

Minutes of a Meeting of the ABERYSTWYTH Harbour Users Consultative Committee held by video conference on Thursday, 20 October 2022

Ceredigion County Councillors: Keith Henson (Chairman), Endaf Edwards and Gethin Davies

Officers: Gerwyn Jones, Owen Morgan, Katy Spain, Nia Jones and Dana Jones

Harbour Users / Stakeholders: Andy Bradick, Chris Asham, Mike Lloyd

(7:35pm – 7:50pm)

1. Apologies

Mr Geraint Wheeler apologised for his inability to attend the meeting.

2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 12 March 2020

It was agreed to confirm as a true record the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on the 12 March 2020.

Matters Arising

None.

3 Harbour Services Update

The Harbourmaster provided members with a service update as provided in the recent issue of Calm Waters 3 and the following was highlighted in relation to Aberaeron Harbour:-

- Ceredigion Harbour Management Policy – it was agreed that a copy of the policy would be circulated to all Members with the minutes
- Port Waste Management Plans (PWMPs)
- Dredging
- Slipways- An harbour user reported that he had fell on the slipway due to the algae. It was reported that the slipway had been cleared, however, as the Council could no longer use a cleaner with chemicals for its removal, it was returning quicker, this would be monitored
- Health and Safety – Everyone's Responsibility
- Disembarkation
- Feedback

It was noted that the review of the Harbour Management Policy would be undertaken and the first draft would be sent out to all stakeholders for feedback at the beginning of next year. In general, it was reported that the Policy was fit for purpose.

Members thanked the Harbour Manager for the update.

4 Issues Raised by Harbour Users

Councillor Endaf Edwards requested an update on the Marina. The Harbourmaster read out a statement on behalf of the Economic Development service as follows:-

The Council is not in a position to comment on the undertakings of a private enterprise, nor would it be appropriate to comment on recent speculation surrounding the business.

In respect to public funding, the Council has fiduciary duties that necessitates undertaking legal and financial due diligence on any potential partner that may receive funding. Regular assessments have been undertaken throughout, with updated reviews being undertaken when updated information is received.

In respect of the Mid Wales Growth Deal, the proposal submitted by the Council does not involve the company as a formal partner at this stage. The initial bid for funding is for developing the public infrastructure and assets within the ownership of the Council, that would likely go to the market for development. The Council can therefore confirm that the overall aspiration and plans in relation to this particular proposal remain unchanged at this stage.

The Council has also been successful in securing £10.8m of Levelling Up Funding for Aberystwyth – this is a package bid that included additional works on the Old College, improvements to the Promenade and also the Harbour area.

A rapid review is being undertaken to understand any potential implications pertaining the marina element of project. The Council remains completely committed to realising the overall aspiration of regenerating the town, including longer term aspirations relating to the harbour area. Greater connectivity with the town, combined with improved recreational and leisure facilities remain central to the scheme's objectives.

Until the review has been completed, and the revised scheme detail is agreed with UK Government – the Council is not in a position to comment further on the detail.

The overall LUF scheme is progressing well, with developments at the Old College progressing and planning work well underway for the Promenade project. These will be communicated in due course, with an updated position on the Marina project.

Prom railings opposite South Marine Terrace Councillor Endaf Edwards noted that there was a gap in the prom railings opposite South Marine Terrace and there was a six foot drop the other side. It was reported that this wall was not part of the Harbour estate, and there was a need to report it through Clic, in order that the relevant service could address the issue.

Dredging

Clarification was sought if dredging had occurred down to the Pontoon. This wasn't an activity the Harbour Service made arrangements for. It had previously been undertaken as Injection Dredging by the Marina operator.

The Harbour Manager reported that he was currently working the Ecology to obtain a licence for dredging next year, stakeholders such as NRW would also be consulted.

5. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next Harbour Users meetings was scheduled for Thursday 16 of March 2023. The meetings would take place virtually via Zoom/Teams at 7pm.