
**PORTHMADOG HARBOUR CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE,
26.09. 2007**

Present: Councillor Ieuan Roberts (Chairman)

Councillor Selwyn Griffiths (Gwynedd Council), along with Messrs. Gwyn Davies (Porthmadog Town Council), Robert Owen (Commercial Interests), Chris Haywood (Leisure Interests), Peter Lunt Williams (RNLI), Councillor B. Bracewell (Aberdyfi Harbour Consultative Committee – Observer)

Also present: Barry Davies (Maritime and Rural Parks Officer), John Hughes (Temporary Harbourmaster) and Gwyn Parry Williams (Committee Officer).

Apologies: Councillors June Jones, M. Sol Owen, Roy Owen, Alan Williams (Gwynedd Council), David Eastwood (Harbour Interests), Dr John J. Morris (Leisure Interests) and David McLean (Landowner Interests)

Welcome

The Chairman welcomed John Hughes (Temporary Harbourmaster) to the meeting, and he also thanked Dafydd Phillips, who had been seconded for the time being to the post of Pwllheli Harbourmaster, for his work associated with Porthmadog Harbour over the years.

1. CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED to re-elect Councillor Ieuan Roberts as Chairman of the Committee for 2007/08.

2. VICE-CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED to re-elect Councillor Selwyn Griffiths as Vice-chairman of the Committee for 2007/08.

3. MINUTES

The chairman signed the minutes of a meeting of this Committee held on 14 March 2007 as a true record.

Matters Arising

Minute 1 – Urgent Business

a) Possible access to the harbour by commercial vessel.

A member asked about the current situation with regards to the enquiries received by Wynns Transport Company to bring a transformer into the harbour in January 2008 and to transport it from there to Trawsfynydd.

The Maritime and Rural Parks Officer informed the member that he was not aware of any further developments but he promised to seek further information.

RESOLVED to accept the information.

b) Locating pontoons near Gwynedd Marine

A member asked about the situation regarding the initial application received from David McLean about improving facilities for mariners near Gwynedd Marine by installing pontoons adjoining the harbour wall.

The Maritime and Rural Parks Officer informed the member that the scheme had not been developed further to date, but details would possibly be available by the next meeting. He hoped that the applicant would submit further information about the scheme in the coming months.

RESOLVED to accept the information.

Minute 2 – Minutes

b) Surface water discharge pipe at Borth y Gest

Attention was drawn once again by a member to the fact that work had not been carried out on the pipe.

The Maritime and Rural Parks Officer informed the member that he would arrange for the harbourmaster to visit the site on low tide and that Welsh Water would still be urged to submit their observations on the pipe.

RESOLVED to accept the information.

4. RESIGNATION OF MEMBER

It was reported that Mr Robin Kyffin had resigned as a member of the committee and that Mr David McLean was eager to take his place on the committee.

RESOLVED to accept the information and to send a letter to Mr Kyffin, thanking him for his service on the committee over the years.

5. MARITIME SERVICE

Submitted – the written report of the Maritime and Rural Parks Officer.

1. Navigation

The Maritime and Rural Parks Officer reported:-

a) That all navigation aids had been inspected by an officer from Trinity House on 10 September 2007 and all of the ones in Porthmadog harbour were in an acceptable condition. Apart from a short period in July, all navigation aids were consistently in their positions during the summer season.

b) That two temporary buoys which were positioned in the Samson Bay area were now surplus to requirements, and they were removed from the site. The cost of receiving assistance from a contractor with the work of maintaining the navigation aids was £440. It was not possible to complete the work internally as the changes to the channel had happened mid-season.

c) That eight lanterns had been positioned on the main navigation aids and this work was completed before 30 April 2007, in accordance with the target of the Maritime Unit. The lanterns were installed by harbour staff and this would continue in future. The Maritime Unit was considering installing lanterns on navigation aids in the Borth y Gest area, and it was envisaged that this would be of assistance to mariners. The Harbourmaster and the Harbour Maritime Officer would prepare a report and submit recommendations before the end of October 2007.

ch) That it was intended to prepare a maintenance programme for the navigation aids in the autumn. Because of the importance of the lanterns, the Maritime Unit was considering whether it would be possible to continue using the lanterns throughout the winter. If this would not be possible, the lanterns would be disconnected in October, and repositioned in April 2008.

d) That the Fairway Buoy had been in position for some time now, and the condition of the buoy had deteriorated recently. It was intended for this to be maintained in its position before the end of September in order to ensure that the buoy would be in an acceptable condition during the winter months. In April 2008, the existing Fairway Buoy would be returned to the shore and would undergo some maintenance work in the spring. The spare fairway buoy which underwent some maintenance work during the summer of this year would be positioned in the bay and all the anchors and chains would be inspected by a contractor.

The Criccieth RNLI representative thanked the officers for the effective work of lighting the buoys. He also informed the committee that Criccieth lifeboat was having a new lifeboat on 5 November 2007.

