

MEETING	Porthmadog Harbour Consultative Committee
DATE	11th March 2020
TITLE	Update on Harbour Management Matters
AUTHOR	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 Porthmadog 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 2019 to March 2020, in order to receive feedback from the members on safety matters and the operational matters of the Harbour.
- 1.3 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. The order provides that fifteen (15) members serve on the Porthmadog Harbour Consultative Committee. A comprehensive list of the groups and organisations represented on the Harbour committee is contained in the Harbour Order.

2. Porthmadog Moorings and Boat Registration.

- 2.1 In accordance with previous years, an underwater inspection of the moorings within the harbour will take place under the guidance of the Harbourmaster. A number of enquiries have already been received at the harbour office to date concerning harbour moorings and boat registrations for the forthcoming year.

3. Port Marine Safety Code.

- 3.1.1 The Port Marine Safety Code ('PMSC') sets out a government led 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 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.

- 3.1.2 The Service has in place a fully revised and updated Port Marine Safety Code for the Harbours of Gwynedd including the harbour of Porthmadog, approved by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency following inspections conducted last year.
- 3.1.3 As a matter of standard practice, the Service will continue to review its Port Marine Safety Code. Members of the Consultative Committee should submit any observations they may have on the suitability of the Safety Code together with any observations on the work arrangements of the harbour, to ensure the code remains relevant to local harbour operations.

4. Staffing Matters.

The Harbour Authority is pleased to confirm that it now has three assistant harbourmasters in full time employment with Gwynedd Council, working across the harbours of Porthmadog, Barmouth and Aberdyfi. In contrast to seasonally appointed staff, in following a structured training programme, the newly appointed assistant harbourmasters will provide enhanced professionalism, better working arrangements and facilitate succession planning within the Service.

5. Financial Matters.

5.1 A brief summary of the harbour budget and current financial situation up to the end of the financial year will be distributed to the Committee at the meeting.

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

- The employment of a full time Harbour Assistant
- Maintenance of navigational aids and beacons including the Porthmadog Fairway Buoy
- Maintenance and operation of the of Harbour vessels including the purchase of additional equipment for the Powercat patrol vessel, in order to meet the Code of Practice requirements to enable the vessel to proceed to sea
- Maintenance of grounds and street furniture

5.3 Fees and Charges. 2020/21.

The Service will provide the Committee with the details of fees and charges for Porthmadog Harbour during the period April 2020 – April 2021 together with the Powerboat and Personal Watercraft launching fees for the same period on the day of the meeting

6. Harbourmasters Report. The Harbourmaster at Porthmadog will provide a summary of the Navigational and Operational matters undertaken and encountered during the period October 2019 March 2020 inclusive, including maintenance issues. A copy of his report is the main document.