

**Minutes of a meeting of the Barmouth Harbour Consultative Committee
that took place on 19 March 2015 at the Dragon Theatre, Barmouth**

PRESENT

**Councillor Gethin Williams - Chairman
Councillor Eryl Jones-Williams - (Vice-chairman)**

Councillor Louise Hughes (Cyngor Gwynedd), Cllr. Mike Scott (Arthog Community Council), Cllr. Mark James (RNLI), Mr John Johnson (Barmouth and Cardigan Bay Sea Fisheries Association), Mr Salmon Williams (Meirionnydd Yacht Club), Mr Llew Griffin (Barmouth Harbour Users Group), Mr Mike Ellis (Three Peaks Yacht Race Committee), Dr John Smith (Barmouth Viaduct Access Group)

Officers

Mr Llŷr B. Jones	-	Senior Manager - Economy and Community
Mr Barry Davies	-	Maritime and Country Parks Officer
Mr Arthur Jones	-	Senior Harbours Officer
Mr Glyn Jones	-	Barmouth Harbour Master
Mr Huw Davies	-	Senior Engineer
Mr Alun Jones	-	Chief Engineer
Mrs Glynda O'Brien	-	Members' Support and Scrutiny Officer
Mrs Mererid Watt	-	Translator

Apologies: Councillor Mandy Williams-Davies (Cabinet Member - Economy), Mrs Wendy Ponsford (Meirionnydd Yacht Club), Cllr. Rob Williams (BRIG), Cllr. David Richardson (Aberdyfi Harbour Consultative Committee).

1. **WELCOME**

The following new members were welcomed to the meeting:

- Mr Salmon Williams (Meirionnydd Yacht Club) – on behalf of Mrs Wendy Ponsford
- Mr Michael Ellis on behalf of the Three Peaks Yacht Race Committee
- Dr John Smith on behalf of Barmouth Viaduct Access Group
- Cllr. Mike Scott on behalf of Arthog Community Council
- Mr Arthur Jones who had recently been appointed to the post of Senior Harbours Officer
- Mr Alun Jones, Chief Engineer

2. **DECLARATION OF PERSONAL CONNECTION**

A declaration of personal interest was received from the following members as members of the Yacht Club:

- (i) Cllr. Gethin Glyn Williams
- (ii) Dr John Smith
- (iii) Mr Salmon Williams
- (iv) Mr Mike Ellis
- (v) Mr Llew Griffin

2. MINUTES

Submitted: The minutes of a meeting of the Barmouth Harbour Consultative Committee that took place on 16 October 2014 subject to the following amendment:

Item 6 (C) (ii) - That the intention was to establish a Charitable Incorporated Organisation with trustees that would include councillors and members of the community with the intention of taking over some of the Council's assets.

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

3. THE MARITIME OFFICER'S REPORT

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

(A) Port Marine Safety Code

Members were reminded that the Safety Code had already been adopted and they had received a copy. The code would be reviewed annually and an independent officer from Caernarfon Harbour would visit to ensure compliance with the code's guidelines.

The following Members noted that they did not have a copy of the code and the Maritime and Country Parks Officer promised to send them a copy.

Dr John Smith, Barmouth Viaduct Access Group
Mr John Johnson, Barmouth and Cardigan Bay Sea Fisheries Association
Mr Mike Ellis, Three Peaks Yacht Race Committee

Resolved: To accept and note the above.

(B) Harbour Consultative Committees – Terms of Reference and Membership

Members were reminded of the need to reconcile the terms of reference and membership of each Council Harbour Consultative Committee and reference was made to correspondence sent to every organisation by the Members' Support and Scrutiny Officer of the need to limit the number of organisations to serve on the Consultative Harbour Committees to seven. It was further noted that if more than seven organisations showed an interest then it would be a matter for the Cabinet Member for the Economy to select the final membership. Reference was made to the response received thus far and it was noted that the following organisations needed to send the required information without delay to the Members' Support and Scrutiny Officer.

