

**Minutes of a meeting of the Barmouth Harbour Consultative Committee
held on 26 February, 2008 in the Council Chamber, Area Office, Barmouth**

PRESENT

Councillor Trevor Roberts (Chairman)

Councillors W. M. Meredith, Robert J. Hughes (Gwynedd Council), Cllrs. Valerie M^cArdell, R. Aeron Williams (Barmouth Town Council), Mrs. Wendy Ponsford (Barmouth Harbour and Estuary Users Association)

Observers: Cllr. D. C. Richardson (Aberdyfi Harbour Consultative Committee).

Officers

Mr. Barry Davies	-	Principal Maritime and Country Parks Officer
Mr Huw Davies	-	Group Engineer
Mr Glyn Jones	-	Harbour Master
Mr.Mark Stone	-	Harbour Assistant
Mrs Glynda O'Brien	-	Committee Officer
Mrs. Mererid Watt	-	Translator

Apologies: Councillor W. Roy Owen, M. L. Vaughan (Gwynedd Council), Dr J Jones Morris (Porthmadog Harbour Consultative Committee).

1. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

(a) The Chairman welcomed Councillor Val M^cArdell to her first meeting having been nominated to represent Barmouth Town Council to succeed Councillor Cadwaladr Williams

(b) Best wishes were extended to Councillor Wyn Myles Meredith on his impending retirement and the Chairman took the opportunity of thanking him for his contribution and support to this Committee over the years.

2. **MINUTES**

Submitted: Minutes of a meeting of the Barmouth Harbour Consultative Committee that was held on 9 October 2007.

Resolved: To receive and approve the minutes as a correct record.

3. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

(a) **Item 4 – Maritime Officer's Report**

Reported: By the Chairman that, with regard to resolution (C) on page 3 of the minutes in respect of concern regarding the cost of ensuring a Street Closure Order for events on the Promenade, he had been assured that there were no charges imposed on the organisers of the three events held in Barmouth.

Resolved - **That the above be noted**

(b) Item 5 – Matters to be considered at the request of Members of the Consultative Committee

Reported: That with regard to resolution (b) a reply was still awaited from the Highways and Municipal Services regarding that if any toilets which may have to be demolished due to their existing condition, should be re-built within the Harbour Area in order to continue with the same level of provision that currently exists.

Resolved: **That the Maritime Officer further seeks to bring the matter to the attention of the appropriate officer.**

4. MARITIME OFFICER’S REPORT

Submitted: The report of the Maritime Officer, Mr. Barry Davies, on activities in Barmouth harbour with specific reference to the following:

- (i) Fees and Charges
- (ii) Harbour Developments
- (iii) Ferry Service
- (iv) Budgets
- (v) Navigation

Reported: (a) By the Maritime and Countryside Parks Officer:

(i) Members were guided through the fees and charges and asked to note that there would be an increase of 4% in mooring fees and charges to residents permanently residing in Gwynedd whilst the increase for those residing outside Gwynedd would be 5%. This would hopefully assist the Harbour in reaching its income target. The fees and charges for launching and registration of Powerboats and Personal Watercraft would be increased by an average of 7%. The overall increase in the income target for 2008/09 was £62,040, increasing the overall income target to £2,070,880.

(ii) In the context of **harbour developments, the Maritime Officer informed the Committee** that he appreciated and welcomed the enthusiasm to have additional facilities for the Harbour and was still investigating the possibility of identifying a pontoon that would be suitable for positioning temporarily alongside the quay wall next to the harbour slipway. Members were asked to note that the “footwash” facility had been repositioned on the wall outside the Ferry Office and if it continued to be the subject of vandalism, the Maritime Services would have to consider removing the facility. The Maritime Services had inspected the slipway and were of the opinion that overall the condition of the slipway was good in comparison to other slipways along the coast. It was further noted that the trailer that was previously being used to launch yachts on this slipway was no longer being used and hopefully this would alleviate any damage in the future. All the electricity points had been inspected and modified in order to ensure that the facility complied with modern regulations. The CCTV unit was working satisfactorily and the Maritime Services valued the contribution made from harbour users.

- (iii) In the context of the **ferry service**, that the Maritime Service had drawn up relevant inspection forms together with equipment list for proprietors. Members were requested to note that the Maritime Unit can only licence vessels to operate on the waters of Barmouth which were within the categorized areas. Reference was made to the relevant Acts with regard to the operation of such vessels and the Harbourmaster or other suitably qualified or experienced staff would undertake any seamanship tests with the Boatman prior to the issuing of a Licence.
- (v) In the context of the **budget**, there was an anticipated over expenditure of **£19,000** in Barmouth Harbour by the end of March and that this was causing extreme concern. It was also anticipated that the income target would not reach its target. The Maritime Officer went on to explain the financial situation of the authority as a whole in terms of the need to make savings within each budget heading. This meant members having to make difficult decisions with regard to services and that the Maritime Service has to make radical changes in order to meet its estimated savings. He went on to say that 2008/09 would be challenging, especially for Barmouth, since the over expenditure and the deficit in income would need to be overcome, especially given the current financial climate of the Authority.
- (vi) In the context of **navigation**, that all aids had remained on station during the initial part of the winter months. Concern was expressed regarding the navigation marks belonging to Welsh Water, which require maintenance work. Trinity House had identified that maintenance work needs to be done and hopefully they will advise Welsh Water of the requirement to maintain the markers. The Maritime Officer agreed to write to Trinity House requesting that they chase up Welsh Water on this urgent matter.

