



Complete Agenda

Democracy Service
Swyddfa'r Cyngor
CAERNARFON
Gwynedd
LL55 1SH

Meeting

ABERDYFI HARBOUR CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Date and Time

10.30 am, TUESDAY, 21ST MARCH, 2023

Location

Virtual Meeting

For public access please contact us

Contact Point

Rhodri Jones

01286 679256

rhodrijones1@gwynedd.llyw.cymru

(DISTRIBUTED 13/03/23)

MEMBERSHIP:

Gwynedd Council:

John Pughe
Anne Lloyd-Jones
Dewi Owen

Local Member for Morfa Tywyn
Local Member for Gorllewin Tywyn
Local Member for Aberdyfi

Co-Opted Members:

Josh Cooper
David Williams
Huw Evans
Nigel Willis
Desmond George
Al Crisp
Guy Shaw

RNLI Aberdyfi
Member of Aberdyfi & Improvements Committee
Member of the Cardigan Bay Fisheries Association
Member of Aberdyfi Boat Club
Member of the Dyfi Yacht Club
Outward Bound Trust Wales
Aberdyfi Rowing Club

Observers:

Nia Wyn Jeffreys
Gwilym Jones

Cabinet Member of Economic Development
Porthmadog Harbour Consultative Committee

A G E N D A

1. APOLOGIES

To receive any apologies for absence.

2. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

To receive any declaration of personal interest.

3. URGENT BUSINESS

To consider any items which are urgent matters in the opinion of the Chairman.

4. MINUTES

4 - 8

To receive and confirm the minutes of a meeting of the Aberdyfi Harbour Consultative Committee held on the 25 October 2022.

5. UPDATE ON HARBOUR MANAGEMENT MATTERS

9 - 14

To submit a report by the Senior Harbours Officer.

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To note that the next meeting of the Aberdyfi Harbour Consultative Committee will be held on 17 October 2023.

Agenda Item 4

ABERDYFI HARBOUR CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE, 25 OCTOBER 2022

Present:

Gwynedd Councillors: Councillor Robert Dewi Owen, Councillor John Pughe.

Co-opted Members: Josh Cooper (RNLI Aberdyfi), David Williams (Aberdyfi Advertising and Improvements Committee), Desmond George (Member of Dyfi Yacht Club), Al Crisp (Outward Bound Trust Wales), Guy Shaw (Aberdyfi Rowing Club), Councillor Bob Tyrrell (Aberdyfi Community Council) and Councillor Nia Jeffreys (Portfolio Leader – Economy and Community and Duty Holder of the Harbour Safety Code).

Officers in attendance:

Llyr Beaumont Jones (Assistant Head of Economy and Community Department), Barry Davies (Maritime Manager), Arthur Francis Jones (Senior Harbours Officer), Oli Simmons (Aberdyfi Harbour Assistant) and Rhodri Jones (Democracy Services Officer).

1. ELECTION OF CHAIR

RESOLVED To elect Councillor Dewi Owen as Chair of the Committee for the year 2022/23.

2. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

RESOLVED To elect Councillor John Pughe as Vice-chair of the Committee for the year 2022/23.

3. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Anne Lloyd Jones and William Arthur Stockford (Aberdyfi Harbourmaster).

4. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

No declarations of personal interest were received.

5. URGENT ITEMS

None to note.

6. MINUTES

The Chairman signed the minutes of the previous committee meeting held on 29 March, 2022, as a true record.

7. UPDATE ON HARBOUR MANAGEMENT MATTERS

The following reports were presented, and Members were invited to give observations on their content and to ask questions.

The Senior Harbour Officer's report, giving a brief update to the committee on harbour matters for the year ending March 2023.

