



Complete Agenda

Democratic Service
Swyddfa'r Cyngor
CAERNARFON
Gwynedd
LL55 1SH

Meeting

ABERDYFI HARBOUR CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Date and Time

10.00 am, TUESDAY, 29TH MARCH, 2022

Location

Virtual Meeting

*** For public access, please contact us**

Contact Point

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(DISTRIBUTED 21/03/22)

MEMBERSHIP:

Gwynedd Council:

Dewi Owen
Anne Lloyd Jones
Mike Stevens

Co-Opted Members:

Councillor Bob Tyrrell
David Williams

Huw Evans

Nigel Willis
Desmond George
Al Crisp
Guy Shaw
Vacant Seat

Aberdyfi Community Council
Member of Aberdyfi & Improvements
Committee
Member of the Cardigan Bay Fisheries
Association
Member of Aberdyfi Boat Club
Member of the Dyfi Yacht Club
Outward Bound Trust Wales
Aberdyfi Rowing Club
RNLI

Observers:

Peter Read
Dr John Jones-Morris

Councillor Rob Triggs

Cllr Gareth Thomas

Pwllheli Harbour Consultative Committee
Porthmadog Harbour Consultative
Committee
Barmouth Town Council

Cabinet Member of Economic Development

A G E N D A

1. APOLOGIES

To receive any apologies for absence

2. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

To receive any declaration of personal interest

3. URGENT ITEMS

To note any items which are urgent business in the opinion of the Chairman so that they may be considered

4. MINUTES

4 - 8

The Chairman shall propose that the minutes of the meeting of this committee, held on the 2nd November 2021, be signed as a true record.

5. UPDATE ON HARBOUR MANAGEMENT MATTERS

9 - 15

To submit a report by the Senior Harbours Officer.

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

To consider matters received

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To note that the next meeting of the Aberdyfi Harbour Consultative Committee will be held on 25th October 2022

ABERDYFI HARBOUR CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE 02/11/2021

PRESENT:

Members: Cllr Anne Lloyd Jones (Gwynedd Council), Cllr Dewi Owen (Gwynedd Council), Cllr Mike Stevens (Gwynedd Council), Al Crisp (Outward Bound Wales), Cllr David Williams (Aberdyfi Improvements and Advertising Committee), Guy Shaw (Aberdyfi Rowing Club) and Desmond George (Dyfi Yacht Club).

Officers: Barry Davies (Maritime Service Manager), Arthur Jones (Senior Harbours Officer), Oli Simmons (Aberdyfi Harbour Assistant), Natalie Lloyd Jones (Democratic Services Officer).

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Gareth Thomas, Llyr B. Jones (Assistant Head of Economy and Community Department), Councillor Bob Tyrrell (Aberdyfi Community Council), Will Stockford (Aberdyfi Harbourmaster).

2. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

None to note.

3. MINUTES

- a. The Chair signed the minutes of the previous meeting of this committee, held on 2 March 2021, as a true record.
- b. There were no matters arising from the minutes

4. UPDATE ON HARBOUR MANAGEMENT MATTERS

DECISION

- (1) Resolved to note and accept the report.
- (2) Response to the Department of Transport's consultation paper 'Strengthening enforcement of the dangerous use of recreational and personal watercraft' that this committee preferred option 3, namely creating legislation under section 112 of the Railways and Transport Safety Act 2003 to extend the relevant provisions of the Merchant Shipping Act 1995, and relevant regulations, to include recreational and personal watercraft.

Update on Harbour Management Matters from the Senior Harbours Officer. He noted the main points as follows:

- That 76 boats were on moorings compared to 47 in 2020. He reiterated generally, that Gwynedd harbours had seen an increase in the number of boats on moorings.

- It was assumed that the increase was due to relaxing Covid-19 restrictions and the continued restrictions on travelling abroad.
- He shared that the on-line registering procedure for power boats and jet skis was a success.
- The total number of registrations was summarised at 1,308 and the total number of personal watercraft (jet ski) registrations at 1,302.
- He noted that the Committee was aware that the service complied with the Port Marine safety code, and it was added that members should inform them regarding any comments.

