

## PORTHMADOG HARBOUR CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE 08/10/14

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**PRESENT:** Councillor Alwyn Gruffydd (Chairman)  
Councillor Selwyn Griffiths (Vice-chairman)

Councillors: Jason Humphreys (Gwynedd Council), along with Messrs Gwyn Davies (Porthmadog Town Council), Dr John Jones-Morris (Leisure Interests Representative), Robert Owen (Commercial Interests) and Peter Lunt Williams (RNLI).

**Cabinet Member:** Councillor John Wynn Jones (Cabinet Member for the Economy)

**ALSO PRESENT:** Barry Davies (Maritime and Country Parks Officer), Llŷr B. Jones (Senior Manager Economy and Community Department), David O'Neill (Harbour Master) and Bethan Adams (Member Support and Scrutiny Officer).

### 1. CHAIRMAN

**RESOLVED to re-elect Councillor Alwyn Gruffydd as chairman of this committee for the year 2014/15.**

### 2. VICE-CHAIRMAN

**RESOLVED to re-elect Councillor Selwyn Griffiths as vice-chairman of this committee for the year 2014/15.**

### 3. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

No declarations of personal interest were received from any members present.

### 4. MINUTES

The Chairman signed the minutes of the previous meeting of this Committee, held on 5 March 2014, as a true record.

### 5. MARITIME SERVICE REPORT

#### a) Harbour Consultative Committees

It was noted that steps had been taken to try to confirm the membership of the Consultative Committees of Barmouth and Aberdyfi Harbours, but as the Porthmadog Consultative Committee had been established under the Porthmadog Harbour Review Order 1998, therefore the membership of this Committee was more definite.

In response to an observation by a member regarding membership, the Maritime and Country Parks Officer noted that no formal response had been received from Porthmadog Town Council including the legal advice that they had received. It was emphasised that it was the Town Council that nominated a representative on their behalf as a co-opted member on this Committee.

**RESOLVED to send a letter to Porthmadog Town Council explaining the situation.**

#### b) Minutes of a Previous Meeting

Members' attention was drawn to the minutes of the meeting of the Consultative Committee held on 10 October, 2012. It was noted that the minute under the heading 'Safety' had

misinterpreted the discussion at the meeting where there had been a discussion on misbehaviour in the area around the harbour and an accident.

It was explained that the boy's mother had been in contact regarding the matter and she had expressed dissatisfaction with what had been recorded. It was emphasised that the accident where her son had been injured by a boat propeller had not been as a result of misbehaviour. It was emphasised that Members of the Committee were required to thoroughly examine the minutes and propose corrections prior to confirming the minutes.

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) That the Maritime and Country Parks Officer should contact the boy's mother regarding the misunderstanding;**
- (b) To send her a copy of the minutes of this meeting once they have been confirmed.**

**c) Ports Marine Safety Code**

The Senior Manager Economy and Community Department explained that a new procedure had been adopted in respect of Harbour Consultative Committees with the Ports Marine Safety Code one of the main drivers. It was noted that annual reports would go before the Cabinet and the Consultative Committee would be the forum for raising matters or highlighting concerns under the Ports Maritime Safety Code.

It was noted that copies of the Code had been distributed and a request was made that a further electronic copy was sent to the members.

**RESOLVED that the Maritime and Country Parks Officer sends an electronic copy of the Ports Maritime Safety Code to the members.**

**d) Harbour Staff**

It was noted that following the retirement of the Maritime Officer – Harbours, that the summer had been extremely challenging with the workload shared between the existing staff of the Service.

It was reported that the Harbour Master would be leaving his post soon to take the post of Harbour Master in Caernarfon with the Harbour Trust. He was thanked for his contribution over the years and this had contributed substantially to the improvements in the harbour's standards.

It was noted that the posts of the Harbour Master and the Maritime Officer – Harbours would be advertised in the near future.

Members expressed their appreciation of the Harbour Master's work and they wished him well.

The Maritime and Country Parks Officer elaborated on the work programme of the Service for the winter.

**e) Parking Safety Issues**

It was noted that the Commercial Interest Representative had drawn attention to the difficulties that vehicles faced in gaining access because individuals parked on the apex near the Sailing Club. In response to the observation, the leisure interest representative

noted that the Sailing Club was responsible for half of the road and that he would raise the matter at the meeting of the Sailing Club committee.