RESOLVED to accept the report and ensure that the buoys near the river estuary were to be marked.

2. Slipway Extension

It was reported that the work of extending the harbour slipway had been successfully completed and the extension allowed mariners to launch boats at times when it would not have been possible in the past. The civil work was tendered and several companies were invited to apply for the work. The most competitive price received was by the "Rock Engineering" company, and was £43,800. Financial support for the scheme was obtained through a grant from the Assembly.

RESOLVED to accept the report.

3. Harbour Bylaws

It was reported that the draft bylaws had already been submitted to the Legal Unit and they had been prepared to be submitted to the Assembly to be formally adopted. However, there was significant slippage in the programme and, unfortunately, the bylaws would not be adopted during 2007. The Maritime Officer expressed discontent because this work was taking so long to be completed and it was very much hoped that the bylaws would be confirmed by the Assembly as soon as possible and that they would come into force in 2008/09.

RESOLVED to express disappointment to the Legal Manager for the delay before the adoption of the bylaws and to state that the work should be completed as soon as possible.

4. Yacht Club Developments

The Maritime Officer reported that the Maritime Unit had received an application by the Madog Yacht Club which sought permission to extend the existing pontoon facilities. As the existing slipway had been extended, at a substantial cost, it was not envisaged that it would be possible to extend the pontoon at present as any extension would impact on the use of the slipway, especially in low water.

RESOLVED to accept the report.

5. Harbour Statistics

The committee's attention was drawn to statistics appended to the report which noted that 1049 personal water crafts had been registered in 2007, compared with 1208 in 2006. In 2005, a scheme was introduced which ensured that all power boats or personal water crafts registered with Gwynedd Council before they were permitted to launch on the slipway of any harbour, or on any beach in Gwynedd except for Nefyn and Morfa Nefyn. This year, 39 power boats were registered in Porthmadog Harbour and 46 were registered on Black Rock Sands. The fee of registering power boats and personal water crafts was £14 through the post or £20 on the beach or in the harbour office. The launching fee was £12 per day or £124 for the season.

It was noted that 208 boats had moored in the harbour this year. The Harbourmaster would contact every boat owner who had left the harbour in order to obtain some information about the reason why the boat was not moored in Porthmadog in 2007/08.

RESOLVED to accept the report.

6. Analysis of Customer Questionnaire

The Officer reported on the results of the Porthmadog harbour customer questionnaire. The Maritime Unit would be distributing the report presenting the questionnaire results to all of the harbour customers in January 2008. The report would be attached to a letter which would be circulated to customers inviting them to submit an application for a mooring in the harbour in 2008/09. It was not envisaged that a new questionnaire would be circulated with the correspondence in 2008/09.

The Maritime and Rural Parks Officer was thanked for the work in reviewing the questionnaire results.

RESOLVED to accept the report.

7. Budgets

The Officer provided details to the committee regarding the budget of Porthmadog harbour for the 2006/07 financial year and also the harbour's revenue budgets and the income targets for the 2007/08 financial year. He emphasised that care would have to

be taken in order to ensure that the service would not commit money beyond the budget in the current financial year. The Harbourmaster was to provide a work programme for the autumn in order to identify expenditure priorities.

The income target for the current financial year, namely £75,020 had been reached. The income of the harbour for this year was £77,476 to date. It was not foreseen that there would be a significant addition to the income between October and the end of March 2008.

RESOLVED to accept the report.

8. Maritime Staffing Structure

The Officer provided details about the staffing structure of the Maritime and Rural Parks Unit which also included a flow chart of the staffing structure of Hafan Pwllheli. On May 1 2007, staffing changes (temporary) were made in Porthmadog, Pwllheli and Aberdyfi. Following the promotion of the former Pwllheli Harbourmaster; the Porthmadog Harbourmaster was seconded to the Pwllheli Harbourmaster post; the Pwllheli Beaches Officer was seconded to the Porthmadog Harbourmaster post and the Aberdyfi Harbour Assistant was seconded to the Pwllheli Beaches Assistant post. The period of secondment would end on 31 December 2007.

RESOLVED to accept the report.

9. Yacht Tender Racks

It was reported that it had been resolved, in order to ensure an improvement to facilities for harbour users, to locate the yacht tender racks in the harbour compound and to reduce the racks' height in order to comply with the recommendations of the Planning Department. The racks had been built and were being used by some customers. A suitable chain had been installed near the slipway which would give mariners the opportunity to secure yacht tenders when going onto dry land.

RESOLVED to accept the report.

10. Maintenance of Moorings

It was reported that all moorings at Porthmadog harbour would be inspected and maintained by the specified contractor during January 2008. Gwynedd Council had invested a substantial amount in the maintenance and renewal of chains during the last five years, and it was not envisaged that a substantial investment would be required in 2007/08.

RESOLVED to accept the report.

4. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting would be held on 12 March 2008.

The meeting commenced at 6.00pm and ended at 7.00pm