An update on staffing matters was presented as follows:

- It was noted that the staffing level had not changed since the last report and it was reiterated that the service was able to call on staff from Porthmadog or Barmouth if need arose.
- Two beach wardens were appointed to assist with supervising the management of Aberdyfi's main beach and it was added that according to feedback from residents this was a success.
- In relation to Committee matters, pride was noted in the support available for this Committee, and it was shared that there is currently a vacant post. He said there was a request from the RNLI to fill the post, and the members' support was requested to ensure that the post was filled by the next meeting in the Spring.

Financial matters were presented by the Maritime Manager, who explained the Harbour's financial situation by noting the budget, expenditure and actual expenditure and explained any overspend or underspend to the members.

He discussed the consultation document on strengthening enforcement of the dangerous use of recreational and personal watercraft. It was explained that the closing date of the consultation had passed, however a letter had been written to the Department of Transport in London noting the date of this committee and explaining that Gwynedd Council's comments would be shared following the Committee.

It was noted that 4 options were associated with the consultation with the preferred one being to revise the Railways and Transport Safety Act 2003 to extend the relevant provisions of the Merchant Shipping Act 1995, and relevant regulations, to include recreational and personal watercraft. It was explained that the Committees of other harbours had already decided to support this option. He added that there was no obligation to follow this option and the Members were asked for their opinions.

During the discussion, the following observations were made by members:

- Pride was expressed in seeing that the number of boats had increased as it was very good for the service in terms of additional finance.
- It was asked for accuracy in the figures as the English copy was different to the Welsh copy in term of registrations.
- A comment was made regarding the beach wardens hut and it was asked if it was possible to replace it with something more in-keeping with the area.
- It was noted that the staff had faced a very busy season and thanks were expressed to all staff that were available around the harbour.
- A member asked for clarity on the expenditure on Equipment and Tools compared to the previous year.
- It was suggested to differentiate between navigation items and other equipment on the budget.
- In relation to the consultation, the members noted they were happy to go with option 3 but some added that they didn't see it as being much different to the current procedure.

In response to the observations, the Senior Harbours Officer and the Maritime Manager noted that:

- Many of the cabins were to protect staff during rough weather, however there was a need to encourage staff to be out talking and engaging with the public and completing work on the beach. It was added that it was on the work programme to upgrade the cabins.
- In response to the question on the amount spent on Equipment and Tools, it was invested in navigational aids, chains, lamps as they were statutory requirements under the safety code. It was noted that it was essential to maintain this equipment.
- Differentiating on the budget was considered, however it was decided that it was not appropriate. It was agreed to consider differentiating between the navigation costs as there was a cost for replacing and relocating with navigation. Assurance was given that there would be differentiating in the next budget.

5. HARBOURMASTER'S REPORT

The report was presented by the Assistant Harbourmaster and he noted the main points on the action points as follows:

- In terms of navigation matters he noted that the channel changed often and was monitored throughout the season so as to make it possible to give warnings to mariners.
- He explained that Trinity House had been to inspect and he noted that local contractors had completed the maintenance work on the navigation aids as asked.
- In relation to action points, he noted that the end of Covid restrictions had resulted in a very busy Summer but the additional wardens were a big help.
- He added that most of the visitors were respectful, however a few disrespectful experiences were recorded. He additionally noted that there was an increase in litter being left around the harbour and the beach.
- He explained that there was an immense increase in Stand-up Paddleboards on the beach, and the wardens managed to advise the users on sea safety and to keep the channel clear.
- He explained all the maintenance work that had taken place, for instance the cabins and the patrol boat.

The Maritime Manager added the following:

- That recruiting for seasonal work was challenging and it was asked for the members to advertise any jobs within their wards or communities.
- As a result of verbal abuse, the service had invested in CCTV cameras for staff to wear.
- In order to deal with litter, mostly as a result of visitors crabbing, he noted that collaboration was needed with the local shops that sell the equipment and to locate bins for plastic waste around the harbour.
- He explained the quay wall situation and noted he understood the Committee's frustrations as this had been a discussion point for years. However, he noted that the work had been re-tendered and that applications were being assessed by the YGC department.
- He added that there would be communication with the members following the decision on the contract winners.

