

MEETING	Aberdyfi Harbour Consultative Committee.
DATE	21 st 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 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 ending March 2023, 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 Before the Easter period and in accordance with previous years, the harbourmaster and his assistant will undertake a survey of the river to determine the most suitable location for the placement of harbour moorings.
- 2.2 A new mooring contractor service is to be provided this year under the name of Aberdyfi Marine Services. This service is in addition to the mooring service currently provided by the firm of Underwater Maintenance and Inspections Services, who have been laying harbour moorings at Aberdyfi for many years.
- 2.3 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 Aberdyfi 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 whilst work has been on-going to renew the harbour quayside.
- 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 Porthmadog 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
 - 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 Aberdyfi 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 8.5%.

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 2022 - March 2023 inclusive, including maintenance issues. A copy of his report is attached.