

MEETING	Porthmadog Harbour Consultative Committee.
DATE	7th March 2023
TITLE	Update on Harbour Management Matters
AUTHOR	Senior Harbour Officer

1. Introduction.

- 1.1 The Committees 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 ending March 2023, in order to receive feedback from the members on safety matters and the operational matters of the Harbour.

2. Porthmadog Moorings and Boat Registration.

- 2.1 In accordance with previous years, it is anticipated that an underwater inspection of the moorings within the harbour will take place before the Easter period, subject to the commitments of the mooring contractor, tidal and weather conditions.
- 2.2 The Gwynedd Council Powerboat and Personal Watercraft registration system will continue to be administered through an online arrangement, allowing customers to choose the most suitable location to collect registration and launch permits. Following the success of that arrangement, it is now hoped to allow mooring customers to both confirm and pay for their harbour mooring via a similar on-line system.

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.
 - 3.1.1 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 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 Porthmadog Harbour.
 - 3.1.3 The Service is due to review and update the Port Marine Safety Code this year to ensure safety standards within the harbours of Gwynedd are maintained. An annual external audit of the code is also expected to be undertaken by the defined designated person, Captain Matthew Forbes, Conwy Harbourmaster later in the year.

4. Staffing Matters.

- 4.1 Harbour staff have continued to work from the harbour office throughout the winter period to ensure the safety of the harbour.

4.2 The Harbourmaster and his assistant have undertaken a winter maintenance work programme, in addition to providing assistance with required work at the harbours of Aberdyfi and Barmouth. Further work is to be carried out particularly in relation to the harbour moorings and 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 new 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 moorings
- Maintenance and operation of the of Harbour patrol vessels
- Maintenance of land and street furniture
- Purchase and maintenance of tools and equipment including safety equipment

5.3 **Fees and Charges. 2023/24.** The Service currently awaits confirmation with regard to the draft fees and charges for Porthmadog Harbour, together with the Powerboat and Personal watercraft launching fees for 2023/24 season. It has been indicated that mooring fees and charges will, in general, rise by 6%.

6. **Harbourmasters Report.** The Harbourmaster at Porthmadog has provided a brief summary of the Navigational and Operational matters undertaken and encountered during the period October 2022 - March 2023 inclusive, including maintenance issues. A copy of his report is attached.