The information below was reported regarding the Picnic Island situation from an Outward Bound Trust representative:

- It was noted that by the next committee a bridge would be in place or on its way. Network Rail were thanked for their support whilst the work was ongoing.
- It was explained that local partners and Gwynedd Council were assessing the foundations in November and then the process of removing the old structure and replacing with a new one would commence.

- In relation to costs, the Maritime Manager noted that the costs of steel for example had increased substantially and it was hoped that a formal tender would come within the budget.

During the discussion, the following observations were made by members:

- It was questioned if there was a cost for the harbours service to deal with animal remains that get washed in by the sea.
- It was expressed that many positive things had taken place in the area over the summer but not the litter. Members reiterated that a discussion with shops needed to start and a system to borrow equipment was suggested for return after it had been used.
- It was added that the Community Council received complaints regarding litter and that additional bins had been discussed.
- The staff were thanked for their work during the very busy year, a member reiterated a special thanks to Tywyn Beach Officer for his work engaging with visitors.
- Assurance was asked for in terms of quick information being available regarding the quay wall as it was going to create big problems for the businesses on the quay. It was added that many emails had currently arrived regarding the disruption to the sailing club.
- It was noted that it was important that the work on the quay wall was completed as soon as possible despite the complaints and difficulties as it needed to be done urgently.
- It was suggested that a public relations campaign was needed to keep residents up to date with the phases and the work; once the contract was set up this needed to start.
- The possibility of holding a special meeting once the decision on contractors is made was mentioned.

In response, the Maritime Manager noted the following points:

- That the cost to deal with animal remains varied and if it was not possible to take a vehicle close to it, it would be buried there and then. He explained that the cost comes from the beaches budget and not from the harbour's as most of the remains appear on the beach.
- They did not foresee any financial loss for any organisations working on the quay and there was assurance that businesses would remain open throughout the essential work.
- It was noted that there would be contact between the site manager of the quay gate and the harbour users for any information. It was added that the maritime staff would be at hand and would facilitate the ability to receive further information.
- It was explained that it would not be possible to arrange a formal meeting of the Committee to discuss the outcome of the tender of the quay wall. However, an informal meeting for a discussion was suggested.

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

A member questioned the cleanliness of the river and asked for an update of the pollution to the Dyfi river.

A member noted that sand on the high street was a problem and reference was made to the previous Committee where this was discussed and it was resolved to not intervene as there was no money within the budget.

A member added that this caused difficulties for the RNLI as there was sand on the slipway.

In response to the matters, the Maritime Manager noted the following points:

- That Aberdyfi reached the essential requirements in terms of water hygiene according to Welsh Government.
- It was added that if there was a risk to the quality of bathing water, that the Service received warnings from Natural Resources Wales and then advertised the warnings.
- It was noted that if there were any pollution concerns deriving from specific locations, NRW should be notified immediately so the officers could investigate any allegations.
- In relation to the sand, sympathy was shown towards the problem but he noted that the Service did not have sufficient funds to clean the slipway regularly and it was asked for the RNLI to put a programme in place to ensure the slipway was clear.

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was confirmed that the next meeting would be on 22 March, 2022.

The meeting commenced at 10.30am and concluded at 11.50am.

H1 **Navigational Issues**

1.1 There are currently two 'Local Notice to Mariners' in operation at Aberdyfi Harbour.

1.2 **Number 18/20**

Bar Buoy: No 2 Port: Fl.R.5s.

The seasonal Aid to Navigation has been removed from station.

1.3 **Number 19/20**

Bar Buoy: No 1 Starboard: Fl.G.5s.

The Aid to Navigation is not on station. The light is extinguished.

1.4 The Service has been in contact with the local contractor with a view to carry out all works when the weather conditions allow.

1.5 The Service would like to emphasize the importance of contact with the harbour office at Aberdyfi to obtain current information on navigational safety.