Barmouth and Cardigan Bay Sea Fisheries Association	Constitution and annual minutes
Meirionnydd Yacht Club	Annual minutes
Barmouth Harbour Users Group	Annual minutes
RNLI	Minutes, if local meetings take place

Resolved: To accept and note the above and look forward to confirmation in due course from the Cabinet Member – Economy of the final membership.

(C) Navigation and Moorings

- (i) 68 mooring registration forms had been returned to the Harbour Master and the remaining 26 had not been returned.
- (ii) It was noted how important it was that the following procedure was followed with laying moorings in the future:
 - That the appropriate form had been submitted to the Harbour Master
 - That the Harbour Master noted the location of the mooring
 - That the contractor or boat owner had a suitable mooring certificate in accordance with the Harbour by-laws guidelines and the certificate was presented to the Harbour Master prior to launching a boat.

The above was essential to ensure that formal documentation and control on the water was in order.

(iii) In response to a query by a member regarding the closing date for the forms, the Maritime Officer explained that it was expected that forms would be in by the end of February in order for the Harbour Master and contractor to know what was happening. It was further noted, regarding the moorings in the harbour without a submitted form, that the Maritime Service would remove them if they were not in use.

(iv) In response to a query regarding moorings on the Fairbourne side, that eight were available in the inlet.

(v) The representative from the Three Peaks Race Committee noted that they used front and back moorings for a fortnight in a deep water location and three moorings would be available to the Maritime Service once the race activities had finished, for use by visiting boats.

(vi) The above offer was welcomed in principle by the Maritime Officer and he acknowledged that they would be useful and a member suggested that they should be formalised in the form of an agreement via the Legal Department.

(vii) In response to a concern by a Member regarding the strength of the trots and supervision of the boats, the Maritime Officer explained that the trots had been in use for years and worked successfully.

(viii) The Harbour Master reported as follows regarding the aids to navigation:

Fairway Buoy	}	
Bar Buoy	}	on their stations
Buoy No. 2	}	
Buoy No. 4	-	off station and being maintained by renovating the fibreglass
Inner Harbour Buoy	-	currently off station.

(ix) In response to a query by a member regarding the sewer outfall marker, it was explained that Trinity House were dealing with the matter and the Maritime Service regularly drew the attention of Welsh Water to their concern.

Resolved: (a) To accept and note the above.

(b) Request that the Maritime and Country Parks Officer considers further discussions with the Council's Legal Department regarding formalising the use/maintenance of the trots offered by the Three Peaks Race Committee.

(D) Proprietor and Boatmen Licences

(i) Reference was made to the regulations for proprietor and boatmen licences and it was noted that the terms of the licence were all important. It was noted that there had been a reduction in the number of complaints received in the past regarding the operation of ferries and this year applications for information had been received from three operators, however, thus far no formal application had been received. It was trusted that an application would be received soon bearing in mind that the Easter holiday was fairly soon and boats would have to be inspected on land and on the water. If they did not comply with the licence terms then the agreement could be terminated at the end of June.

(ii) It was understood that the railway company would not submit an application to operate a ferry this year.

(iii) It was suggested that the three operators who had submitted requests for information should be contacted to remind them of the tight timetable and the required inspections. It was further noted that the ferry service was very important especially for families who visit the area and gave visitors an opportunity to visit Barmouth and Fairbourne.

(iv) Regarding improvements to the plinth at the bottom of the ferry steps, the Harbour Master explained that rubble had been cleared and he was limited to repair the plinth due to low tide. However, an assurance was given that it complied with Harbour regulations and the area was safe.

Resolved: To accept and note the above.

(DD) Harbour Budgets

(i) Reference was made to the budget spreadsheet and Members were guided through the information and it was noted that the total expenditure to run the Harbour in terms of maintenance, equipment and furniture, staffing costs and transport was £79,612 with £52,485 committed and £26,823 remaining. It was noted that the Harbour income target was £44,260 with £31,770 received and a shortfall of £12,490 at the end of February 2015.

