



Complete Agenda

Democracy Service
Swyddfa'r Cyngor
CAERNARFON
Gwynedd
LL55 1SH

Meeting

ABERDYFI HARBOUR CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Date and Time

10.00 am, TUESDAY, 18TH MARCH, 2025

Location

Virtual Meeting

(for public access to the meeting please contact us)

Contact Point

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(DISTRIBUTED 10/03/25)

MEMBERSHIP:

Gwynedd Council:

Anne Lloyd Jones
Robert Dewi Owen
John Pughe

Local Member for Gorllewin Tywyn
Local Member for Aberdyfi
Local Member for Morfa Tywyn

Co-Opted Members:

Freddie Collier
David Williams

Huw Evans

Nigel Willis
Desmond George
Al Crisp
Guy Shaw

RNLI Aberdyfi
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

Observers:

Gwilym Jones
Stephen Tudor

Porthmadog Harbour Consultative
Committee
Pwllheli Harbour Consultative
Committee

A G E N D A

1. APOLOGIES

To receive any apologies for absence.

2. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

To receive any declarations of personal interest.

3. MINUTES

4 - 7

To receive and confirm the minutes of a meeting of the Aberdyfi Harbour Consultative Committee held on the 15th October 2024.

4. UPDATE ON HARBOUR MANAGEMENT MATTERS

8 - 13

To submit a report by the Senior Harbours Officer.

5. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To note that the next meeting of the Aberdyfi Harbour Consultative Committee will be held on 14th October 2025.

ABERDYFI HARBOUR CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE 15 OCTOBER 2024

Attendance:

Gwynedd Councillors: Councillors Robert Dewi Owen and Anne Lloyd Jones.

Co-opted Members: Freddie Collier (Aberdyfi RNLI), David Williams (Aberdyfi Improvements and Advertising Committee), Desmond George (Dyfi Yacht Club Member), Al Crisp (Outward Bound Trust Wales), Robert Tyrrell (Aberdyfi Community Council)

Observers: Councillor Nia Jeffreys (Economy and Community Cabinet Member), Councillor Gwilym Jones (Porthmadog Harbour Consultative Committee)

Officers present: Bryn Pritchard-Jones (Maritime Service Manager), Arthur Francis Jones (Senior Harbours Officer), William Arthur Stockford (Aberdyfi Harbourmaster), Llyr Beaumont Jones (Assistant Head of Economy and Community Department) and Rhodri Jones (Democracy Services Officer).

1. ELECTION OF CHAIR

RESOLVED to elect Councillor Robert Dewi Owen as Chair of the Aberdyfi Harbour Consultative Committee for the year 2024/25.

2. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

RESOLVED to elect Councillor Anne Lloyd-Jones as Vice-chair of the Aberdyfi Harbour Consultative Committee for the year 2024/25.

3. APOLOGIES

No apologies were received.

4. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

There were no declarations of personal interest.

5. MINUTES

The Chair signed the minutes of the previous meeting of this meeting, held on 12 March 2024, as a true record.

6. UPDATE ON HARBOUR MANAGEMENT MATTERS

The reports were presented by the Maritime Services Manager and the Senior Harbours Officer. Attention was drawn to the following main points:

It was confirmed that 81 boats had been on annual moorings in Aberdyfi harbour this year. This was noted as a slight increase on the previous year, where there were 72 annual moorings. It was hoped that this figure would continue to increase in the future.

It was explained that anyone wishing to register their powerboat did so through the Council's website. It was reported that 1013 powerboats and 1044 personal watercraft had been registered this season. It was also noted that 84 boats with engines below 10hp had been registered, i.e. a total of 2141 vessels for the season. It was recognised that this was 368

lower than the previous season, where there were 2509 registrations. The main factors for this reduction were considered to be unsettled weather and the current financial climate.

It was ensured that the harbour complied with the Port Marine Safety Code, which sets out a national standard for every aspect of maritime safety. It was noted that the Service was currently reviewing the Code to ensure compliance with recent statutory amendments. Members were encouraged to contact officers if they had any observations on what should receive consideration when adapting it.

