

ANGUS COUNCIL

ARBROATH HARBOUR JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

MINUTE of MEETING of the **ARBROATH HARBOUR JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**, held in Room G1, Bruce House, Arbroath on Friday 13 September 2024 at 3.00pm.

Present:

Council

Representatives: Councillors SERENA COWDY, LOUISE NICOL and MARTIN SHEPHERD.

Harbour Users'

Representatives: PETER ANELLI (Arbroath Sailing and Boating Club)
PAUL SIMPSON (Boat Builders/Repairers)
ALEX SMITH (Fare Paying Passenger Boat Owners)
BOB TEVIOTDALE (Arbroath and Montrose Static Gear Association)

Officers in

Attendance: IAN COCHRANE (Service Leader, Roads and Transportation)
BRUCE FLEMING, (Angus Council Harbour Master)
RORY TOSH (Senior Accountant, Angus Council)
SARAH FORSYTH (Angus Council, Democratic Services, Committee Manager)
ELAINE DOAK (Angus Council, Democratic Services, Committee Officer)

Councillor Serena Cowdy, Convener, in the Chair.

1. APOLOGIES/SUBSTITUTES

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Jack Cruickshanks and Brenda Durno, Ron Churchill, Lifeboat Operation Manager (RNLI) and Graeme Dailly, Director of Infrastructure and Environment.

At this stage in the meeting, the Convener read the following statement received from Councillor Jack Cruickshanks -

'I would be grateful if you can inform the board how pleased I am to join them. I would also like you to mention that I recently had the privilege of experiencing a Harbour tour thanks to Alex Smith. On this visit I learned about the challenges and opportunities facing the harbour. I am determined to learn more about the Harbour over the coming months and to play my part in ensuring it remains a cherished asset for the area. As a member of the newly formed Arbroath Town Board, I want all board members here to know that I see the Harbour as central to our plans to regenerate Arbroath. I look forward to working with you all, and please do not hesitate to get in touch if I can be of any help.'

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND STATEMENTS OF TRANSPARENCY (ELECTED MEMBERS ONLY)

The Committee agreed to note that there were no declarations of interest or statements of transparency made.

3. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minute of meeting of this Committee of 26 April 2024 was submitted and approved as a correct record.

4. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising from the previous minute.

5. ARBROATH HARBOUR – AUTUMN REPORT

With reference to Article 5 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 26 April 2024, there was submitted Report No 269/24 by the Director of Infrastructure and Environment, outlining

details of operations at the Harbour since the previous meeting, and considering contemporary matters of relevance to Harbour activities.

The Committee agreed to note, and approve as appropriate, the contents of the Report, particularly highlighting the following points:

(1) Administrative Matters

(a) Financial Update

The Arbroath Harbour actual net revenue expenditure (after income) in 2023/24 was £0.068m, which compared to a budgeted net revenue expenditure of £0.076m resulted in a favourable overall budget saving of £0.008 for financial year 2023/24. For 2024/25 at that time, it was estimated there would be a minor budget deficit of £0.014m compared to the £0.182m budget as outlined in Appendix 1 of the Report. The final 2024/25 actual position for Arbroath Harbour would be fully contained within the Infrastructure and Environment Directorate's overall budget for 2024/25.

(b) Oil Spill Contingency Planning and Response

With reference to item 6(1)(b) of the minute of the meeting of this Committee of 26 April 2024, it was noted that there had not been any oil spills in the harbour.

The Harbour Master and Senior Harbour Assistant continued to hold MCA Level 4/5 Oil Spill Response Manager's Certificates with all three Harbour Assistants now qualified to MCA Level 2 – Sorbents & Equipment. Two of the Harbour Assistants attended an MCA Level 2 – Sorbents & Equipment refresher course on 13 June 2024.

Angus Council continued to retain the services of Briggs Environmental Services Ltd. to deal with the higher-level pollution incidents not only at the harbour but throughout the whole of the council should they occur.