- Members were reminded that the terms of reference of the harbour committees had been created under Section 102 of the Local Government Act 1972 and the Council's Cabinet had confirmed the membership.
- It was explained that the Cabinet Member for the Economy and Community would be invited to attend meetings to discuss important matters with members, before reporting back to the Cabinet as required.
- It was stated that there was a reduction in the number of boats on moorings in the harbour. This caused concern as there had been a reduction of approximately 30% in these figures in the last few years. Despite this, it was confirmed that work was being undertaken to advertise the moorings to once more increase the number of users.
- It was emphasised that the harbour continued to be very busy. Evidence was seen of this as a very high number of people had registered to store their boats in the harbour. It was also noted that the general use of boats was very high. Although the figures had reduced a little, the use of the harbour was very high compared with other harbours in the county.
- It was confirmed that the performance challenge meeting had taken place on 21 October 2022.
- Gratitude was expressed to all in the Yacht Club, Outward Bound, Rowing Club and the RNLI for their effective collaboration with the harbour during the year.
- Praise was given to the company that had been busy recently undertaking building work around the harbour by renovating the quay wall. Members were very glad that purpose-built steps had been incorporated into the quay wall and these steps would be useful to assist those seeking access to their boats when visiting Aberdyfi.
 - It was noted that one corner of the harbour building was falling by 10mm and work was being done to ensure that the building's structure continued to be robust.
- An enquiry was made regarding the correct location of the stairs. Originally it was thought that the two sets of stairs would go to the wharf to assist the boats. By now one set of stairs were on the wharf near the harbour office and the other was in front of the Yacht Club.
 - It was confirmed that the stairs would be shared, to be as fair as possible, and for the best use by all users. The construction work plan would be shared with the members as part of the focus group for them to be able to see how the harbour would look following all the construction work that was currently on-going.

Port Marine Safety Code

- Details were given that the harbour had participated in two recent assessments by the Coastguard. The results of those assessments indicated that the harbour was in compliance with the code.
- It was confirmed that all risk assessments had been completed and would be re-assessed regularly to ensure that they were fit for purpose.
- It was stated that there had been an incident over the summer where two boats had collided, however, no one had been injured and therefore no further investigation was required. The Harbour Authority had reported the incident to the MAIB (Marine Accident Investigation Branch) as part of the expected report.
- It was reported that very positive results had been received following the inspection by Trinity House, namely the national lighthouse authority. There was confirmation

within the inspection that the aids to navigation had remained on station following their installation.

- Concern was expressed regarding the use of personal watercraft (jet skis) in the area, as they could be dangerous to other marine users.
 - It was confirmed that Cyngor Gwynedd had contacted Natural Resources Wales and Ceredigion Council to see if they were keen to adopt a system to register watercraft similar to the one that had been successful in Gwynedd.
 - It was emphasised that officers would contact Natural Resources Wales and Ceredigion Council once again to encourage them to adopt this system. The Portfolio Leader – Economy and Community & Port Marine Safety Code Duty Holder noted that she was keen to contact these authorities in order to improve the system.
 - It was acknowledged that this issue was also relevant to paddle boarders, however, it was emphasised that work was being done to ensure that safety signage would be improved to reduce the risk of harm.

Staffing Matters

- All the staff were thanked for their commitment to the work of the harbour and nearby beaches over the previous period and it was confirmed that no reduction was anticipated in the number of staff members in the near future.
- It was stated that the beach had had a very busy period over the summer and the wardens had undertaken their work very effectively. Should it be possible, consideration would be given to extending their employment term next season and to look at the facilities to ensure that no one would have to work alone.
- It was stated that beach wardens needed a better cabin than the one currently on the site, as it was not suitable.
 - It was confirmed that this problem was being dealt with under the beach improvement plans if there was sufficient budget. Other developments were also being undertaken on the beach such as improving the public conveniences.
- The continuous problem of sand accumulation that happened on the beach was discussed. It would be an idea to find a solution regarding how to prevent sand from being blown into the village and across the RNLI slipway. There was concern that the sand left the beach and covered the car park, incurring additional costs to the Council in the next few years if there is no solution.
 - It was recognised that the Conwy area had recently been successful after inserting a pump in their area to assist to prevent this problem.
 - It was emphasised that everyone knew about the seriousness of the situation and several options were being discussed to try and resolve this problem effectively and permanently.
 - It was agreed that a meeting would be held soon with harbour users to discuss this matter further and to share ideas.