Mr Thomas Walton, who had been appointed Assistant Harbourmaster since April this year, was welcomed. Gratitude was also expressed to the seasonal beach wardens who worked in Aberdyfi and Tywyn for the season. Particular attention was drawn to two officers who had contacted the Coastguard about a serious incident which was unfolding on the other side of the river. They were thanked for responding promptly and it was noted that there was a request for a Lifeboat commendation following the incident. It was announced that the Senior Harbours Officer had embarked on a retirement process and would finish with the service in early March 2025. He was thanked for all his work over many years and best wishes were conveyed to him for the future.

Members were guided through the harbour's financial performance for 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025. The following main points were detailed, emphasising that it was a projection of the complete budget expenditure at the end of the financial year that had been shared, based on expenditure up to 31 August 2024, and that the situation could change if an emergency arose:

- **Employees** – An underspend of £1,894 was anticipated in salaries and operational costs budgets due to the Assistant Harbourmaster taking up his role at a date later than 1 April 2024.
- **Property** – An underspend of £10,333 was anticipated in this budget, which covered grounds maintenance, refuse collection, etc. It was explained that there was an underspend in the budget as there had been no significant costs thus far.
- **Transportation** – It was considered that there would be an underspend of £218 in this budget by the end of the current financial year. It was explained that this budget did not include the running and maintenance costs of the service vehicle, but was used for patrol boat fuel and staff travel expenses. It was noted that there was an underspend in this year's budget as unsettled weather prevented staff from making full use of the patrol boat, resulting in a saving in fuel costs.
- **Services and Supplies** – An overspend of approximately £14,242 was anticipated within this budget. It was explained that the budget was used for a number of products such as equipment, signage, lighting, navigational aids and electricity. It was confirmed that discussions were taking place because this budget was thought to have been set too low for this year (£6,630). It was hoped that this budget would be set higher in the future, causing less overspending.
- **One-off spending - Funding from the Department's Funds** – It was confirmed that a budget had not been set for the use of funds for this financial year. However, it was confirmed that £7,294 had been spent on the 'temporary' cabin for harbour staff. It was acknowledged that this expenditure had been identified as overspending because a budget had not been set for it this year. It was emphasised that the expenditure did not have an impact on the financial performance of the harbour for this financial year as it was one-off expenditure from the fund.

It was explained that the harbour was anticipated to overspend by around £9,292 more than the budget set for the current financial year (£108,900). However, pride was expressed that the harbour had managed to receive £11,167 more income than the target set for the year, i.e. £43,510. This was stated to be very positive news for the future of the harbour and highlighted that there was a significant amount of use of the harbour's services. Attention was also drawn

to the fact that charging a fee for parking trailers on harbour land had generated more income this year which will continue in the future.

It was reported that an underspend of £9,170 was anticipated in the complete harbour budget by the end of March 2025 when considering the above expenditure and the income that had come in thus far.

It was acknowledged that the rates of harbour fees and charges would be adjusted in the near future in line with the level of inflation. It was noted that officers would strive to ensure that fees would be increased sufficiently to address costs but not to increase them too much. It was noted that consideration would be given to the fees of the neighbouring Local Authorities when reaching a decision. It was explained that the final decisions on next season's fees would be made by March 2025.

It was explained that there was a slight increase in the number of customers with annual agreements on harbour moorings, and that an increase had been witnessed for some years. It was pleasing that a number of enquiries were received from new customers as well as customers who returned annually. It was acknowledged that some customers had not returned following the pandemic and others had not returned due to the financial crisis.

Attention was drawn to the customer satisfaction questionnaire which was active since 2023. It was explained that customers could access this questionnaire using a QR code located in different areas of the harbour, as well as via an online questionnaire. It was reported that 86% of responses received indicated that their experience of the harbour was very good and positive comments were received about the professionalism and attitude of the officers. It was confirmed that not a single respondent had identified the services as 'poor'. It was acknowledged that officers were keen for more customers to take advantage of the satisfaction questionnaire to ensure that all aspects of the services provided received regular feedback. Customer satisfaction questionnaires for the beaches were also referred to, indicating that very good comments had been received.

A recent annual audit by Trinity House confirmed that all navigational aids were on their appropriate stations. It was elaborated that the Service collaborated with Gwynedd Consultancy to ensure that two navigation markers were painted in the Tywyn area.