The current 5-year Oil Spill Contingency Plan (OSCP) for Arbroath Harbour continued to be a live document and various exercises were carried out by the harbour staff throughout the year to ensure that the proper amount of oil spill equipment was held at the harbour, staff were familiar with the use of the equipment and that all contact details in the Plan were current and up to date.

Details of these exercises and any clean-up operations carried out were recorded and forwarded to the MCA as annual returns to comply with the requirements of the OSCP & Port Marine Safety Code. The next round of annual returns would be sent to the MCA in January 2025.

(c) Scottish Ports Meeting

With reference to item 5(1)(c) of the minute of the meeting of this Committee on 26 April 2024, it was noted that the last Scottish Port Meeting was held on 27 June 2024 in Inverness which the Harbour Master was unable to attend.

It was noted that the next meeting of the Scottish Ports would be in November in Edinburgh which would tie in with the annual Scottish Parliament Maritime Reception. The Harbour Master was proposing to attend both these events.

(d) Compounded Berths

With reference to item 6(1)(d) of the minute of meeting of this Committee on 26 April 2024, two commercial fishing boats had been sold and had left the harbour. *Jessica Maya* and *Oor Lass*. *Van D'ete* had replaced *Oor Lass* in the harbour.

The number of compounded berths taken up in the Harbour was 34, made up of commercial fishing boats (25), fare paying passenger boats (1) and pleasure boats (8).

The remaining 4 boats currently berthed in the harbour did not have a compounded berth and were paying a weekly berthing rate.

(e) Pontoon Berths

With reference to item 6(1)(e) of the minute of meeting of this Committee on 26 April 2024, it was noted that the pontoon berths continued to remain at maximum occupancy. There were 52 annual berths occupied and 7 berths which were available for visiting yachts.

Because the average length of boats visiting the harbour had increased over the years, there were not always six berths available on the hammerhead pontoons for visitors as some of the boats took up more than one pontoon finger. The Harbour Master had taken the decision to free up another 10m pontoon to make this available for visitors and relieve the pressure of occupancy on the hammerhead pontoons.

The Committee noted that there were currently 25 names on the waiting list for an annual pontoon berth and the Harbour Master was not taking any further names at the moment.

(f) Visiting Boat Numbers

The number of visiting pleasure boats to the harbour in the period 1 April 2024 to 31 August 2024 was 166. This represented a 4% decrease from the previous year. Although the numbers of visitors were similar to 2023, it was likely that if the weather had been better the numbers of visitors may have been more. In this period 24% of visiting boats were from Europe.

The members noted that of the pleasure boats that did visit the harbour, the average length of stay was 2.51 nights which was consistent with previous years proving that Arbroath was continuing to be a go to location.

Year	Numbers of Visiting Craft	Increase/Decrease (%)	Number of nights paid by visiting boats	Average length of stay (nights)
1 April 2019 – 31 August 2019	214	+9%	516	2.41
1 April 2020 – 31 August 2020	71	-67%	163	2.30
1 April 2021 – 31 August 2021	150	+111%	407	2.71
1 April 2022 – 31 August 2022	208	+39%	551	2.65
1 April 2023 – 31 August 2023	173	-17%	429	2.48
1 April 2024 – 31 August 2024	166	-4%	417	2.51

(g) Staffing

With reference to item 6(1)(f) of the minute of the meeting of this Committee on 26 April 2024 the staffing of the harbour moved onto winter hours from 1 October 2024. The harbour would be staffed from 7am to 6pm Monday to Friday and 7am to 4.30pm Saturday and Sunday. These arrangements would continue through to 30 March 2025 before reverting to the summer hours on 31 March 2025.

(2) Engineering Matters

(a) Inner Harbour Gates

With reference to item 6(2)(a) of the minute of the meeting of this Committee on 26 April 2024, there had been no operational problems with the dock gates during the intervening period.

The opening and closing times of the dock gates moved to the winter schedule from 1 October 2024. Opening and closing times continue to be routinely posted outside the Harbour Office and on the security gate leading on to the pontoons, generally one month in advance. The opening times for the dock gates up to and including March 2025 had been calculated and would be posted on the Arbroath Harbour page of the Council's website.

