# ABERDYFI HARBOUR CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE, 17 MARCH 2026

**Present:**

**Gwynedd Councillors:** Councillors Robert Dewi Owen, Anne Lloyd Jones. John Pughe.

**Co-opted Members:** David Williams (Aberdyfi Improvements and Advertising Committee), Guy Shaw (Member of Dyfi Yacht Club), Al Crisp (Outward Bound Trust Wales), Phil Morgan (Aberdyfi RNLI).

**Observers:** Councillor Gwilym Jones (Observer of Porthmadog Harbour Consultative Committee).

**Officers present:**
Bryn Pritchard-Jones (Maritime Service Manager), William Arthur Stockford (Aberdyfi Harbourmaster), Llyr Beaumont Jones (Assistant Head - Economy and Community Department) Dan Cartwright (Senior Harbours Officer), Courtney Jones (Democracy and Civic Services Officer), Rhodri Jones (Democracy Services Officer).

## 1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Medwyn Hughes, and Mr Ian Baylis.

## 2. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

There were no declarations of personal interest.

## 3. MINUTES

It was accepted that the minutes of the meeting of this Committee held on 14 October 2025 were a true record.

With reference to the action points raised at the last meeting, they were reported and an update was given on both matters;

- It was confirmed that a breakdown of the harbour's sources of income had been included in the report on the harbour management matters, as requested at the last meeting.
- A report was given on the water quality of Aberdyfi Harbour. It was confirmed that Natural Resources Wales was responsible for monitoring pollution and water quality. It was noted that there were two sampling points at Aberdyfi, namely the main beach, and Aberdyfi Rural. It was reported that the classifications had been published at the end of last year by NRW, and that both samples had been classified as 'excellent'.
- It was noted that bacteria levels had only risen to a high level for 3 days. It was explained that the information was public on NRW's website and that regular warnings were issued regarding water quality following periods of heavy rainfall.

It was noted that 31 warnings had been issued last year in the bathing season to highlight the possibility that water could be affected. Assurance was given that the warnings were widely distributed among users of the Harbour and the visitor centre in Aberdyfi. It was also confirmed that there was no information about the discharge of sewage into the water, which was positive news. The officer was thanked for the information.

## 4. UPDATE ON HARBOUR MANAGEMENT MATTERS

The report was presented by the Senior Harbours Officer, and members were guided through the report, with the following key points highlighted:

- Details were given of the data as part of the Maritime Service's performance monitoring and management arrangements. Referring to the performance data, it was highlighted that not much had changed significantly over the winter period. It was noted that the number of mooring contracts at Aberdyfi had increased from 73 to 83 from 2023/24 to 2025/26, and that the Harbour Office had recently received several enquiries regarding new moorings. It was noted that this was an encouraging indication that the numbers were likely to increase further compared to previous seasons.

- The harbour staff were thanked for their dedication, service and professionalism, noting that this was reflected in the positive feedback received from local mariners and visitors to the Harbour. Members were reminded that the registration system would reopen on 1 April, and they were urged to remind mariners to register and renew their licences at that time.

- Reference was made to the data in the table relating to customer satisfaction. There was pride in the fact that the level of customer satisfaction had steadily increased over the past three years. The harbour staff were thanked for their dedication and hard work in maintaining a high-quality service, noting that these positive outcomes reflected their commitment and professionalism.

- There was a report on Harbour safety. It was confirmed that Mr Owen Morgan had been appointed as the new 'Designated Person' for Cyngor Gwynedd, and that he had carried out inspections of the harbours in Gwynedd, including the harbours of Aberdyfi, Barmouth, Porthmadog and Hafan Pwllheli. The outcomes of the audits were noted as being positive and that the Service was due to submit its Compliance Statement and publish its Safety Code documentation on the Council's website before the end of March.

- The severe weather and increasing storms experienced over the winter of 2025/26 were mentioned. It was noted that Aberdyfi Harbour had sustained very little damage during that period.

- Details were given of the Harbour's resources and budget along with an updated timetable for 2026/27 costs. It was noted that most of the costs had increased gradually and as expected in line with inflation levels. Reference was made to the variation in costs between the harbours as shown in the table in

the report. It was confirmed that the costs of registering power boats had also increased slightly due to inflation levels.

- An update was given on the harbour's budget situation. It was highlighted that Aberdyfi Harbour had underspent, which was positive news.

- The income allocation was detailed, in line with a previous request by Committee Members for a more detailed breakdown of sources of income for the Harbour.

- Reference was made to the developments underway in relation to the proposed building for the Aberdyfi Harbour Office. It was confirmed that a company had been commissioned to prepare plans which would support the submission of a planning application and ensure that the design met all relevant planning and regulatory requirements.

- It was asked whether a timetable had been set for the work programme? In response it was confirmed that officers in the Property Department were continuing to work on the project, and that the planning application would hopefully be successful.