(ii) It was further noted by the Maritime and Country Parks Officer that a number of the headings on the spreadsheet were irrelevant such as launching powerboats (£4,040) and it was known that this target would not be reached. It was proposed to discuss the headings and targets further with the Finance Department

(iii) Reference was also made to the comparison with Aberdyfi Harbour budget and attention was drawn to the fees and payments that offered an increase of 1% this year together with information regarding powerboat and personal watercraft registrations.

Resolved: To accept and note the above.

(E) Events

(i) The following events listed would take place during the season:

- Three Peaks Race – the Committee representative anticipated that approximately 15 boats would compete this year. An enquiry had been received from a team from the Netherlands who were anxious to moor their boat for approximately a fortnight earlier than the race date, however, for safety from the strong winds that may occur in June it was suggested that they should moor in Pwllheli.
- Kayaking Regatta Weekend – 6/7 June
- Blue Flag application and reference was made to the favourable results of the bathing water quality.

Resolved: To accept and note the above.

(F) Concessions and Improvements

(i) Wintering Boats – It was reported that suitable sites for the wintering of boats on Council land should be formalised in order to generate income. It was further noted that it was hoped to have discussions with Mr Colin Jones, Parking and Road Safety Manager regarding keeping the boats on the car park behind the RNLI and this would be a means to generate income for the Council.

(ii) In response to a comment made by a Member regarding the above and the possibility of having electrical points and a reduction to local residents, the Maritime and Country Parks Officer explained that the electrical points had been placed around the quay and unfortunately it was not possible to justify giving a reduction to local residents.

Resolved: To request that the Maritime and Country Parks Officer discusses the matter further with the Parking and Road Safety Manager to find a suitable location for wintering boats.

(ii) **Sand removal** – The Senior Engineer reported that work was in the pipeline to remove sand and a meeting had been organised by the Chair of this Consultative Committee to discuss if the problem of sand blowing onto the promenade could be resolved. In response to a query, the Senior Engineer confirmed that sand would not be transported to the far end of the promenade. The Maritime and Country Parks Officer confirmed further that any sand blown over into the car park would be placed back on the beach as any oil pollution would be minuscule.

(iii) **Maritime Storage Area** – They were continuing to try and sort out the fishermen's compound in order to ensure a formal set up via agreements and with the debris removed the storage area was by now fairly tidy.

(iv) **Ladders** – It was noted that the ladders would be checked to see if any improvements could be undertaken. However, it was noted that boat users without fenders that damage the ladders would be penalised.

(v) Pontoon – In the context of the management and maintenance of the pontoon, the Committee was reminded that when it was established there was an understanding that the local Group would own the pontoon and the Maritime Service would manage it and collect income from visitors. It was understood that there was no longer a local Group and therefore there was no responsibility for the ownership of the pontoon. The Maritime Service employed Rock Engineering to undertake a great deal of the pontoon repair work at a cost of approximately £7,000. It was asked if it would be possible for the Town Council to fund half the cost jointly with the Maritime Service. The Senior Manager Economy and Community added that an application had been submitted as part of a community scheme for grants however there were no firm arrangements in place for the maintenance of the pontoon. This caused concern in terms of the increasing costs

and fortunately this year the Maritime Service had been able to fund this, however, if the pontoon was damaged in the future there would be no option but to remove it.

(vi) In response to the above, an explanation was received from a Member that the plan had been undertaken by a qualified engineering company with the Yacht Club submitting an application for the funding on behalf of the community. The application was successful and Gwynedd Council agreed to manage, maintain and provide future public liability indemnity. Having installed the pontoon there were discussions regarding getting volunteers to supervise it, but unfortunately this had not occurred.

(vii) It was noted that the pontoon was a valuable resource for Barmouth and the group was thanked for the work to get the pontoon.

(viii) The Chair suggested that further discussion regarding the pontoon's future should be had as part of a scheme to establish a charitable body to implement schemes in Barmouth.

