

Minutes of a Meeting of the NEW QUAY Harbour Users Consultative Committee held remotely via video-conference on Thursday, 21 March 2024

Representing Ceredigion County Council: Councillor Keith Henson (Chairman)
Councillors Elizabeth Evans, Gwyn Wigely Evans and Matthew Vaux

Officers in Attendance: Owen Morgan, Katy Spain and Dana Jones

Harbour Users: Jennifer Davies, Carl Rich, Damian Lawson, Martin Draper, Martin Seal, Brett Stones, Norman Robertson, Mike Masters, Roger Couch, David Fiona Barnes, Chris Seal, Chris Williams, Morgan Williams and Grace Williams

(6.30pm – 7:30pm)

1. **Apologies**

None.

2. **Minutes of the Meeting held on 19 October 2023**

It was AGREED that minutes of the meeting held on the 19 October 2023 were confirmed as true record.

3. **Harbour Services Update**

- The Harbour Manager presented those present with a diagrammatical plan of the temporary AtoNs arrangements related to the Aberaeron coastal defence works. It was emphasised that it should not be used for Navigation. A copy of the diagram will be circulated via Local Notice to Mariners in due course. It was suggested that the Yacht Club could also display the diagram and the Harbour Manager extended an offer to the Yacht Club to come and talk to members if they felt that this would be beneficial.
- Signage would be erected to inform the public that New Quay was working harbour with uneven surfaces and other potential hazards.
- The Harbour Manager had reported that Trinity House had audited the Council's processes relating to Aids to Navigation (AtoNs) and found them to be in order.
- The Harbour Manager reported that the Port Waste Management facilities would be available to leisure users as of 1 April 2024.

4. **Mooring Waiting List**

It was agreed to note the mooring waiting list as presented subject. Officers confirmed that work was being undertaken to amend the list to include further detail related to residency status and boat type and size.

It was also noted that the waiting lists would now be open for new applicants and that the waiting list fees for new entrants would no longer be a credit towards the first year's mooring fees on mooring allocation.

5. General Maintenance and Cleanliness

- A programme of inspections had identified some maintenance and repair required to some Harbour assets and these had been compiled and prioritised. Works will be procured and undertaken in line with priority and available budget.
- A procurement exercise had been undertaken to carry out the works required to the ladders, and it is anticipated that this work would take place early in the new financial year.
- An inspection of the harbour wall and slipway fixed mooring rings were due to take place to identify any maintenance work that might be required.
- It was reported that New Quay Town Council had recently appointed a Street Cleaner and a contractor for Grass cutting.

It was reported that New Quay Town Council and Working 4 NQ had recently undertaken work to tidy areas. Some members indicated that they would be willing to take part in future similar activities.

The Harbour Manager reported that the Assistant Harbour Manager would also be undertaking litter picking around the harbour as part of his responsibilities.

- A query was raised in relation to the location of a sand rake that it was understood had previously been used on the beach. Cllr Vaux advised that he recalled that there were issues with it that meant it could not be used and that Cliff Bates from Tourism might be able to confirm this. The Harbour Manager stated that he would contact Cliff Bates to see if he had any information in relation to the sand rake.
- Chris Seal requested an update on his request to receive the report on the condition of the mother chain. The Harbour Manager confirmed that a response had already been provided to him on this matter confirming that there was no condition report.

It was reported that some mooring holders' chains had been broken when the works to the mother chain were undertaken. A request was made that mooring holders be informed if this happens in future. The Harbour Manager advised that he had not been made aware of any claims of damage to mooring holder chains following completion of the works and was not aware that any chains had been damaged by the contractor and would expect that

the contractor would inform him if they did damage any Council or private property.

- It was reported that some boats on moorings on G row were coming into contact with each other as a consequence of some boats sharing the same fixing points. The Harbour Manager advised that this situation was being reviewed but noted that the listed status of the pier meant that installation of any new fixing points / mooring rings may not be possible.

6. Issues raised by Harbour Users

- Chris Seal stated that he was unhappy that the questions he had were not included as formal items for this meeting and proceed to raise them. The following question was read out to all at the meeting:

‘Why was during the recent Online Consultation, why was the HMP not radically changed when 85% of respondents rejected the draft policy. Who made the decision to press-on regardless.’

In response, Officers confirmed that the full details of the responses to the consultation were presented to both Scrutiny and Cabinet. As part of the democratic process, Scrutiny could make recommendations to Cabinet (as was the case in respect of the Harbour Management Policy) and ultimately, decisions in relation to whether to accept these recommendations (as was the case in respect of the recommendations in relation to the Harbour Management Policy) and, in relation to the contents and implementation of any policy were made by Cabinet.

- Mr Seal also raised the matter of the ability to inherit use of a leisure moorings having been removed from the Harbour Policy and that he did not agree with this change. Officers acknowledged that not all stakeholders may agree with all the changes to the Policy but that the decision had been taken by Cabinet to implement the revised Policy. The rationale for this change, which was that it would improve access to moorings for those on the waiting list, and this had already been outlined in the reports to Scrutiny and Cabinet
- A response to a further question by Chris Seal which had already been responded to outside of the meeting was requested by him as he considered that the response should be heard by all the Committee.

“Exactly what services and functions does the new ‘Mooring Admin Fee’ cover?”

In response, Officers confirmed that this was not a new fee. The fee forms part of the overall charges related to applications for moorings and contributes towards meeting the costs associated with the delivery of the harbours service which includes administrative tasks related to the mooring applications. Ultimately, if this fee was not charged, then the fee per metre would simply be

increased to generate the level of income which was currently generated by this element of the charging structure.

- A request was made for clarification on the reasoning on the removal notices placed on the dinghies on the main beach. It was confirmed by the Harbour Manager that there was no formal consent or agreement for the storage of these items and that the Council had no ownership details. Members of the Yacht Club advised that they knew who the owners were and that they would engage with the owners but that they were disappointed that these notices had been placed on the items.

It was also confirmed that New Quay Town Council had also requested their removal to address the overgrowth and to alleviate the rubbish that collected around the dinghies daily during the high season.

It was agreed that the Harbour Manger would meet with Carl Rich from New Quay Yacht club with a view of identifying other potential locations for the future storage of dinghies which could then be considered further.

- It was reported that there had been an attempt to steal items from within the Harbour but that they had been disturbed. A query was raised as to whether it would be possible to have CCTV in the Harbour. Officers confirmed that the Council does not provide public realm CCTV and that members and New Quay Town Council may wish to consider raising the matter with Dyfed Powys Police who do provide public realm CCTV if they feel that there is a case to do so. Members of the Yacht Club suggested that it might be possible for them to investigate CCTV and that they would discuss the potential of this if nothing was forthcoming from Dyfed Powys Police.
- Clarification was sought regarding parking on the slipway to load and maintain boats. A user stated that he had been instructed by a member of the Harbour Team to remove his car from the slipway when carrying out maintenance to his dinghy. In response, the Harbour Manager confirmed that the slipway was required to be kept clear to facilitate safe use and that whilst users could access to slipway to load and unload boats whilst they were actively undertaking that activity (this wouldn't including preparing their boat for loading as this should be completed prior to bringing the vehicle on to the slipway) and the vehicle would need to be removed immediately following completion of the activity.

A request to consider removing the allocated parking on the slipway for commercial users and designating this area for parking for all users to load and unload and maintain their boats was made. The Harbour Manager advised that this could be considered however, these spaces were charged for and this may not be supported by other stakeholders, including the commercial operators who used the designated spaces.