

MEETING	Pwyllgor Ymgynghorol Harbwr Abermaw
DATE	22 nd October 2024
TITLE	Harbourmasters report
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H1 Navigational issues

- 1.1 The course of the primary navigable channel into the harbour has remained relatively constant throughout the summer period. As a consequence, it has not been necessary to move any of the navigational aids. Harbour Staff will continue to monitor the movement of the sandbanks within the channel waters and position the navigational aids as required, to provide the safest route into and out of the harbour.
- 1.2 There has been a noticeable change in the secondary channel leading to the harbour quay wall from the breakwater, which has been impacted by wind-blown sand. This has caused silt to build up in that area, creating difficulties for vessels approaching and leaving the harbour wall at low tides.
 - 1.2.1 To ensure vessel safety, the harbour staff request that mariners wishing to moor alongside the quay wall, make contact with the harbour office prior to making any approach.
- 1.3 Following extensive works on the railway bridge spanning the estuary, navigational access underneath the bridge is now unrestricted.
- 1.4 There are currently no Local Notice to Mariners in force at the harbour of Barmouth, with all aids to navigation on station and fully functional.
- 1.5 An inspector from Trinity House, the Lighthouse Authority for the area, is expected to undertake an audit of the aids to navigation at Barmouth harbour during the month of October. Following the inspection, a report will be received, the result of which will be shared with the Committee at the next meeting.
- 1.6 The Sevice wish to remind mariners of the need to maintain a radio watch on VHF Channel 12 during their stay at Barmouth Harbour. Contact with the harbour office should also be made prior to any departure or arrival at the harbour in order to obtain the latest navigational and weather information.

H2 Operational Issues

- 2.1 Unseasonal weather on the evening of the 29th September, led to the submergence of two vessels on the small trot moorings within the harbour. A third vessel became swamped by waves near to the starboard hand No 3 Buoy, and a sailing vessel located on the trot moorings overlooked by the harbour office, broke free from its mooring.
 - 2.1.1 Harbour staff returned to duty to provide what assistance they could on the night, and they were able to secure the sailing vessel on the Bathhouse beach. All vessels affected on the night have since been recovered.

- 2.2 The Harbour 'Powercat' patrol vessel has been extensively used throughout the summer season. Harbour staff aboard the vessel have provided help and advice to local mariners and visitors alike using the navigable waters in the harbour.
- 2.2.1 This season, the harbour has seen fifty (50) visiting vessels utilise the Council owned visitors' moorings within the harbour. The harbour staff have received a number of positive comments regarding the picturesque nature of the harbour from the visitors. It is hoped that next season will be just as successful in attracting visiting vessels to the harbour.
- 2.3 Works have been undertaken by the Properties department of Cyngor Gwynedd to prevent water ingress at the gable end of the harbour office building. During the work, the Service took the opportunity to replace the VHF aerial mounted on the chimney, which now provides enhanced coverage beyond the limits of the harbour.
- 2.4 The Service has invested in an all-terrain vehicle, for use on the main and Bathhouse beaches. The vehicle is useful when driving on soft sand and can be easily manoeuvred on crowded beaches during the summer months. The vehicle will also be particularly useful to the harbour staff in dealing with animal carcasses.

H3 Maintenance

- 3.1 Prior to the commencement of the summer period the engines of the harbour 'Powercat' patrol vessel underwent an annual service. The work was undertaken by a local marine engineer. Harbour staff further maintained the vessel, completing anti-fouling work on the vessel hulls and vessel equipment checks.
- 3.2 The 'Fairway buoy' safe water mark, together with the port-hand aids to navigation, numbers 4,6 and 10 will undergo an annual service this winter. The work is to be undertaken by a local mooring contractor. A replacement 'Fairway buoy' has already been prepared by harbour staff, which is ready for deployment, subject to the purchase of new mooring equipment.
- 3.3 Harbour staff are continuing to number the mooring buoys located in the harbour waters, for ease of customer recognition. Customer moorings in the harbour have increased this season. The available space for moorings is gradually becoming limited, with due regard to the available depth of water in the harbour in association with the size and type of vessel requesting a mooring.
- 3.4 The tipping trailer used by the harbour staff has received an annual service, undertaken by the fleet department of Cyngor Gwynedd. The trailer has been used extensively to assist in clearing waste materials from the harbour compound to the nearest re-cycling centre.
- 3.5 Continued inspection and maintenance of the harbour environment is carried out by harbour staff on a weekly basis. Items that need urgent attention are addressed quickly with non-urgent items added to a winter works programme.

H4 Other Matters

- 4.1 **Compound Road:** The Service has invested in an automatic traffic barrier located at the entrance to Compound Road, to prevent indiscriminate parking by unauthorised persons. The barrier is now fully operational. Commercial operators in the harbour

waters and compound users have been provided with a fob, providing access to the site.

- 4.2 **Harbour Security:** The closed circuit television system (CCTV) around the harbour has been upgraded and enhanced to provide additional security coverage. Harbour staff are now able to have an excellent overview of the harbour area, whilst undertaking office duties. The system installed also provides a recording facility during the time the harbour office is closed.
- 4.3 **Harbour Pontoon;** Work continues on refurbishing the harbour pontoon, which for the time being remains out of the water on the harbour front. The pontoon is a great asset to the harbour, and the Service are hopeful that it will be returned to its location adjacent to the harbour wall in time for the start of the busy season next year.
- 4.3.1 The Service wish to thank the Town Council for their undertaking and continued financial support of the harbour pontoon.
- 4.4 **Fairbourne** The introduction of the new slip access onto Fairbourne beach last year has had very positive feedback and was continued this season. The slip access is to be re-graded before the winter period to reinstate the sea defence.
- 4.5 **Penrhyn Point.** The Service advise that it has exercised its powers conferred by Section 56 of the Harbours, Docks and Piers Clauses Act 1847, to remove a sunken vessel from the harbour waters, that had been located near to Fairbourne point.

5. Events

- 5.1 The harbour at Barmouth saw a successful year of events organised by the Local Council and other private organisations. The Service would like to thank everyone involved for all their hard work and co-operation. The following events were amongst those events that took place at the harbour this year,

- Barmouth Festival/Carnival
- Food Festival
- Kite Festival
- 10k Race
- Hurly Burly Event
- Walking Festival
- Sea2Sky Ultra event

Further events yet to take place include a motorcross event and a firework display to be held on the beach.

- 5.2 The Service wish to advise organisers of proposed events of the need to provide early notification to the harbour office. This is to ensure that all safety protocols and administration processes can be assessed before an event. Events will not be permitted to take place unless written permission has been obtained from the Service.