

**Minutes of Meeting of Cruden Bay Harbour Management Committee
At the Village Hall, Cruden Bay at 1930 hrs on Monday 17 August 2009**

Present:

Peter Abenheimer
Gordon MacKay
Peter Campbell – Secretary
Bob Lewis – Harbourmaster
Sam Coull
Scott Buchan

1. Introduction:

In the absence of the Chairman, Peter Abenheimer chaired the meeting and thanked everyone for attending. He offered a particular welcome to Reid Hutchison from Aberdeenshire Council who was attending to give some advice regarding the business case for helping to progress harbour repairs.

2. Apologies:

Apologies were received on behalf of the Chairman Hugh McIntyre, Bob Lewis (Jnr), and George Stroud.

3. Repairs:

As Reid Hutchison was attending the meeting for a specific reason, the Chairman suggested the item under repairs would be dealt with as the first business of the evening, allowing Mr Hutchison to leave the meeting thereafter if he so wished.

Mr Hutchison introduced himself to those present and gave the background of his current position within the council. He re-iterated that he was not in a position to write the business case himself, but suggested that he would be able to give suggestions on what should go into a business case of this nature. His past experience would be useful to the committee going forward if they wanted to seek advice on specific issues. He also suggested there were funding opportunities which may be open to help fund the completion of the business case, such as the Community Asset Scheme. Some detail was given on the remit of this scheme and it was agreed it would be worthy of further exploration.

Mr Reid also emphasised the importance of having preliminary work carried out in terms of understanding the true extent of the problem with the repairs and suggested that a phasing plan, based on proper civil engineering evaluation, would be something of value and could form part of the plan going forward. This would ensure the repair values placed in the case would be based on sound professional advice. It was agreed that the preliminary work was necessary to move the project on.

Mr Hutchison then answered a number of questions from the committee members on how best to proceed and before finishing, agreed to return at any point, and possibly for the next meeting, to see what progress had been made. He also indicated he would send the web link for the Community Asset Scheme to the Secretary to allow this to progress. He asked that he be given a copy of the work to date on the business case. He was thanked by the Chairman for his input and invited to stay for the remainder of the meeting.

Gordon MacKay updated the meeting on the 'Village SOS' funding opportunity and indicated that the application had been submitted seeking funding for both the 'Ladies Bridge' and the harbour. As this was a community based initiative, it was more likely to succeed by including the two fundraising requirements. Gordon made it clear that we faced very stiff opposition and whilst the funding opportunity was in excess of £200,000, it was expected there would be numerous applications from throughout the UK. That said, he was sure the application met all the given criteria.

The Secretary informed the meeting that he had contacted Crown Estates and they had confirmed the responsibility for the sea bed had been passed from them to the Harbour Management Committee a number of years previously. Consequently, they were unable offer any funding opportunities.

ACTION – GORDON MACKAY TO FORWARD A COPY OF THE CURRENT BUSINESS CASE TO REID HUTCHISON, ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting and Rolling Actions:

The minutes of the previous meeting were adopted as an accurate record of the meeting. The rolling actions were dealt with as per the attached rolling action schedule.

5. Financial Update:

In the absence of Hugh McIntyre, the financial updates will be carried forward to the next meeting.

6. Proposal Re Sheds / Containers & Business Case

The Secretary informed the meeting that no further correspondence had been received in respect of the proposal for the replacement of the sheds and containers. A general discussion took place amongst those present with broad agreement that a ground rent for the use of sheds would be introduced for the following season.

7. Harbourmaster's Report:

The Harbourmaster intimated things were going well at the harbour and the acts of vandalism had decreased. The Police were continuing to patrol the area and this would be encouraged. He indicated the donation box had

realised £47.47 over the previous period which he handed to the Secretary for banking.

The Harbourmaster voiced concern about having to bail out boats which had been largely abandoned by their owners. He suggested letters be sent to those responsible asking them to take the appropriate responsibility for their vessels. He also indicated concern with four vessels which had remained on the hard standing during the summer months, having only contributed the winter fee of £10. A discussion ensued about this and the Secretary was asked to write to the boat owners indicating a further charge would be levied next season if this was repeated.

ACTION – SECRETARY TO WRITE TO BOAT OWNERS WITH THE HARBOURMASTERS CONCERNS

8. Amended Constitution:

Peter Abenheimer updated those present on the amended constitution, indicating he had changed the wording to include 'non profit making'. Those present had an opportunity to view the amended document and the Chairman asked the document be adopted as the new constitution for Cruden Bay Harbour Management Committee. This was proposed by Sam Coull and seconded by Gordon MacKay.

8. AOB:

The Chairman enquired as to the outcome of the letter submitted by solicitors acting on behalf of Gavin Thain. The Secretary informed the meeting that this matter had been dealt with by Hugh McIntyre and a subsequent e-mail had been received from Gavin indicating he was content with the outcome. The Chairman asked that a copy of this e-mail be added to the minutes to ensure the matter is closed. (Please see copy of e-mail below)

Dear Hugh

Thanks for the letter that you sent back to my accountant.

I have apologies for enquiring about the amendments to the constitution.

I was laid to believe from a discussion at the harbour that there were going to be big changes to the constitution and that I needed to safe guard myself as the Salmon Fisherman at port Errol with the rights that I already have with the berth and drying ground.

I agree with what you said about the committee meeting which I attended. If I had thought that was what was being mentioned to myself I would have not bothered you in any way. I was laid to believe that at the next meeting many more things would be discussed. Hence the reason for the letter that was sent.

Thought I had best explain the reason for Graham Cooper contacting you about my concerns.

Best Regards

Gavin

There being no other business for the evening, the Chairman again thanked everyone for attending and the meeting was closed.

Date & Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at 7.30pm on Monday 21 September 2009 in the Village Hall, Cruden Bay.