

MEETING	Porthmadog Harbour Consultative Committee.
DATE	8th March 2022
TITLE	Update on Harbour Management Matters
AUTHOR	Senior Harbour Officer

1. Introduction.

- 1.1 The Committee's 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 Porthmadog 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 yearly period ending March 2022, in order to receive feedback from the members on safety matters and the operational matters of the Harbour.

2. Porthmadog Moorings and Boat Registration.

- 2.1 In accordance with previous years, it is anticipated that an underwater inspection of the moorings within the harbour will take place before the Easter period, subject to the commitments of the mooring contractor and the existing weather conditions at the time.
- 2.2 Last year, the Gwynedd Council Powerboat and Personal Watercraft registration system was introduced through an online arrangement, allowing customers to choose the most suitable location to collect registration and launch permits. Following the success of the arrangement, customers will be required to register via the Gwynedd Council website, with the online registration and payment system open on the 31 March 2022.

3. Port Marine Safety Code.

- 3.1.1 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.
- 3.1.2 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. 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 Porthmadog Harbour.
- 3.1.3 The Service itself continually reviews the Port Marine Safety Code to ensure safety standards within the harbours of Gwynedd are maintained and an annual external audit of the code is also undertaken by the defined designated person, Captain Matthew Forbes, Conwy Harbourmaster.

4. Staffing Matters.

- 4.1 Harbour staff have continued to work from the harbour office throughout the latest Omicron Coronavirus epidemic to ensure the safety of the harbour and compliance with the prevailing Welsh Government Coronavirus Regulations. Adaptations within the harbour office remain in place,

including a Perspex screen at the public counter to ensure staff safety during enquiries conducted by members of the public.

4.2 The Harbourmaster and his assistant have undertaken a winter maintenance work programme at the harbour, in addition to providing assistance with required work at the harbours of Aberdyfi 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 Principal Maritime Officer.

5.2 During this period it was necessary to commit financial resources for the following;

- Maintenance of navigational aids and beacons
- Inspection and maintenance of Council moorings
- Maintenance and operation of the of Harbour patrol vessels
- Maintenance of land and street furniture
- Tools and equipment including safety equipment

5.3 **Fees and Charges. 2022/23.** The Service currently awaits confirmation with regard to the draft fees and charges for Porthmadog Harbour, together with the Powerboat and Personal watercraft launching fees for 2022/23 season. It has presently been indicated that fees and charges are to rise in line with the rate of inflation. We attach a copy of the proposed fees for information. These have not been confirmed.

6. **Harbourmasters Report.** The Harbourmaster at Porthmadog has provided a brief summary of the Navigational and Operational matters undertaken and encountered during the period October 2021 - March 2022 inclusive, including maintenance issues. A copy of his report is attached.