H2 **Operational Issues**

2.1 The Outward Bound Trust have been operating to a fuller programme with groups active on the river throughout the winter months. A strict C19 protocol has been observed.

2.2 Commercial fishing activities have continued through the winter months with one boat, MFV Genesis, fishing the scallop season and now fishing locally for prawns. A second vessel MFV Our Endeavour has now relaunched with intention of fishing for prawns.

2.3 The MCA have been active in March with a team carrying out spot check safety inspections on commercial fishing vessels, with follow up surveys carried out soon after. One full survey has been carried out in Aberdyfi to date (10/03/22) with the vessel found to be in good order.

2.4 A brief low water (15:51 0.4m) survey was carried out by the service on 03/03/22. Access beyond Cliffside Terrace upstream is very limited. The service will continue to monitor the situation prior to the mooring contractor commencing work. Unfortunately mooring locations may change from previous years to accommodate vessel draft and keel configuration.

H3 **Maintenance**

3.1 Extensive service work has been carried out Aid to Navigation (AtoN) No1 and No2. The service hope to have these back on station as soon as the local contractor is available to undertake this work.

- 3.2 Work has been carried out to the harbour power cat GP4 along with trailer safety maintenance. The vessel will be serviced, antifouled and ready for launch March/April 2022.
- 3.3 Work has been carried out by the Maritime team to tidy the fisherman's compound with a large amount of waste being removed by Aber Skip Hire. This work will be ongoing.
- 3.4 Reactive work will be carried out when required in relation to the harbour wall replacement project.
- 3.5 Maintenance works will continue throughout the coming months in preparation for the season ahead.
- 3.6 An increase in carcasses on the foreshore has led to several days of reactive work being carried out by the service. The service requests that any sightings be reported to them at the earliest opportunity.

H4 **Events**

- 4.1 A request to hold the PWC Gwynedd Blackrock Blast 2022 has been received, the event has yet to be confirmed.
- 4.2 No official applications have been made to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II to date.
- 4.3 Clwb Hwyllo Dyfi will be hosting the GP14 National Championships on 6/7th May 2022.

The service would like to remind all event organisers that approval and confirmation should be sought prior to events going ahead.

MEETING	Aberdyfi Harbour Consultative Committee.
DATE	29th March 2022
TITLE	Update on Harbour Management Matters
AUTHOR	Senior Harbour Officer

1. Introduction.

- 1.1 The Committee's main function is to consider, discuss and advise on matters relating to the management, safety and development of the Harbour and to receive Member's observations on matters relating to Aberdyfi Harbour.
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to provide a brief update for the attention of the Committee on harbour matters for the yearly period ending March 2022, in order to receive feedback from the members on safety matters and the operational matters of the Harbour.

2. Aberdyfi Moorings and Boat Registration.

- 2.1 In accordance with previous years, it is anticipated that a mooring contractor will commence to lay moorings in the harbour before the Easter period, subject to their commitments and the existing weather conditions at the time.
- 2.2 Last year, the Gwynedd Council Powerboat and Personal Watercraft registration system was introduced through an online arrangement, allowing customers to choose the most suitable location to collect registration and launch permits. Following the success of the arrangement, customers will be required to register via the Gwynedd Council website, with the online registration and payment system open on the 31 March 2022.

3. Port Marine Safety Code.

- 3.1.1 The Port Marine Safety Code ('PMSC') sets out a national standard for every aspect of port marine safety. Its aim is to enhance safety for everyone who uses or works in the port marine environment. It applies to all Statutory Harbour Authorities.
- 3.1.2 The Code represents good practice as recognised by a wide range of industry stakeholders and Gwynedd Council understands that a failure to adhere to good practice may be indicative of a harbour authority being in breach of certain legal duties. It is necessary for the Service to receive the comments and views of Consultative Committee Members on the suitability of the Port Marine Safety Code and to regularly receive observations on its contents, in order that it may be reviewed as relevant to the harbour activities, navigational aids, suitability of by-laws, safety matters and general day to day work at Aberdyfi Harbour.
- 3.1.3 The Service itself continually reviews the Port Marine Safety Code to ensure safety standards within the harbours of Gwynedd are maintained and an annual external audit of the code is also undertaken by the defined designated person, Captain Matthew Forbes, Conwy Harbourmaster.