Resolved: To accept and note the above.

(i) **Aberamffra Harbour Area** - The Maritime and Country Parks Officer reported that one area of Aberamffra had been closed due to a landslip and all the Units had been sold.

Resolved: To accept and note the above.

(i) **Beach and Promenade Concessions** - The Maritime and Country Parks Officer noted that he had received an application and in consultation with the Town Council it was proposed to discuss this further with the local Members.

Resolved: To accept and note the above.

(i) **Maintenance of Slipways** – It was noted that an appropriate chemical had been sprayed on the slipway and if this was successful it would be presented as part of the annual work programme to keep the slipway clean.

Resolved: To accept and note the above.

(FF) Harbour Staff

(i) Reported:

That Mr Arthur Jones had been appointed to the post of Senior Harbours Officer as a successor to Mr Ken Fitzpatrick and he would focus on work in Porthmadog and Barmouth harbours. that seasonal staff would be appointed to commence from the 1st April onwards
In terms of the maintenance work programme, an appeal was made to Committee members to draw any matter of concern to the attention of the Harbour Master.

(ii) In response to a query by a Member regarding work to the steps near the dinghies on the quay, the Maritime and Country Parks Officer confirmed that a fence would have to be erected around them if the situation caused concern and separate consideration would have to be given to this matter.

Resolved: To accept and note the above.

(G) Harbour Management

The Maritime and Country Parks Officer reported that the Project Manager in the Council's Strategy and Improvement Service was investigating the possibility of establishing a plan for the harbour management and that it would be approximately 9/12 months before a specific proposal could be considered. It was further noted that the Chair of this Consultative Committee intended to discuss with organisations in the town to see if they were interested in operating community services.

Resolved: To accept and note the above.

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

(a) Dredging and sand removal

It was noted that the relevant officers would discuss locally if it was possible to remove sand near the quay wall and the deposits could be removed by the ebb-tide in order to undertake a profile near the quay wall and make this area flat so that boats do not turn away from the wall when they settle on low water.

Resolved: To accept and note the above.

(b) How many serviced visitor moorings will there be this summer?

It was noted that there would be a total of five – three by the Three Peaks Race and two by the Maritime Service.

(c) Progress on traffic calming?

The Chair noted that he had held initial discussions with Mr Iwan ap Trefor regarding environmental improvements and road safety in Barmouth. He would contact him again and report further.

Resolved: To accept and note the above and request the Chair to contact Mr Iwan ap Trefor further and forward information to the Consultative Committee Members.

(ch) What are the implications for Arthog Community Council if Barmouth Town Council take over Barmouth Harbour?

The Maritime and Country Parks Officer noted that he did not anticipate that any responsibility would fall on Arthog Community Council and he would report on any further developments.

Resolved: To accept and note the above.

(d) What are Barmouth's plans regarding their Flood Plan and do they have Flood Wardens?

It was noted that the above matter was not the responsibility of the Maritime Service but rather of Gwynedd Consultancy and Natural Resources Wales. It was suggested that the matter should be discussed at the next Town Council meeting.

Resolved: To accept and note the above.

(dd) Pedestrian Access to the beach in Fairbourne – it was suggested that the Local Member should discuss this further with the Maritime and Country Parks Officer.

(e) Penrhyn Point – request for bins

A request from a local Member of Arthog Community Council for bins at Penrhyn Point and he noted that he had purchased a bin for dog waste but arrangements were required to empty it. Further concern was highlighted that vans continued to camp overnight on the plot of land where there were no public facilities.

Resolved: To request that the Maritime and Country Parks Officer discusses this further with Arthog Community Council to re-locate a bin for dog waste at Penrhyn Point.

5. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved: (i) To note that the next meeting of this Consultative Committee would take place on Thursday, 15 October 2015.

(ii) To request that the Maritime and Country Parks Officer includes an item on the agenda of the next meeting to consider wheelchair access to the Promenade in Barmouth.

CHAIRMAN