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| <b>MEETING</b> | <b>Porthmadog Harbour Consultative Committee</b> |
| <b>DATE</b>    | <b>27th February 2024</b>                        |
| <b>TITLE</b>   | <b>Harbourmasters Report</b>                     |
| <b>AUTHOR</b>  | <b>M.Humphreys Porthmadog Harbourmaster</b>      |

## **H 1 Navigational Issues**

- 1.1 Harbour staff have continued to monitor the course of the navigable channel over the winter period. Despite the winter storms to date and the consequential increase in the volume of water that has been flowing out from the rivers Glaslyn and Dwryyd, the course of the navigable channel has remained unchanged.
- 1.2 Further channel surveys will be undertaken as the season of spring approaches. If required, the navigational marks will be moved by harbour staff, to assist mariners in negotiating the safest route to and from the harbour.
- 1.3 There are currently one Local Notice to Mariners in force:
- 1.3.1 Local Notice to Mariners No 19/23. The light on the Porthmadog Fairway buoy located at position 52°52.970'N 004°11.200'W. is not functioning correctly. The light will be repaired as soon as practically possible, subject to suitable weather and tidal conditions and the availability of a mooring contractor.
- 1.4 An inspector from Trinity House attended the harbour on the 10<sup>th</sup> October 2023 to conduct an audit of the records of the availability of the local aids to navigation under the management of Cyngor Gwynedd. Following the inspection, a report was received to state that everything was found in good and efficient order and there were no matters arising which require further comment.
- 1.5 Mariners are reminded of the need to navigate the channel 1.5 hours either side of high water when navigating a vessel with a draft exceeding 1.5 metres. This is due to the available depth of water over the sand bar at the seaward entrance to the navigable channel.
- 1.5.1 Mariners are also reminded that contact should be made with the harbour office prior to any approach, to obtain the latest navigational information. Changes to any of the navigational aids will be circulated via Local Notice to Mariners.

## **H 2 Operational Issues**

- 2.1 Throughout the winter period powered craft and sailing vessel movements in the harbour and channel approaches have been extremely limited, rowing section movements have however been noticeable.
- 2.2 Despite the winter weather, it is pleasing to report that those craft within the harbour waters have remained stable and secure. It is anticipated that vessels currently

ashore in the boatyards will gradually be returned to the water as the Easter period approaches. From the number of new enquiries made at the harbour office over the winter period for the availability of moorings, the service is hopeful of attracting new customers for the forthcoming season.

### **H 3 Maintenance**

- 3.1 Maintenance of the harbour moorings commenced at the beginning of the year following an inspection by a local mooring contractor. As part of the maintenance, worn sections of ground chain have been replaced together with the riser chains that required replacement. All mooring work in the harbour is expected to be completed by the end of February.
- 3.2 New quayside ladders have been delivered to the harbour premises and are soon to be installed, along the quay wall running past the Harbourmasters office. Construction of the ladders has been undertaken by a local metalworker to replace those that are now beyond maintenance.
- 3.3 The vessel Mv Dwyfor is currently out of the water at Pwllheli and undergoing maintenance work. The vessel engine is receiving an overhaul and a new propeller is to be fitted. The work is being undertaken by a local marine engineering firm based at Pwllheli.
- 3.4 The harbour 'Powercat' patrol vessel is also currently out of the water and in the process of undergoing maintenance. Due to changes in vessel coding regulations, the vessel is now required to undergo an annual survey by an approved Maritime and Coastguard Agency surveyor. This is scheduled to take place at the end of February after which, the engines will receive a service, before the vessel returns to operational duties.
- 3.5 Harbour staff have undertaken refurbishment work on benches located around the harbour with further work yet to be completed. The Service continues to receive requests for the placement of memorial benches around the harbour, which presently cannot be accommodated.

### **H 4 Other Matters**

- 4.1 **Harbour Security:** The CCTV facility at the harbour is expected to receive an equipment upgrade, with an additional camera and updated camera imagery provided. It is hoped the work can be completed in time for the busy summer period.
- 4.2 **Harbour Paving:** Broken and lifted paving slabs around the harbour environment continue to be a cause for concern, with staff undertaking repairs whenever possible or isolating the area until repairs can be effected. Further work is required in this respect, particularly around the harbour trees where the tree roots have caused the paving to lift.
- 4.3 **Borth-Y-Gest.** Following local consultation, harbour staff will undertake a programme of maintenance on seating benches located on land under the control of the Maritime department. Further maintenance work will also be undertaken on stone walling near the old pilot docking area.

4.4 **Morfa Bychan.** The beach cabin currently sited at the rear of the harbour office at Porthmadog is to be moved to the beach entrance at Morfa Bychan for the benefit of staff during mid- March, in time for the Easter period. The work is to be completed by a local haulage company.

## **H5 Events**

5.1 Although anticipated, the Service are yet to be notified of any forthcoming events proposed to take place at Porthmadog Harbour this year. The Service would like to remind event organisers of the need to provide early notification of any proposed event and submission for approval.

5.2 In considering whether to approve an event, the Service will give due regard to the information provided detailing the circumstances and apply any restrictions, impositions or limitations thereby necessary to ensure public and staff safety.