Pride was expressed in that no Notice to Mariners was currently in operation in the harbour. Local contractors who assisted officers to move the aids as necessary were thanked. It was confirmed that officers also made use of a drone in an effort to observe changes in the channel.

It was explained that an increase was seen in the sand that continued to accumulate on the slipway near the Lifeboat Station and Dyfi Yacht Club. It was noted that it was challenging to remove the sand at this time as the sand level was generally high on the main beach.

Members were reminded that harbour staff had now moved to work from the 'temporary' cabin while necessary renovation work was completed on the main office. Anyone in need of the assistance of harbour staff was welcome to come over to the cabin for a chat. The Assistant Head of the Economy and Community Department added that Cyngor Gwynedd's 2024-2034 Asset Management Plan had committed £500,000 for the development of the office. It was noted that an application had been submitted to the Property department to appoint architects to design a building to suit the landscape and to reinforce the foundations. It was assured that the initial designs would be shared with the local organisations and agencies. It was anticipated that the new building would be completed by the end of 2025.

It was noted that there were a number of enquiries concerning animals and waste that had been washed up on the beach during the season. The importance of providing a reference for the location through What 3 Words or a grid reference was emphasised. It was confirmed that there had been a sad case at the beginning of the year where sheep had been carried in the

river flow and had been washed up on the beach. It was noted that the owners could be contacted if the animals were tagged and that they disposed of them. There was also reference to a number of cases where seals had washed up on the beach. It was explained that the officers then buried the animals. It was explained that officers had purchased a quad bike so that the carcasses of animals that had washed up in locations that the patrol boat could not reach could be disposed of. It was elaborated that staff were also investigating the purchase of a purpose-built trailer for this use.

Concern was raised about sand accumulating near the beach car park. It was noted that there was a possibility of the sand being blown into nearby drains following a high wind causing difficulties in water disposal. It was confirmed that discussions had been held to have a wall built in the car park to reduce some of these risks, but it was noted that thus far there had been no development in these arrangements.

The 'Plastic Free Aberdyfi' team were thanked for their voluntary work collecting litter on the beach. It was confirmed that this was a very valuable relationship for the harbour area and reduced the officers' workload. All visitors to the beach were reminded to contact harbour staff if they saw large waste that they could not collect, and assurance was given that a member of staff would collect the rubbish with the trailer and dispose of it.

It was noted that there was an increase in the number of canoes left behind on the beach. The Harbourmaster explained that a notice was placed on each abandoned canoe. It was elaborated that these were moved to the stores and people could pick them up. Reference was also made to a similar arrangement that was in place for larger boats, confirming that a disposal notice could be placed on them if they were not in use and caused problems.

An update was provided on a serious incident that occurred in harbour waters in May 2023. It was confirmed that the investigation by North Wales Police was ongoing and the case had been referred to the Crown Prosecution Service.

Information and details were shared about a number of events that had taken place recently including the Welsh Coastal Racing Boats Championship, the Welsh Sea Rowing Annual Regatta, WeSwimRun and Dyfi Aquathon.

RESOLVED

To note and accept the reports.

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was confirmed to be on 18 March 2025.

The meeting started at 10:00am and ended at 11:45am.

(Chair)

MEETING	Aberdyfi Harbour Consultative Committee
DATE	18th March 2025
TITLE	Update on Harbour Management Matters
AUTHOR	D A Cartwright Senior Harbours 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 period October 2024 to March 2025, in order to receive feedback from the members on safety matters and the operational matters of the Harbour.
- 1.3 The Harbour Committee's of Abermaw, Aberdyfi and Pwllheli were established under section 102(4) of the Local Government Act of 1972. The Porthmadog Harbour Committee is a statutory Harbour Committee, set up in accordance with Section 6(2) (a-j) of the Porthmadog Harbour Revision Order 1998.

2. Aberdyfi Moorings and Boat Registration.

- 2.1 Before the Easter period, the Harbourmaster and his assistant will undertake a survey of the river to determine the most suitable locations for the placement of the harbour moorings. Customers are advised that due to the movement and increase of sand banks in the estuary some moorings may be moved to the most suitable position for vessel types.
- 2.2 Customers wishing to have a harbour mooring or register their watercraft for the forthcoming season are expected to complete the online process promptly through the Cyngor Gwynedd website from the 1st of April, once the appropriate fees have been confirmed. Thereafter, mooring customers should liaise with the Harbourmaster to confirm the position of their harbour mooring.
- 2.3 The Service looks forward to what it hopes will be a busy summer period this year and that harbour customers and visitors alike will enjoy the facilities provided by the new quayside. We have received very welcoming feedback over the last 12 months regarding the new Quay.

