

**Minutes of a meeting of the Aberdyfi Harbour Consultative Committee
held on 30 October, 2007 at Neuadd Dyfi, Aberdyfi**

PRESENT

Councillors Alun Wyn Evans, Anne Lloyd Jones, Morgan L. Vaughan, (Gwynedd Council), Cllr. Brian Bates, W. Bracewell, D. Richardson, (Aberdyfi Community Council), Mr Desmond George (Aberdyfi Sailing Club), Mr Alf Bowen (Aberdyfi Partnership), Mr Dylan Evans (Aberdyfi Rowing Club), Mr Nigel Willis (Aberdyfi Boat Club)

Observers: Dr J. Jones Morris (Porthmadog Harbour Consultative Committee)

Officers

Mr Barry Davies - Principal Maritime and Country Parks Officer
Mr Huw Davies - Group Engineer
Mrs Glynda O'Brien - Committee Officer
Mrs. Mererid Watt - Translator

Apologies: Councillor Robert J. Hughes, Trefor Roberts, Michael Sol Owen, W. Roy Owen (Gwynedd Council), Mr Paul Edwards (Aberdyfi Harbour Master), Mr Nick Dawson (Outward Bound).

1. **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

Resolved: To re-elect Councillor W Bracewell as Chairman of the Consultative Committee for 2007/08.

2. **ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

Resolved: To re-elect Councillor David Richardson as Vice-Chairman of the Consultative Committee for 2007/08.

3. **CONDOLENCES**

The Chairman made reference to the passing of two former area Councillors, namely Mr Richard Vaughan Jones, Caethle, Tywyn and Mr Llew Huxley, Tywyn. Both had served and had been very supportive of this Consultative Committee for many years, while they were on the former Meirionnydd District Council. Mr Huxley had also been a member of Gwynedd Council until his retirement due to ill-health. The Chairman asked all present to stand for a minute's silence as a sign of sympathy to the family of the late Mr Richard Vaughan Jones and Mr Llew Huxley in their sad loss.

4. **MINUTES**

Submitted: Minutes of a meeting of the Aberdyfi Harbour Consultative Committee that was held on 6 March 2007

Resolved: To receive and approve the minutes as a true record.

5. MARITIME OFFICER'S REPORT

Submitted: The report of the Maritime Officer, Mr Barry Davies on activities in Aberdyfi harbour with specific reference to the following:-

- (i) Navigation
- (ii) General Harbour Issues
- (iii) Events
- (iv) Harbour Statistics
- (v) Customer Analysis Questionnaire
- (vi) Budgets
- (vii) Maritime Staff Structure
- (viii) Control on the Estuary

Reported: (a) By the Maritime and Country Parks Officer

- (i) in the context of **aids to navigation**, that it was disappointing to note that following an inspection by a Trinity House officer that the lights on the navigation buoys did not conform to the lights that appeared on the harbour navigation chart and an assurance was given that this would be corrected. It was reported that harbour staff should inspect the lanterns weekly to ensure that navigational lights work as expected.

Considerable damage had been caused to navigation aid No 2 and it was necessary to invest in new equipment. It was intended to provide a comprehensive maintenance programme for all the navigation aids during the winter months.

- (ii) in relation to **general harbour matters** it was proposed to ensure that the Harbour Master writes to the owners of the signs erected without formal consent on the fence by the side of the Harbour, to remove them.

That the Council's Health and Safety Officer had inspected the barrier installed at the entrance near the highway and he had stated that it was suitable for its purpose.

That the boats of mariners would be stored over winter on Harbour land and it was noted that Harbour staff would take off any fishing equipment stored on the jetty during next season in order to comply with Harbour rules.

That the Maritime Unit had purchased and erected tender boats storage racks near the slipway and it was noted that these had improved storage facilities.

- (iii) In the context of **events**, the Maritime Officer congratulated all who had been involved with all the very successful events held yet again this year.

It was disappointing to note that it was unlikely that Aberdyfi beach would be awarded the European Blue Flag or the Urban Yellow Flag in 2008, since the quality of the bathing water had not reached the required standard.

- (iv) in the context of **statistics**, 1049 Personal Watercraft had registered with the Council in 2007, which was a little less than the numbers that had registered last year. Attention was drawn to the statistics and the comparisons with other harbours.
- (v) In the context of the **analysis of customer questionnaire** that the results were generally good and the hope was to act on the most important elements that had come to light. However, the response rate of 40% who had returned the questionnaire was disappointing.
- (v) In the context of the **budget**, that the Aberdyfi harbour income target had reached £34,367 namely £4,013 short of the target.
- (vi) in the context of the **maritime staffing structure**, the Maritime Officer explained the current situation and noted that the post of Aberdyfi Harbour Assistant would end on 31 October 2007. However, it was proposed to review the situation over the winter months. In order to ensure assistance in the harbour over winter, Barmouth Harbour Master would assist Aberdyfi Harbour Master for two days a week between the 1 November and the end of March 2008.
- (b) a request from a member of the Consultative Committee to locate a buoy on the Northern side to indicate the narrowing of the channel.
- (c) On behalf of the Lifeboat, the buoys and the lighting were very acceptable.
- (ch) in the context of the barrier erected on the entrance near the highway, concern was highlighted by a member, contrary to the views of the Council's Health and Safety Officer, that the barrier was too heavy and there should be a counter-weight on it to ensure that users did not injure themselves when using it.

