

MEETING	Porthmadog Harbour Consultative Committee
DATE	27th February 2024
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 2023 to February 2024, 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. Porthmadog Moorings and Boat Registration.

- 2.1 Before the Easter period, the Harbourmaster and his Assistant will oversee the renewal of the ground mooring and riser chains sited in the harbour. The work is to be undertaken by a locally appointed mooring contractor.
- 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, 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 harbour environment.

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 by-laws, safety matters and general day to day work at Porthmadog Harbour.

4. Staffing Matters.

4.1 The Harbourmaster Mr Malcolm Humphreys and his assistant Mr Richard Hughes continue to provide a Service to harbour customers and visitors alike at Porthmadog Harbour. Should work commitments dictate, Maritime staff based at the harbours of Abermaw and Aberdyfi are also able to assist if required.

4.2 During the winter period, the officers have undertaken maintenance work at the harbour, in addition to work undertaken at Borth-Y-Gest and on the nearby beaches at Morfa Bychan and Criccieth.

4.3 The position of a full time Beach Officer based at Porthmadog harbour, to work along the beaches of the nearby coastline, has now been filled. Following an interview process, the successful candidate Mr Math Roberts will commence with the Service on the 1st March 2024. As usual, seasonal Beach Officers will also be appointed in time for the start of the busy summer period, to work on the beaches of Morfa Bychan and Criccieth.

5. Financial Matters.

5.1 A brief summary of the harbour budget and current financial situation up to the end of the current financial year will be provided by the Maritime 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. 2024/25.

With regard to the prospective fees and charges for Porthmadog Harbour together with the Powerboat and Personal Watercraft launching fees for 2024/2025 season, as on previous occasions, the Service intends to adjust the fees in line with the prevailing rate of inflation at the time. However, no decision has yet been made to confirm the level of fees to be applied next season.

6. Harbourmasters Report. The Harbourmaster at Porthmadog will provide a summary of the Navigational and Operational matters undertaken and encountered during the period October 2023 - February 2024 inclusive, including maintenance issues. A copy of his report is attached.