4. Staffing Matters.

- 4.1 Harbour staff have continued to work from the harbour office throughout the latest Omicron Coronavirus epidemic to ensure the safety of the harbour and compliance with the prevailing Welsh Government Coronavirus Regulations. Adaptations within the harbour office remain in place,

including a Perspex screen at the public counter to ensure staff safety during enquiries conducted by members of the public.

4.2 The Harbourmaster and his assistant have undertaken a winter maintenance work programme at the harbour, in addition to providing assistance with required work at the harbours of Porthmadog and Barmouth. Further work is to be carried out particularly in relation to the navigation marks before the busy summer period commences.

5. **Financial Matters.**

5.1 A brief summary of the harbour budget and current financial situation will be discussed at the meeting by the Principal Maritime Officer.

5.2 During this period it was necessary to commit financial resources for the following;

- Maintenance of navigational aids and beacons
- Inspection and maintenance of Council visitors' moorings
- Maintenance and operation of the of Harbour patrol vessel
- Maintenance of land and street furniture
- Tools and equipment including safety equipment

5.3 **Fees and Charges. 2022/23.** The Service currently awaits confirmation with regard to the draft fees and charges for Aberdyfi Harbour, together with the Powerboat and Personal watercraft launching fees for 2022/23 season. It has presently been indicated that fees and charges are to rise in line with the rate of inflation. A copy of the proposed fees for information is available. These have not been confirmed.

6. **Harbourmasters Report.** The Harbourmaster at Aberdyfi has provided a brief summary of the Navigational and Operational matters undertaken and encountered during the period October 2021 - March 2022 inclusive, including maintenance issues. A copy of his report is attached.

Ffioedd Lansio a Chofrestru Cychod Pŵer & Badau Dŵr Personol / Powerboats & Personal Watercraft Launching and Registration Fees

Holl ffioedd ddim yn cynnwys TAW 2022/23 All fees exclusive of VAT

Ffi Adnewyddiad (Trwyddedau Bach)	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	Renewal Fees (Small Permits)	Cynnydd mewn £	Cynnydd mewn %
Ail-cofrestru Blynnyddol - ar lein yn unig	£29.17	£33.33	£41.66	Annual Re-registration - on line only	£8.33	25.00%
Ceisiadau Llestr Newydd (Trwyddedau Mawr a Bach)				New Vessel Applications (Large and Small Permits)		
Cofrestru Blynnyddol - ar lein yn unig	£37.50	£33.33	£41.66	Annual Registration - on line only	£8.33	25.00%
Ffi Lansio				Launching Fees		
Lansio dyddiol - Llithrfeydd/Traethau Cyffredinoll	£16.67	£16.67	£16.67	Daily launch – General Slipways/Beaches	£0.00	0.00%
Lansio dyddiol - Traeth Morfa Bychan (yn cynnwys parcio)	£16.67	£16.67	£16.67	Daily launch – Morfa Bychan Beach (includes parking)	£0.00	0.00%
Trwydded Lansio Blynnyddol (1 Ebrill – 31 Mawrth) <u>Cynnwys Ffi Cofrestru</u>	£125.00	£125.00	£125.00	Annual Launching Permits (1 April – 31 March) <u>Inclusive of Registration Fee</u>	£0.00	0.00%
Trosglwyddo / Ailddodiad				Transfer / Replacement		
Ceisiadau drwy'r post yn unig i <u>Swyddfa Forwrol y Cyngor ym Mhwllheli</u>	£37.50	£37.50	£37.50	Postal application only to the <u>Council Maritime Office in Pwllheli</u>	£0.00	0.00%
Cychod llai na 10 HP				Vessels under 10 HP		
Ffi Cofrestru Blynnyddol – <u>Ceisiadau Mewn Person yn Unig</u> Yn Swyddfeydd yr Harbyrau neu ar y Prif Draethau gyda'r cwch ar gael er ei archwilio. Dim ffi lansio yn daladwy.	£25.00	£25.00	£25.00	Annual Registration Fee – <u>In Person Application Only</u> At the Harbour Offices or at the main Resort Beaches, with the vessel available for inspection. No launching fees charged for small vessel.	£0.00	0.00%