Resolved:- To receive and note the contents of the Maritime and Country Parks Officer's report.

6. MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED AT THE REQUEST OF MEMBERS OF THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

The following matters were considered, that had not been referred to in the report of the Maritime and Country Parks Officer nor during the previous discussion at this meeting, with the officer's response to them:-

- (a) concern regarding the accident that was caused by a powerboat in the Harbour area when a 16 year old boy was injured and transported to Ysbyty Gwynedd at Bangor. The Boat Club representative elaborated that the Club had responded immediately to the incident and had asked the Maritime Officer for a report to be circulated to Club members as well as feedback on what had occurred from witnesses. However, thus far no response had been received. In addition, the Boat Club hold courses for all members on operating a powerboat in order to promote good practice on the water.

Members agreed that it would be an excellent opportunity for harbour staff to be pro-active and that a letter should be sent to all powerboat users to encourage them to follow an awareness

course to learn about the nature and dangers of the estuary in Aberdyfi. It was suggested that the Vice-chairman of this Consultative Committee, representative of the Boat Club and Harbour staff should meet to discuss the matter of running courses for water users.

In response, the Maritime Officer confirmed that he would undertake an initial investigation into the incident. Members were encouraged to contact harbour staff directly or the Chair/Vice-chair of this Consultative Committee if any problems arose that they wished to discuss rather than wait until the end of the season.

(b) That the storage area near the Golf Club was untidy and it should be tidied up immediately and fishermen should be encouraged to keep it in order in the future.

(c) An oral report was received by the Aberdyfi Partnership representative on the progress stemming from the project to develop the Harbour. A report was expected from DEFRA in order that the Partnership could proceed with a further report regarding dredging etc and it would then be possible to progress to hold an exhibition of the proposals. In addition, a news leaflet would be provided to inform Aberdyfi residents of the progress and there would be a monthly report by the Partnership at the Community Council meetings.

In response to a query from a member regarding the situation to provide a slipway as a result of the money received towards the cost by the Improvements Committee, the Maritime Officer explained that they were firstly awaiting the study from the Aberdyfi Partnership to ensure that there is no duplication or conflict in terms of development.

(ch) concern was highlighted that there was congestion when boats moor in front of the jetty due to the locations of the moorings and it would be useful if the Chairman and Vice-Chair of this Consultative Committee could discuss the matter with the moorings contractor in order to alleviate the problem.

(d) in response to a query from a member regarding the condition of the steel pilings on the quay, the Group Engineer explained that the department were awaiting an expert's report and permission would have to be awaited from the Environment Agency in order to undertake any specialist work to the pilings.

Resolved (a) To receive and note the comments made together with the response of the Maritime and Country Parks Officer to them.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(a) **Membership**

Reported: That two associations on the membership list had now been disbanded namely, Aberdyfi Harbour and Estuary Users Association and the Aberdyfi Commercial Boat Users' Association and that it would be appropriate to take them off the distribution list. However, it was suggested that it would be useful to ask Mr Fothergill from the Cardigan Bay Fishermen's Association if he was interested to join this Consultative Committee.

Resolved: To receive and note the above and request that the Maritime Officer contacts Mr Fothergill regarding being a member of this Consultative Committee.

(b) Slipway

A request was made by the Boat Club representative regarding the possibility of erecting a slipway in the Church Bay area as there were no facilities in this area. It was proving difficult for boat owners to launch at low-water. If this was not possible, then could it be possible to have a rubber water pipe so that owners could wash their boats.

In response, the Maritime Officer explained that it would be beneficial to place a slipway in this area but this was not currently a priority due to the lack of financial resources. Also, in terms of installing a water pipe, that the cost of a freshwater supply was high to run and it was not anticipated that such a provision could currently be justified. A machine to pay for a freshwater supply had been installed at Barmouth Harbour but unfortunately the equipment had been subjected to vandalism.

Resolved: To receive and note the above.

(c) Installation of Buoys for Personal Watercraft

A request was made to earmark a specific area for personal watercraft, east of Penhelyg.

In response, the Maritime Officer suggested that representatives from the Boat Club discussed this with the Harbour Master in order that the advantages and disadvantages could be noted and then it could be discussed further.

Resolved: To receive and note the above.

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was reported that the next meeting of this Committee will take place on Tuesday 4 March 2008.

Resolved To receive and note the above.

Chairman