- It was confirmed that work on the jetty was now underway. It was explained that the project involved replacing or reusing the existing timber boards, as well as replacing the edging strips. It was noted that an effort was being made to complete the work at the earliest opportunity while minimising any disruption to Harbour users.

An update was provided on the operational matters of Aberdyfi Harbour by the Harbourmaster.

Information on the navigation matters of the harbour was presented, noting that there were currently five Notices for Mariners in force relating to the approaches to the River Dyfi. It was explained that this was due to ongoing maintenance requirements, and harsh sea conditions and weather. It was noted that the service advised mariners to contact the Harbour Office and refer to the Local Notice to Mariners for up-to-date information regarding navigation into Aberdyfi Harbour.

It was confirmed that an order had been placed for a new Outer Buoy, after the previous outer buoy was washed ashore during a winter storm. It was noted that the new buoy was expected to be delivered in the near future.

It was noted that refurbishment work on the jetty was scheduled to begin in early March, focusing on replacing the wooden decking boardswhere necessary.
It was noted that stakeholders and members of the public would be notified of the developments and timescales when appropriate and that every effort would be made to complete the work with as little disruption as possible to Harbour users.

Details were given of the ongoing maintenance work, highlighting the main points:

- It was noted that work had been carried out to clean all Harbour surfaces in order to remove algae growth and weeds, improving the safety and overall appearance of the harbour. Reference was made to an investment of £4,500 in a new bowser and pressure washer which were used to support this work.
- It was noted that significant refurbishment works had been completed on the harbour workboat trailer, including the installation of a new hitch, axle and wheels.
- It was confirmed that the Harbour Patrol Vessel had been transported to Porthmadog to undergo its Workboard Code 3 inspection, and to carry out a full engine service. The vessel had now returned to Aberdyfi and was ready for the next season. It was noted that extensive works had been completed on Aid to Navigation No2, including a full strip down, rebuild and steelwork repairs by Aberdyfi Marine Services. Assurance was given that repairs to the steelworks and Aid to Navigation No2 had also been carried out. It was noted that the aid was now in good condition and fully functional.
- It was explained that new stainless-steel tie-up rings had been fabricated for the two sets of steps on the quay which would be installed before Easter. It was confirmed that maintenance work was ongoing on the compound, and that arrangements were in place to install a skip to remove accumulated materials and debris. It was noted that work on the removal and burial of carcasses along the foreshore was ongoing. The fact that the service had invested in a new 4x4 vehicle to support staff was welcomed, noting that this would allow officers to carry out their duties safely and effectively across the Harbour and beach areas.
- A Member asked if arrangements were in place to clear the sand on the promenade and car park before the start of the Easter period? It was recognised that the wind was causing ongoing challenges and leading to a significant accumulation of sand in the area. It was confirmed that officers would make every effort to clear the litter from the beach, promenade and car park but it was noted that sand movement was an ongoing problem. It was explained that seasonal officers would be appointed to support maintenance works and to help keep the Harbour and beach clear and safe.

- A Member noted that he had noticed young people camping and sleeping in the sand dunes on Aberdyfi beach, and enquired what arrangements were in place to monitor and manage the situation from a health and safety perspective. It was clarified that the Service did not have enforcement powers to remove campers, but that action could be taken in relation to littering, lighting fires or other relevant offences. It was also noted that Natural Resources Wales had legal powers in relation to damage to the sand dunes, and assurance was given that officers contacted the organisation as soon as possible if any problem emerged.

The recent events at the Harbour were detailed, noting that training at Clwb Hwylio Dyfi Yacht Club had continued throughout the winter with many members successfully completing level 2 Powerboat certificates. Kate and Dan Stevens were congratulated on being recognised for their outstanding contribution in winning the 'Volunteer of the Year Award' at the Gwynedd Sports Awards.

Reference was made to the upcoming confirmed events, including:

- Dyfi X Half Marathon in April
- Aberdyfi 13km Swimming Race in June
- Dyfi Aquathlon, 26km in September.

It was hoped that the weather would be nice to support arrangements for the events and all event organisers were wished every success. Assurance was given that the service continued to support safe operating procedures within the Harbour to ensure that all events could be held safely.

The kite event was referred to and it was confirmed that discussions were underway to hold the event in Aberdyfi. Members were welcome to get in touch if they would like to hold an event at the harbour.

Assurance was given that the service was in the process of recruiting seasonal staff. It was noted that staff had attended a careers fair in the hope of attracting more interest in the jobs. Thanks were given for the report and information. The maritime staff were thanked for maintaining the harbours and praised for providing an excellent service.

**RESOLVED**

**To note and accept the reports.**

**5. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**The next meeting was confirmed to be on 17 November 2026**

The meeting commenced at 10:00am and concluded at 11:45am.

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(Chair)