Income Increases-2022/23

(Targets below do not include Rent or Electricity recharges)

Heading	Income Target 2021/22	% Inflation to be recovered	£ Inflation Sum	Income Target 2022/23
Hafan	-£1,426,410	3.89%	-£44,620	-£1,471,030
Beaches	-£323,110	3.77%	-£12,180	-£335,290
Harbwr Pwllheli	-£25,220	3.89%	-£1,030	-£26,250
Harbwr Porthmadog	-£65,620	4.15%	-£2,670	-£68,290
Harbwr Abermaw	-£29,190	3.66%	-£1,170	-£30,360
Harbwr Aberdyfi	-£25,760	3.88%	-£1,060	-£26,820
Total Harbours	-£145,790	3.91%	-£5,930	-£151,720
Doc Fictoria	-£219,030	2.46%	-£5,390	-£224,420

			Budget	Actual to 28/2/22	Over or (under) agaist budget
DG51	HAFAN PWLLHELI	STAFF	£325,700	£220,049	-£105,651
DG51	HAFAN PWLLHELI	PROPERTY	£517,300	£536,561	£19,261
DG51	HAFAN PWLLHELI	TRANSPORT	£9,910	£13,518	£3,608
DG51	HAFAN PWLLHELI	GOODS AND SERVICES	£130,130	£96,645	-£33,485
DG51	HAFAN PWLLHELI	INCOME	-£1,445,470	-£1,593,119	-£147,649
Total			-£462,430	-£726,346	-£263,916
DG52	HARBWR PWLLHELI	STAFF	£28,450	£22,193	-£6,257
DG52	HARBWR PWLLHELI	PROPERTY	£30,540	£36,260	£5,720
DG52	HARBWR PWLLHELI	TRANSPORT	£590	£0	-£590
DG52	HARBWR PWLLHELI	GOODS AND SERVICES	£10,140	£1,087	-£9,053
DG52	HARBWR PWLLHELI	INCOME	-£25,220	-£32,125	-£6,905
Total			£44,500	£27,415	-£17,085
DG53	HARBWR PORTHMADOG	STAFF	£61,120	£60,396	-£724
DG53	HARBWR PORTHMADOG	PROPERTY	£34,150	£7,195	-£26,955
DG53	HARBWR PORTHMADOG	TRANSPORT	£600	£389	-£211
DG53	HARBWR PORTHMADOG	GOODS AND SERVICES	£10,050	£28,107	£18,057
DG53	HARBWR PORTHMADOG	INCOME	-£65,620	-£67,241	-£1,621
Total			£40,300	£28,845	-£11,455
DG54	HARBWR ABERMAW	STAFF	£60,430	£53,619	-£6,811
DG54	HARBWR ABERMAW	PROPERTY	£14,560	£6,775	-£7,785
DG54	HARBWR ABERMAW	TRANSPORT	£750	£193	-£557
DG54	HARBWR ABERMAW	GOODS AND SERVICES	£9,820	£16,577	£6,757
DG54	HARBWR ABERMAW	INCOME	-£29,590	-£29,633	-£43
Total			£55,970	£47,530	-£8,440
DG55	HARBWR ABERDYFI	STAFF	£60,890	£57,548	-£3,342
DG55	HARBWR ABERDYFI	PROPERTY	£25,650	£11,607	-£14,043
DG55	HARBWR ABERDYFI	TRANSPORT	£630	£411	-£219
DG55	HARBWR ABERDYFI	GOODS AND SERVICES	£7,260	£6,887	-£373
DG55	HARBWR ABERDYFI	INCOME	-£32,160	-£27,712	£4,448
Total			£62,270	£48,742	-£13,528