3. Port Marine Safety Code.

- 3.1 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.

The Code represents good practice as recognised by a wide range of industry stakeholders and Cyngor Gwynedd understands that a failure to adhere to good practice may be indicative of a harbour authority being in breach of certain legal duties.

- 3.2 The Service regularly reviews the Port Marine Safety Code for the harbours under its jurisdiction in order to remain in full compliance with the current requirements of the Code. As part of the review process, it is necessary 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, particularly with relevance to the harbour activities, navigational aids, suitability of bylaws, safety matters and general day to day work at Aberdyfi Harbour.

4. Staffing Matters.

- 4.1 The Assistant Harbour Master, Tom Walton, has settled in well with the Service and we are delighted with his progress in Aberdyfi under the supervision of Harbour master Will Stockford.
- 4.2 The new permanent Beach Office for Meirionnydd Nicola Salt has also eased pressure on Harbour staff who have previously had to manage the Beach area.
- 4.3 The temporary Harbour office on the quayside is ensuring that staff have suitable accommodation and facilities to carry out their duties whilst development of the new permanent office is underway.

5. Financial Matters.

- 5.1 A brief summary of the harbour budget and current financial situation up to the end of the quarter will be provided by the Service Manager.
- 5.2 During the winter period it was necessary to commit financial resources for the following;
- Maintenance of navigational aids and beacons
 - Maintenance of harbour tools and equipment
 - Maintenance of Council moorings
 - Maintenance and operation of the of Harbour Powercat patrol vessel
 - Maintenance of lands and benches

5.3 Fees and Charges. 2025/26.

With regard to the prospective fees and charges for Aberdyfi Harbour together with the Powerboat and Personal Watercraft launching fees for 2025/2026 season, as on previous occasions, the Service intends to adjust the fees in line with the prevailing rate of inflation at the time.

- 6. Harbourmasters Report.** The Harbourmaster at Aberdyfi will provide a summary of the Navigational and Operational matters undertaken and encountered during the period October 2024 - March 2025 inclusive, including maintenance issues. A copy of his report is attached.

MEETING	Aberdyfi Harbour Consultative Committee
DATE	March 2025
TITLE	Harbourmasters Report
AUTHOR	W.A.Stockford Aberdyfi Harbourmaster

H 1 Navigational Issues

- 1.1 The course of the main navigational channel into the harbour of Aberdyfi has remained under observation throughout the winter season. The physical nature of the river and harbour area continues to change. Astronomically high tides at the end of February and start of March allowed the service to assess mooring space ahead of the forthcoming season. Further inspections and surveys will be carried out by the service over the coming months.

- 1.2 There is currently one 'Local Notice to Mariners'(N to M) in operation at Aberdyfi Harbour.

Bar Buoy: No 1 Starboard: Fl.G.5s The Aid to Navigation is not on station.

The Aid to Navigation still has its navigation light on due to its position in the channel.

- 1.3 It is now possible to view all current Notice to Mariners for the county on the Maritime page of the Gwynedd Council website. Local Notices to Mariners (llyw.cymru) <https://www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/en/Residents/Leisure-parks-and-events/Maritime/Local-Notices-to-Mariners.aspx>
- 1.4 The Service would like to emphasize the importance of contact with the harbour office at Aberdyfi to obtain the latest information on navigational safety.

H 2 Operational Issues

- 2.1 The service has received a reasonable number of mooring forms (at the time of publication) and is in discussion with the local contractor to determine the best location for the moorings this season.
- 2.2 The dynamics of the river continue to change on every tide, this in turn means not all moorings will go back in their historic location. The service requests that all boat owners understand the situation and importance of working with the tides to ensure safe use of their craft. Some moorings to the East of Penhelyg will experience tidal constraints.