Financial Matters

- It was reported that there had been an overspend under some headings of the budget this year. These were in staff and transport headings. Nevertheless, there was underspend in property, equipment and income.
- It was confirmed that an underspend of £8,828.00 was anticipated in this financial year.
- It was emphasised that matters such as the quay wall and beach wardens had not been accounted for within this budget as their budget derived from other places.
- The fee rates for the next financial year were considered. These had not currently been submitted to the committee as inflation was increasing following the current financial squeeze. It was hoped to find a way to not increase fees for harbour users as this increase would have a major impact on users and increase the risk of reducing the number of future users.
- It was asked if the money from this underspend would remain in Aberdyfi, or was it likely to be used to assist another harbour should the need arise.
 - It was confirmed that the intention was to retain the money in the area, however no assurance could be given that it was possible to do this.

The Harbourmaster's report, summarising the Navigational and Operational matters that had arisen between March and October 2022, including maintenance matters.

- It was confirmed that an arrangement had been made with the fishing boats for them to continue to use the harbour over the winter.
- Concerns were highlighted about the wharf in Aberdyfi as vehicles had been driving on it. Initial risk assessments indicated that this was a very high risk and the possibility of installing poles to prevent vehicles from driving on it was discussed.
- The pots on the quay were considered and it was decided that some needed to be removed from the site to ensure users' safety.
- An update was provided on the new bridge to Bryn Llestair (Picnic Island), and it was noted that the work to replace the bridge was nearly complete, the road would be closed overnight soon to correctly install the bridge before users could cross.
- Several events had taken place over the period and everyone was thanked for their cooperation to ensure that they were held effectively.
- It was asked what arrangements were in place to raise the moorings over winter as a result of the work currently being undertaken in the harbour.
 - It was explained that the harbour was awaiting confirmation from the moorings contractor to see when the moorings would be raised in the winter to ensure that this was safe and suitable for all.

RESOLVED

To note and accept the reports.

8. ELECTION OF OBSERVERS

RESOLVED

Desmond George was elected to serve as an Observer on the Pwllheli, Barmouth and Porthmadog Harbour Consultative Committees, and for David Williams to attend in his place should he not be able to attend.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was confirmed that the next meeting would be on the 21 March, 2023.

The opportunity was taken to thank the Harbour Manager for many years of hard work and his commitment and passion to the county's harbours. He was wished well on his retirement.

The meeting commenced at 10:30am and concluded at 12:15pm.

(Chair)

Agenda Item 5

MEETING	Aberdyfi Harbour Consultative Committee.
DATE	21 st March 2023
TITLE	Update on Harbour Management Matters
AUTHOR	Senior Harbour Officer

1. Introduction.

- 1.1 The Committees main function is to consider, discuss and advise on matters relating to the management, safety and development of the Harbour and to receive Member's observations on matters relating to Aberdyfi Harbour.
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to provide a brief update for the attention of the Committee on harbour matters for the period ending March 2023, in order to receive feedback from the members on safety matters and the operational matters of the Harbour.

2. Aberdyfi Moorings and Boat Registration.

- 2.1 Before the Easter period and in accordance with previous years, the harbourmaster and his assistant will undertake a survey of the river to determine the most suitable location for the placement of harbour moorings.
- 2.2 A new mooring contractor service is to be provided this year under the name of Aberdyfi Marine Services. This service is in addition to the mooring service currently provided by the firm of Underwater Maintenance and Inspections Services, who have been laying harbour moorings at Aberdyfi for many years.
- 2.3 The Gwynedd Council Powerboat and Personal Watercraft registration system will continue to be administered through an online arrangement, allowing customers to choose the most suitable location to collect registration and launch permits. Following the success of that arrangement, it is now hoped to allow mooring customers to both confirm and pay for their harbour mooring via a similar on-line system.

