee, it was proposed that an annual dredge of the harbour would be carried out in 2022.

The Service Leader – Roads and Transportation was currently procuring a contract for dredging to be carried out around August 2022. With a reduced budget available for 2022/23, it was proposed to dredge 10,000 m3 from the outer harbour and navigational channel, which was considered sufficient to maintain harbour operations. The inner harbour had been dredged in 2021/22 and would be dredged as required in future years.

(3) Programme of Works

With reference to item 6(3) of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 1 October 2021, Report 96/22 set out as detailed below an updated programme of projects, to be delivered if within available budget, including external funding sources.

Project/ Nature of Expenditure	Budget / (Cost) 2022/23 £000's
Annual Dredging	
Revenue budget	89
Dredging costs	(89)
Designated Person	3
Bathymetric Survey	15
Cathodic Protection	120
Harbour Infrastructure Improvements	(5)*
Wi-Fi & payment card reader	(5)*
Vehicular Barriers	(18)
AHJCC Reserve Fund	15
Car Park Reserve Fund Contribution	3
Residents Contribution	

(4) Other Matters

4.1 Vehicular Barriers

With reference to Article 6(3) of the minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 1 October 2021, monitoring of the current parking situation at both locations continued.

It was noted that between the current RNLI building and the Fishmarket the current signing and positioning of cones has been sufficient to prohibit public vehicles from entering onto the quay. This would continue to be monitored over the summer months and any progress would be reported back to this Committee.

The demand for the barrier at Market Gate would also be subject to ongoing monitoring given the withdrawal of funding contribution from residents and any progress would be reported back to this Committee.

4.2 Webcam at Signal Tower Museum

With reference to Article 6(3) of the minute of the meeting of this Committee of 1 October 2021, it was reported that the webcam on top of the Signal Tower Museum had not been working. After various attempts at troubleshooting from NW Systems, staff from Angus Alive and the Council's IT department, it was found that the strength of the internet signal from the Wi-Fi router was not strong enough and a booster had been fitted. The issue was now resolved and the camera was now fully functioning.

4.3 Port Marine Safety Code (PMSC)

With reference to Article 6(4)(c) of the minute of this Committee of 21 May 2021, a Principal Maritime Consultant from APBMer visited Arbroath Harbour on 20 September 2021 and spent the day with the Harbour Master to carry out the Port Marine Safety Code (PMSC) Audit. The Maritime Consultant also spoke with the Convener of Communities. This was a comprehensive audit, which went through every aspect of the PMSC and measured Arbroath Harbour's performance against the PMSC.

The audit report identified that, for the ten-point health-check, Angus Council as the Statutory Harbour Authority for Arbroath Harbour was found to have 72 satisfactory components, 21 observations/recommendations and 2 non-compliances, with 2 items of best practice identified. Due to the 2 non-compliances, Angus Council as the Statutory Harbour Authority for Arbroath Harbour was found not to be fully compliant with the requirements of the Port Marine Safety Code.

The following non-compliances were recorded: -

Appendix 2 to the Marine Safety Management System lists mandatory and optional training for harbour staff. This list was tested against the Authority's certification and competency records. The following mandatory training items could not be evidenced:

- Manual Handling Training update.
- The Harbour Authority currently does not conduct bathymetric surveys, hence there was no hydrographic information to publish; furthermore, there was no data to pass to the UK Hydrographic Office (UKHO). This was a conservancy duty, which the Council as Harbour Authority was not discharging.

The priority going forward was to ensure the non-conformities were addressed and closed off to ensure full compliance with the Code. The Harbour Master had since identified manual handling training for harbour staff which had been completed and was in discussions with the Service Leader – Roads and Transportation to identify a budget and timescale to procure a contract to carry out a bathymetric survey of Arbroath Harbour. This would allow hydrographic information to be published and passed on to the UK Hydrographic Office (UKHO) to update nautical chart publications. The cost of a bathymetric survey was estimated to be approximately £15,000.

With regards the bathymetric survey, Montgomery Smedley addressed the Committee on this matter and advised that he had recently visited Arbroath Harbour in September 2021 during daylight hours and during the dark and he addressed members questions on how detailed the survey would be.

Regarding the 21 observations and recommendations within the audit report, the Harbour Master was working on ensuring that these were addressed and carried out before the next audit in September 2022. Equally important is to ensure that the 72 satisfactory components of the audit report continued to be managed and maintained and are still in place for the next audit in September 2022.

The Harbour Master continued to work on regularly reviewing and improving the current MSMS and the system would be subject to a further audit by the Designated Person (ABP Mer) in September 2022. The findings of the audit would be reported to the Duty Holder at the next meeting of the Communities Committee after this date.

The current Marine Safety Management System (MSMS) and the full findings of the PMSC audit were detailed in Communities Committee Report No. 356/21.

4.4 Cathodic Protection

With reference to Article 6(3) of the meeting of this Committee of 1 October 2021, Cromarty Firth Marine Services Ltd (CFMS) began replacing the sacrificial anodes on the inner harbour quay walls and slipway sheet piles on 8 November 2021. This work had been completed on 19 November 2021.

The contractor was currently off site but once the weather improved and a diving team had been assembled, they would be returning to the harbour to complete the remaining works, which included the replacement of the depleted existing sacrificial anodes as well as installation of new sacrificial anodes on all the steelwork at the harbour gates, inner and outer harbour pontoon piles, oil pier and ballast quay. The work would be completed before the end of March 2022.

4.5 Arbroath's Places for Everyone

As part of the public engagement programme, the emergency services including the RNLI had participated in further dialogue for the design development with the project team given the importance of access to the RNLI station and Harbour in emergency situations.

(5) Police Report

With reference to Article 5 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 1 October 2021, it was noted that Police Scotland had provided a full report to the Service Leader – Roads & Transportation detailing recent crimes/issues in and around the harbour, including crime reports. The following emerging issues were shared from the report:

Police Scotland continued to carry out regular patrols in the area of the harbour on foot, bike and car and the community officers had regular contact with Bruce Fleming, Harbour Master and were aware that there may be issues that the fishermen keep amongst themselves and hoped that if any criminal or anti-social behaviour was going on that they felt that they could speak to Police Scotland about it.

It was noted that there had been a recent increase in the number of theft housebreakings and thefts from insecure properties and vehicles. It was important to ensure that all doors and windows were locked and secure in both vehicles and households and nothing of any value should be left on display to deter any opportunistic thieves.

It was reported that there had also been an increase in the number of calls relating to antisocial behaviour and criminality involving youths over the last few weeks, some of which had not been reported to the Police.

The Arbroath Community Policing team were aware of this and with assistance of other specialised departments were working towards identifying these youths and ensuring any offences committed are robustly dealt with.

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

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Committee noted that the next Meeting would take place on **Friday 24 June 2022 at 3pm.**

The Service Leader – Roads and Transportation thanked all members of the group for their contributions over the last five years and asked the Harbour Users Representatives to confirm that they were happy to stay on the Committee. He wished Councillor King a long and happy retirement and many members thanked him for all his input into this Committee over the last 38 years. Councillor King responded by thanking the members and wished the Committee every success.