Resolved:- (A) To receive and note the contents of the Principal Maritime and Country Parks Officer's report.

(B) to request that the Principal Maritime and Country Parks Officer writes to Trinity House requesting the need for Welsh Water to undertake maintenance work to their navigation marks in order that the navigational needs meet their requirements.

5. MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED AT THE REQUEST OF THE MEMBERS OF THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

The following issues, that had not been referred to in the Maritime and Country Parks Officer's report nor during previous discussions at this meeting, were considered with the officer's response to them:-

- (1) Pontoons – again a request was made for some form of temporary pontoons to be positioned alongside the quay wall as soft mud is accumulating in this area.
- (2) Main slipway still needs repairing. Filling it with concrete does not appear to be the answer. – *The Maritime Unit would make observations on this but do not agree that the slipway requires modification.*

- (3) Dredging has been a success but now needs to be extended along the wall – *There had been a significant investment over a short period of time but at the moment it was stated that there was no funding to undertake further dredging. The investment by Cyngor Gwynedd over the past two years had been in excess of 30K.*
- (4) It had been identified that the Slipway at the far end of the promenade needs repairing. *There was significant opposition locally to use the access ramp to the beach in this area and therefore the Maritime Unit was reluctant to re open the acces ramp in order to launch powerboats..*
- (5) Rod fishing from the Harbour wall should be monitored and supervised. *The Harbour Master assured members that he did endeavour to discourage fishermen from casting out but there has to be some give and take on both the fishermen and the sailors' part. The monitoring of rod fishing from the quayside would not be a priority as the activity was not causing undue harm or danger to other harbour users.*
- (6) The Blockwork on harbour is still in a very poor condition. As soon as it rains there are large puddles, this is getting worse especially around the Ferry shed electric post. *It was agreed to look at this but in the meantime the Maritime Officer would discuss the issue with the Group Engineer.*
- (7) The hole on the diesel area is getting much worse. *It was noted that the Harbour Master had contacted Tywyn Construction for a quotation to undertake the necessary work.*
- (8) Fendering on the ladders. Ladders need securing. Old ironwork was damaging boats. *The Maritime Officer stated that they have a duty to inspect the ladders and that inspection and repair work would be done immediately, if deemed necessary. The Harbourmaster would be directed to inspect the ladders weekly and to maintain a detailed log of each inspection and any repairs that were undertaken.*
- (9) Additional mooring rings are requested for tying up boats alongside the quay wall. *The Maritime Officer stated that if the member could identify where these are required, the Harbour staff would do this work before the start of the boating season.*
- (10) Toilets have been painted but the lighting is still appalling. *The Maritime Officer agreed to contact Mr Roger Dunn, the Municipal Group Engineer, with a request that action be taken.*
- (11) Mobile homes on the promenade caused major problems on the road last season. *The Chairman stated that an Order has been made to bring official charging on the promenade and also prohibiting caravans and mobile homes to park on the promenade.*
- (12) Beach patrol salaries. Where do they come from? *The funding for all beach officer posts was identified and covered within the budget appendices attached to the agenda.*
- (13) Can the application forms in respect of yacht moorings be sent out earlier in order to get mooring inspected in time? *The Maritime Officer stated that, with respect, they do aim to get the paperwork out on time and in addition will take a note of how many boats will be on the water during Easter.*

Resolved (a) To receive and note the comments made together with the response of the Maritime and Country Parks Officer on these.

6. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Reported: (a) By the Maritime Officer that he had attended a meeting recently with the Group Engineer, Mr John Williams (Assembly Government) and representatives of the Barmouth Harbour Basin Committee. He had found the meeting to be beneficial as far as officers were concerned to discuss realistic achievements to develop the Harbour. There were a number of issues which would mean huge expenditure one of which was to remove the causeway. However, the Maritime Unit was very keen to work with the Committee by, in the first instance, obtaining a feasibility study in order to achieve minor improvements such as:

- Re-aligning the quay wall and putting a pontoon in that area.
- Improvements to ramps
- Modernise the diesel facility

(b) By Mrs Wendy Ponsford that members of the Barmouth Harbour Basin was of the opinion that it had been a negative meeting. Their original idea was to dredge the area by the bath House building as the area has become silted up. It was felt that in order to get a more sustainable Harbour the number of moorings must be increased and they had hoped for support within that meeting to undertake a feasibility study. Mrs Ponsford requested as to the possibility that the Maritime Unit would provide details of the cost of moving the causeway.

(c) By the Chairman that the meeting held with the Welsh Assembly Government be re-convened at the earliest opportunity to discuss the matter further.

Resolved: That the above be noted.

7. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was reported that the next meeting of this Committee would take place on Tuesday, 7 October 2008.

Resolved To receive and note the above

CHAIRMAN