

Minutes of a Meeting of the ABERAERON Harbour Users Consultative Committee held remotely via video-conference on Thursday, 19 October 2023

Representing Ceredigion County Council: Councillor Keith Henson (Chairman)
Councillors Elizabeth Evans and Matthew Vaux

Officers in Attendance: Gerwyn Jones, Owen Morgan, Katy Spain and Dana Jones

Harbour Users: Norman Robertson, Chis Seal, Owen Jones-Williams. Stephen Webb, Carl Rich, Jonathan Price Jones, David Nicholson, Jonathan Evans, Brett Stones, David Barnes, Mike Masters, Patricia Lewis, Sandra Cosslett

(5.30pm – 6.25pm)

1. **Apologies**

None.

2. **Minutes of the Meeting held on 16 March 2023**

It was AGREED that minutes of the meeting held on the 16 March 2023 were confirmed as a true record.

3. **Harbour Services Update**

Owen Morgan, Harbour Manager outlined the content of Calm Waters 5 and Members noted the content. It was reported that a stakeholder event was due to be held in the next month in relation to the Aberaeron Coastal Defence Scheme at County Hall. This would be an opportunity to question and raise any concerns. Members also stated that the Harbour surgeries were welcomed, however, the time was inconvenient to harbour users that worked. It was recognised that it would be difficult if not impossible to find a time which was suitable for all, however having scheduled meetings did provide a structure. This was only one of several ways stakeholders could engage with the Harbour Service. This was a relatively new arrangement and the service would review on an ongoing basis, thus far they had proven to be a positive interface between Harbour Users and the Harbour Service. It was also agreed that Cardigan Bay Code of Conduct would be displayed in the Yacht Club.

4. **Mooring Waiting List**

It was agreed to note the mooring waiting list as presented.

5. **Issued raised by Harbour Users**

The following issues were raised by Harbour Users and the County Councillor, Elizabeth Evans:-

- County Councillor Elizabeth Evans stated as part of the budget process she would be requesting that consideration be given to the charging of

the moorings on the foreshore and harbour that was encompassed in the Crown Estates

- Owen Morgan reported that all responses to questions sent prior to the meeting had been sent, however, Stephen Webb stated that the responses were not acceptable as in his opinion this forum was an opportunity to discuss these questions further. A number of the matters Harbour Users requested to be raised at the meeting were operational or personal in matter and these most appropriately raised by the other communication methods available to stakeholders.
- Owen Morgan confirmed that the service had a list of jobs that required addressing through the procurement and budget process to include the slip pole would be considered in due course.
- Stephen Webb raised the issue of moorings C1&2 which he considered to be allocated to Aberaeron Yacht Club. Owen Morgan advised that according to the Council's records it was only C1 that was formally allocated to Aberaeron Yacht Club. It was agreed that this would be discussed further following the meeting.
- In relation to the collapsing manhole adjacent to the Harbour Manager's officer and slipway, it was advised by Owen Morgan that this did not fall under the remit of the Harbour Service, further clarification had been sought from the Estates Service on the way forward to address the issue.
- = A harbour user advised that to address an issue with debris recently during inclement weather some stakeholders had taken it upon themselves to remove debris and requested if there was a protocol for future incidents and if it was the County Council or NRW that was responsible for the clean-up. The Harbour Service does not encourage or condone stakeholders entering the harbour for such purposes. It was reported that County Council were responsible for the river from the harbour side of the bridge on the A487. It was noted that this was an issue in boat owners obtaining insurance, in response, the Harbour Manager stated that all harbour users were aware of the risks and hazards of the harbour when applying for a mooring, however, he would be discussing the matter further with colleagues in procurement around engaging contractors at short notice in response to debris that did not naturally leave the harbour and which it was determined needed to be removed going forward.