- 2.3 The increase in sand build-up still hinders the physical use of the slipway located adjacent to the RNLI station and Dyfi Yacht Club premises. With the main beach level at its current height, removal of sand from the slipway remains a constant problem. The Service greatly appreciates the efforts of local stakeholders to find a solution to the problem.

H 3 Maintenance

- 3.1 The harbour office has now moved to the temporary structure located on the quayside whilst progress is on-going with the development of a new permanent Office building. The service would like to thank you for your patience and understanding at this time.
- 3.2 The harbour patrol vessel has undergone its annual coding inspection and a full service prior to launching at the start of the season.
- 3.3 The Service have been working during the winter period clearing the Harbour Compound of discarded items and overgrown vegetation. We respectfully request that compound users please remove any unwanted items from the compound at their earliest convenience.
- 3.4 Several reactive days were accrued with the removal and burial of carcasses along the foreshore. The service request that any reports of carcasses on the foreshore be accompanied by accurate location information such as, what 3 words or National Grid Reference.
3. Work has been carried out to visitor and harbour vessel moorings ahead of the forthcoming season ensuring that they meet Cyngor Gwynedd regulations.

H4 Events

- 4.1 A full and detailed request for sailing events has been received by Clwb Hwyllo Dyfi and confirmed by Aberdyfi Harbour Office.
- 4.2 Aberdyfi Rowing Club - Celtic Longboat Rowing Regatta 01 June 2025
- 4.3 Aberdyfi Rowing Club - Sculling League Regatta 05 July 2025
- 4.4 WeSwimRun – Dates for 4 separate events in July, August and September have been received.
- 4.5 Colwyn Bay Jet Ski Club Ride Out 2025

A request to use the harbour as a turnaround point for the above event has been received.

- 4.6 The Service would like to remind event organisers of the need to provide early notification of any proposed event and submission for approval.

- 4.6.1 In considering whether to approve an event, the Service will give due regard to the information provided detailing the circumstances and apply any restrictions, impositions or limitations thereby necessary to ensure public and staff safety.

HARBWR ABERYDYFI	Perfformiad Ariannol am y cyfnod 1 Ebrill 2024 at 31 Mawrth 2025 - Adolygiad Tachwedd 2024				
	CYLLIDEB 1/4/24 at 31/3/25	GWARIANT A RHAGWELIR 1/4/24 at 31/3/25	GOR (TAN)	Adolygiad Awst	Gwahaniaeth Rhwyng Adroddiad Awst ac Adroddiad Tachwedd
Gweithwyr	73,450	71,056	(2,394)	(1,894)	(500)
Eiddo	26,010	15,289	(10,721)	(10,133)	(588)
Trafnidiaeth	810	742	(68)	(218)	150
Gwasanethau a Chyflenwadau	8,630	20,668	12,038	14,242	(2,204)
Gwariant Un Tro - Ariannu o Cronfeydd yr Adran		16,259	16,259	7,294	8,965
Cyfanswm Gwariant	108,900	124,015	15,115	9,292	5,823
Incwm	(43,510)	(58,576)	(15,066)	(11,167)	(3,899)
Cyfraniad o Cronfeydd Tuag at Wariant Un Tro	0	(16,259)	(16,259)	(7,294)	(8,965)
Cyfanswm Net	65,390	49,180	(16,210)	(9,170)	(7,041)

ABERDOVEY HARBOUR	Financial Performance for the Period 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025 - November 2024 Review				
	BUDGET FOR THE PERIOD 1/4/24 TO 31/3/25	EXPENDITURE FORECASTED 1/4/24 TO 31/3/25	OVER (UNDER)	August Review	Variance between August & November Reviews
Employees	73,450	71,056	(2,394)	(1,894)	(500)
Buildings	26,010	15,289	(10,721)	(10,133)	(588)
Transport	810	742	(68)	(218)	150
Supplies & Services	8,630	20,668	12,038	14,242	(2,204)
One - Off Expenditure - Financed from Reserves	0	16,259	16,259	7,294	8,965
Total Expenditure	108,900	124,015	15,115	9,292	5,823
Income	(43,510)	(58,576)	(15,066)	(11,167)	(3,899)
Contribution from Reserves Tow	0	(16,259)	(16,259)	(7,294)	(8,965)
Total Net	65,390	49,180	(16,210)	(9,170)	(7,041)