3. Port Marine Safety Code.

- 3.1 The Port Marine Safety Code ('PMSC') sets out a national standard for every aspect of port marine safety. Its aim is to enhance safety for everyone who uses or works in the port marine environment. It applies to all Statutory Harbour Authorities.
 - 3.1.1 The Code represents good practice as recognised by a wide range of industry stakeholders and Gwynedd Council understands that a failure to adhere to good practice may be indicative of a harbour authority being in breach of certain legal duties.
 - 3.1.2 It is necessary for the Service to receive the comments and views of Consultative Committee Members on the suitability of the Port Marine Safety Code and to regularly receive observations on its contents, in order that it may be reviewed as relevant to the harbour activities, navigational aids, suitability of by-laws, safety matters and general day to day work at Aberdyfi Harbour.
 - 3.1.3 The Service is due to review and update the Port Marine Safety Code this year to ensure safety standards within the harbours of Gwynedd are maintained. An annual external audit of the code is also expected to be undertaken by the defined designated person, Captain Matthew Forbes, Conwy Harbourmaster later in the year.

4. Staffing Matters.

- 4.1 Harbour staff have continued to work from the harbour office throughout the winter period to ensure the safety of the harbour whilst work has been on-going to renew the harbour quayside.
- 4.2 The Harbourmaster and his assistant have undertaken a winter maintenance work programme, in addition to providing assistance with required work at the harbours of Porthmadog and Barmouth. Further work is to be carried out particularly in relation to the harbour moorings and navigation marks before the busy summer period commences.

5. Financial Matters.

- 5.1 A brief summary of the harbour budget and current financial situation will be discussed at the meeting by the new Principal Maritime Officer.
- 5.2 During this period it was necessary to commit financial resources for the following;
- Maintenance of navigational aids and beacons
 - Maintenance and operation of the of Harbour patrol vessels
 - Maintenance of land and street furniture
 - Purchase and maintenance of tools and equipment including safety equipment

- 5.3 **Fees and Charges. 2023/24.** The Service currently awaits confirmation with regard to the draft fees and charges for Aberdyfi Harbour, together with the Powerboat and Personal watercraft launching fees for 2023/24 season. It has been indicated that mooring fees and charges will, in general, rise by 8.5%.

6. **Harbourmasters Report.** The Harbourmaster at Aberdyfi has provided a brief summary of the Navigational and Operational matters undertaken and encountered during the period October 2022 - March 2023 inclusive, including maintenance issues. A copy of his report is attached.

DG55 - HARBWR ABERDYFI		01/04/2022 up to 31/03/2023			
GROUP	ACC	DESCRIPTION	BUDGET	PREDICTED EXPENDITURE UP TO 31/03/2023	OVER (UNDER)
Staff	AGWE	Staff Costs	66,400	66,967	567
Property	BEID	Ground and Buildings	21,180	17,647	(3,534)
Transport	CTRA	Boat and Vehicles	690	3,645	2,955
Equipment	DCYF	Tools and Equipment	7,520	4,010	(3,510)
Income	INCM	Harbour Income	(29,500)	(39,751)	(10,251)
Total	CYF	Total	66,290	52,517	(13,773)

MEETING	Aberdyfi Harbour Consultative Committee
DATE	21st March 2023
TITLE	Harbourmasters Report
AUTHOR	W.A.Stockford Aberdyfi Harbourmaster

H1 **Navigational Issues**

1.1 Harbour staff have continued to monitor the course of the navigable channel over the winter period. The dynamic nature of the river continues to change the physical aspects of the harbour area, and in consequence, potential mooring locations.

