

Minutes of Meeting of Cruden Bay Harbour Management Committee At the Village Hall, Cruden Bay at 1930 hrs on Monday 20 July 2009

Present:

Hugh McIntyre – Chairman
Peter Campbell – Secretary
Bob Lewis – Harbourmaster
Sam Coull
Derek Thompson
Garry Maclean
John Cay

1. Introduction:

The Chairman opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending, particularly as it was in the middle of holiday time.

2. Apologies:

Apologies were received on behalf of Bob Lewis (Jnr), Frank Barbie, Gordon MacKay, Peter Abenheimer and George Stroud.

3. 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.

4. Financial Update:

The Chairman updated the meeting on the financial situation. The finances were now in order and he detailed the money currently in both accounts which had been boosted with the addition of the harbour fees. He also intimated that all outstanding bills had been paid, including the payment to Cosalt for the new mooring ropes and the liability insurance for the harbour.

5. Proposal Re Sheds / Containers & Business Case

The Secretary informed the meeting he had carried out the consultative process agreed at the previous meeting and had sent a document for completion to every harbour user. He had received a number of replies by the given date but was disappointed with the overall level of response, with a number of individuals failing to return completed forms. Of those returned, it was even for those in support of the proposal and those against it. However, everyone was agreed that shed owners should pay some ground rent for their shed.

A general discussion took place and some members suggested there was a general feeling at the harbour that this proposal was not going to be supported by a large group of current shed owners. The Chairman suggested that the original date for completion of the forms be extended to give people more time to return the forms, which would allow a view to be taken on the proposal at the next meeting. This was agreed by those present.

6. Harbourmaster's Report:

The Harbourmaster intimated things were going well at the harbour and approximately 19 boats were moored with some others also wanting berths. He was of the opinion that this was the most uptakes on berths for a number of years and it was looking very positive.

Some repair work had been carried out, with one of the benches previously damaged in a storm, being replaced. The gate stopping vehicular access to the west pier had been installed as had the bollards on the east pier. Keys were to be given to the required individuals in case of emergency. The sign placed on the shed indicating no vehicular access was not considered to be explicit enough and a suggestion was made to have another made with the wording 'berth owners only beyond this point'. This would help alleviate some of the issues with parking at the end of the pier.

ACTION – Commission an additional sign with the above wording

A general discussion took place about the level of seamanship shown by some of the individuals with berths. John Cay was particularly worried that some users didn't even know how to tie up the harbour boat properly and had equipment that was in poor condition and a potential danger to themselves and others. He also voiced concern about the harbour boat and the fact it was equipped with only one oar. It was agreed that further consideration would be given to this issue to see if better solutions could be arrived at, as some people had to wait a considerable time for the boat to be returned to its mooring to allow further use.

The donation box was continuing to provide a useful income and about £98 had been received over the previous number of weeks.

The Secretary suggested it may be beneficial for the Harbourmaster to be more easily identified in this capacity whilst going about his business at the harbour. A body warmer or fleece with the harbourmaster logo on it may be worth while in attracting more interest and possible donations. The Chairman indicated to the Harbourmaster that if he wished, he should purchase such a garment at a suitable location.

7. Repairs:

Sam Coull updated those present on the current situation with the business case. He suggested he was being passed around a number of individuals

within the council, but was hopeful that he was now speaking with the correct person and they would be able to proceed with the business case as soon as possible. Sam informed the group that Ken Morrison from Aberdeenshire Council was due to retire and would not be in a position to assist us further.

A general discussion took place about the Crown Estates and their involvement in the harbour at Crovie. It was suggested that they may be a valuable source of funding as they had recently allocated funding to a number of other harbours. The Secretary undertook to contact Crown Estates on behalf of the committee

ACTION – Secretary to make contact with Crown Estates

The Secretary indicated that Mr Gregory from the Sandhaven Harbour committee, who had been invited to speak with our committee on their fundraising efforts, had had a heart attack and would be medically unfit for some time. However, Mr Gregory was keen to assist us when his health improved.

8. AOB:

The Chairman indicated he had received a letter from Ledingham / Chalmers solicitors who were acting on behalf of Gavin Thain. There appeared to be some concern about the change in the constitution and their client wanted clarification on how any changes may affect his current status and use of the harbour. The Chairman indicated he would reply to the letter and deal with the matter in advance of the next meeting.

ACTION – Chairman to reply to Ledingham / Chalmers solicitors and clarify the position surrounding the concerns.

Date & Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at 7.30pm on Monday 17 August 2009 in the Village Hall, Cruden Bay.