A member noted that the Council should be involved with discussions regarding the matter. In response, the Maritime and Country Parks Officer noted his willingness to be part of the discussions and that he would contact other officers in the Council regarding the matter.

**RESOLVED that the Maritime and Country Parks Officer will hold discussions with regard to parking safety issues near the Sailing Club.**

**f) Navigation and Moorings**

It was reported that following misbehaviour, boats had been forced to launch from the launch site located near the main entrance of Morfa Bychan beach rather than Cwt Powdwr, in order to ensure the safety of all users. It was noted that the situation had improved but it was not a complete resolution, therefore staff would continue to deal with incidents of misbehaviour.

A member thanked the officers for forcing boats to be launched from this point as there had been an improvement in the situation and this should be continued.

It was noted that Trinity House had undertaken a survey of the navigation aids and had given two warnings of a lack of compliance. It was explained that the warnings had been removed as a result of collaboration with Trinity House on a solution.

It was reported that it was intended to undertake a further survey of the moorings early in 2015 with a process of applying for estimates for the work in the pipeline.

**g) Statistics**

It was reported that the situation regarding the number of boats was consistent with the trend in all the harbours with three fewer boats in Porthmadog compared with last year.

The Maritime and Country Parks Officer noted that the list of the details of boats was unclear in the agenda because of the dark background of the table and he would distribute the information electronically to the members.

**RESOLVED that the Maritime and Country Parks Officer sends the details of boats in Porthmadog Harbour to the members electronically.**

**h) Budgets**

The Maritime and Country Parks Officer elaborated on the final budget of 2013/14, noting that a substantial investment had been made in chains and moorings. It was noted that the pay and display machine in the Harbour Office car park had generated an income of £5,609.97 and this had produced a heartening final budget of £6,623.

An update was provided of the budgetary position at the end of Quarter 2 of the 2014/15 financial year. It was noted that the target income for the year had nearly been achieved but as it was not intended to charge for parking in the car park near the Harbour Office over the winter period, there would be no substantial income during this period. The Officer added that he was confident that they would be in accordance with the budget at the end of the current financial year.

**i) 2015/16 Fees**

It was reported that it was proposed to increase fees in 2015/16 in line with inflation.

**j) Proposed Pontoon Plan**

The Maritime and Country Parks Officer noted that the Harbour Master had examined the possibility of installing pontoons in the harbour. It was added that there was a possibility that stakes could be installed in the harbour but a funding method had not been identified thus far. It was noted that it was proposed to hold further discussions regarding installing a pontoon near the side of the harbour wall with the Sailing Club.

In response to an observation by a member regarding the Sailing Academy in Pwllheli, the Maritime and Country Parks Officer noted that he was confident that this exciting development would create opportunities for other harbours as well as benefits for the wider area.

A member emphasised the importance of marketing/promoting the other harbours along with Pwllheli Marina.

**k) Dredging**

In response to a question from a member regarding dredging the harbour, the Senior Manager Economy and Community Department noted that the environmental processes associated with dredging were costly and lengthy. He added that there was a need to work with nature to find a solution especially in the current economic climate.

A member noted that the option of placing something on the bridge to try to resolve the silting problem in the harbour should be examined. In response, the Maritime and Country Parks Officer noted that he would make informal enquiries in to the matter.

**l) Water quality**

It was reported that the quality of the bathing water in Morfa Bychan had reached the requirements but this had not been confirmed formally thus far by Natural Resources Wales (NRW).

In response to a question by a member regarding the Welsh Water consultation in respect of their application to NRW to vary the licence of the Porthmadog Waste Water Treatment Works, the Maritime and Country Parks Officer noted that he had responded noting his objection to stopping the tertiary treatment, namely Ultraviolet (UV) disinfection.

**RESOLVED that the Maritime and Country Parks Officer contacts Welsh Water to seek an update on the situation in respect of Ultraviolet Disinfection Treatment in Porthmadog.**

**6. Next Meeting**

It was noted that the next meeting would be held on 4 March, 2015.

The meeting commenced at 5.30pm and concluded at 6.55pm