1.1.1 At the time of writing a large area to the east of the Trinity House buoy store is drying out on a low water spring tide. Further channel inspections and surveys will be carried out by the harbour staff to coincide with low astronomical tides during March.

1.2 There is currently one 'Local Notice to Mariners in operation at Aberdyfi Harbour.

1.2.1 Aberdyfi harbour Local Notice to Mariners Number 01/23

The Starboard Aid to Navigation No 5 Fl.G.4s.at position 52° 32.198'N 004° 04.053'W is currently not on station. It is essential that Mariners navigate with caution in this area.

1.2.2 Work to refurbish the Aid to Navigation No 5 has been completed and it is hoped that the buoy will be deployed at the earliest opportunity, subject to the availability of a mooring contractor, in association with favourable weather and tidal conditions.

1.3 An inspector from Trinity House attended the Service on 24th January 2023 to conduct an audit of the records of the availability of the local aids to navigation, under the management of Gwynedd Council. Following the inspection, a report was received to state that everything was found in good order and there were no matters arising which require further comment.

1.4 The Service would like to emphasize the importance of contact with the harbour office at Aberdyfi to obtain current information on navigational safety.

H2 **Operational Issues**

2.1 Monthly meetings concerning the Aberdyfi Wharf Development Project (AWDP) continue to be held, chaired by staff from the Consultancy department of Gwynedd Council. The meetings provide an update on the progress of the scheme, together with an opportunity for local stakeholders to raise any concerns they may have as the project progresses.

2.1.1 Harbour staff continue to work with all local stakeholders, the Consultancy department of Gwynedd Council and the on-site contractor, to ensure safe working practices are maintained around the harbour whilst the work is being conducted.

2.2 The structural condition of the harbourmasters' office building continues to be a cause for concern, with recent movement in the building structure potentially linked to the on-going wharf development programme. The Property department of the Council are aware of the matter and have undertaken a recent inspection of the building.

H3 **Maintenance**

3.1 Pre-season maintenance has and will continue to be carried out on the harbour Powercat patrol vessel in preparation for the forthcoming season. The engines have

recently received a service and the vessel has also been subject to construction, stability and equipment inspection checks in conformity with Maritime and Coastguard Agency vessel operating requirements.

- 3.2 Following the completion of the project to renew the footbridge over the Cambrian Coast railway line, harbour staff have undertaken maintenance on fencing sited on the island to assist pedestrians walking towards the foreshore.
- 3.3 The Service has approved renewal of the entrance gates to Penhelig gardens, with a local contractor appointed to undertake the work and install the new gates. It is hoped the work will be completed before the Easter period. Three new benches have also been purchased for placement in the gardens.
- 3.4 The harbour staff would like to take the opportunity to thank the Outward Bound Trust, Aberdyfi, for their continued assistance with maintenance matters both ashore and afloat this winter.

H4 **Other Matters**

- 4.1 A second lockable storage container has been purchased and sited adjacent to the existing one at the harbour compound storage facility. The new storage container will assist in facilitating the storage of beach equipment for the beaches at Aberdyfi and Tywyn, including the portable cabin utilised by Tywyn beach staff during the summer.
- 4.2 An increase in the level of sand on the beach has hindered the physical use of the slipway located adjacent to the premises of the Dyfi Yacht Club. With the main beach level at its current height, further discussions are required with local stakeholders to establish what can be achieved to try and alleviate the problem.
- 4.3 Carcasses on the foreshore have led to several days of reactive work being carried out by the service. The service requests that any sightings be reported to them at the earliest opportunity. The service would also like to remind the public that although a swift response is sometimes required, this is not always possible due to staffing and other work commitments.

H5 **Events**

- 5.1 Authorisation has been granted to the Dyfi Yacht Club for their forthcoming sailing and training schedule presented to the harbour office in early February.
- 5.2 The Service would like to remind all event organisers of the need to seek permission from the Service in conformity with the harbour bylaws, prior to advertising or organising any events proposed to take place within the harbour's jurisdiction.