(b) Maintenance Dredging Operations

With reference to item 6(2)(b) of the minute of this committee on 26 April 2024 it was proposed the next dredge of the harbour would be in April/May 2025 and it was proposed to put out a tender for this work in the coming weeks on the Public Contracts Scotland portal.

The current dredging licence expired on 12 July 2024. The Harbour Master had sample analysis carried out of the silt within the harbour and in May 2024 completed the application process to obtain a new 3-year licence. The application had been submitted to Marine Scotland, it had been assessed and was currently out for consultation with the statutory consultees.

If there were no issues with the application, it was expected that the new licence would come into force in November 2024.

The cost of dredging approximately 8,000m³ of silt from the Harbour had risen significantly in recent years and now far exceeded the allocated budget. To mitigate this, the dredging interval had been extended from 12 to approximately 18 months, however a budget issue remained. It was recognised that dredging was essential to maintain safe operation and navigational passage for all boats using the harbour. The Director of Infrastructure and Environment was therefore working closely with the Council's Finance team to ensure adequate budget provision moving forward. Proposals would be brought to elected members for approval as needed, as part of the council's budget-setting process.

Following discussion, the Harbourmaster agreed to report to the next meeting with more detail on how dredging would be budgeted.

(3) Other Items

(a) Port Marine Safety Code

Angus Council continued to use the services of APBMer as Designated Person for Arbroath Harbour under the Port Marine Safety Code (PMSC).

The Harbour Master continued to work regularly reviewing and improving the current Marine Safety Management System (MSMS). The harbour's MSMS was subject to an annual audit by the Designated Person, the results of which were reported back to the Communities Committee as Duty Holder. The next audit was scheduled for November 2024.

All members of the Communities Committee (The Duty Holder) had attended a supervised visit to the harbour where they were shown round the harbour by the Harbour Master and Director of Infrastructure and Environment. All members had also carried out Duty Holder training. Both the familiarisation visit and Duty Holder training were requirements under the PMSC.

A requirement of the PMSC was to have in place an up-to-date Marine Safety Plan. On 20 August 2024 the Communities Committee approved a new Marine Safety Plan 2024-2027 and associated policies. **(Report 229/24 refers)**. Included within the new plan are several period objectives, two of which were the proposed replacement of the slipway cradles and dock gates.

The Director of Infrastructure and Environment and the Harbour Master were looking at options and capital costs and proposals would be brought forward to elected members for their consideration as part of the budget-setting process.

(b) Fishmarket Roof

With reference to item 6(3)(b) of the minute of this committee on 26 April 2024 the roof of the fishmarket was planned to be replaced in May 2024. Due to some contractual issues between the council and the contractor this led to the works being cancelled.

Work was on going to re tender the works. It was proposed to replace the fishmarket roof in February/March 2025.

As before the Harbour Master had requested that the works were carried out in sections so that the fishmarket and walk in refrigerator could remain operational during the contract.

Harbour users would be kept advised as to the progress regarding an exact start date and the programme of works.

(c) Police Report

It was reported that the Harbour Master had been advised by Police Scotland that they would no longer be providing a report to include in the AHJCC report. Police Scotland would however continue to produce a report at the Community Council meetings.

Police Scotland also confirmed that going forward they would not be attending the AHJCC meetings either unless there was a specific reason to do so.

The Convener expressed disappointment that Police Scotland had taken this decision.

6. FURTHER ITEMS

Repairs and Improvement – Plan for Future – Peter Anelli

Mr Anelli raised issues regarding repairs and improvements. Following discussion, the Committee agreed that there should be more effective communication and earlier information provided around repairs and improvement. The Harbourmaster agreed to further investigate the frequency of dredging the harbour and would report to the next meeting.

There was further discussion regarding the removal of items from the harbour area. The Harbourmaster informed the Committee that notice has been issued to all fishermen requesting the removal of unwanted items and notices would be posted on items in future.

7. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The Committee noted the date of future meeting as shown below:

Friday 13 December 2024

All meetings to take place in Bruce House, Arbroath at 3pm.