

# MINUTE

‘A’ & ‘B’

## Harbour Board

Port Administration Building, Sella Ness

Thursday 27 September 2007 at 10.00am

### Present:

A T J Cooper	E J Fullerton
R S Henderson	J H Henry
R C Nickerson	F A Robertson

### Apologies:

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### In Attendance (Officers):

J T Dickson, General Manager, Ports & Harbours Operations  
B Edwards, Operations Manager, Ports  
P Gray, Superintendent Engineer, Marine  
A Inkster, Port Engineer  
R Moore, Operations Manager, Marine  
S Summers, Administration Manager  
L Gair, Committee Officer

### Chairperson:

Mr A T J Cooper, Chairperson of the Board, presided.

### Circular:

The circular calling the meeting was held as read.

### Minutes:

The minute of meeting held on 9 August 2007, having been circulated, was confirmed.

### Members' Attendance at External Meetings – Update

Mr A T J Cooper      Offshore Europe and Meeting with BERR, Oil and Gas– Aberdeen, 4 September 2007.

20/07

### Scalloway Harbour Dredging - Offshore, Service Vessels

The Board considered a report by the General Manager (Appendix 1).

The General Manager introduced the report. He reminded Members there was no budget in place. He advised that he was waiting for Lerwick Port Authority to appoint their dredging contractor and would then approach the contractor to see if they would be willing to provide a quote. Once that had been done, The General Manager said that it would then be presented to the Capital Projects Review Team. The General Manager added that he had vired funds from another capital project in order to develop the necessary consents up to the point of approval.

Mrs E J Fullerton moved that Members approve the recommendations in the report. Mr J H Henry seconded.

During discussion, Members discussed the savings and benefits in sharing the cost in mobilisation and de-mobilisation and requested a report on what the real cost

would be to show the real savings that would be made. This would be done after a quotation had been obtained. Members acknowledged that the larger dredging companies might not come to Shetland for Scalloway dredging alone.

21/07

### **Weather Radar Coverage for Shetland**

The Board considered a report by the General Manager (Appendix 2).

The General Manager introduced the report.

Mr R C Nickerson moved that Members approve the recommendations in the report. Mrs E J Fullerton seconded.

Members discussed companies and organisations, both locally and on the mainland, who might benefit from having weather radar coverage extended to Shetland and who may be willing to write in support. The Chairman advised that he had spoken with Oil and Gas (UK) who would be sending a letter of support. Others to be included:

Shetland Aquaculture  
Shetland Seafoods  
Scottish Fisheries Federation  
NFU Headquarters  
Scottish Ambulance Service  
Air Traffic Services

22/07

### **Mussel Farm Landing Dues**

The Board considered a report by the General Manager (Appendix 3).

The Ports Operations Manager introduced the report and Members discussed the background to the dues applied.

Mrs E J Fullerton moved that Members approve the recommendations in the report. Mr F A Robertson seconded.

In response to a query, the Chairman advised that these charges had not been subject to inflationary increases, and that the last increase had been in the 1960's.

Mr F A Robertson queried the charges imposed on private piers where little or no navigational aids were available, and advised that operators who built their own piers felt a degree of unfairness, as they were not landing across a Council facility. The General Manager advised that these private piers were charged a fixed yearly fee, as the piers fall within a designated harbour area. The General Manager added that to resolve this problem, the harbour areas could be redefined so that the private piers were no longer within the designated harbour area.

Mrs E J Fullerton suggested that the General Manager and/or the Chairman speak with the seafood industry regarding pier charges. The Chairman said that he would be willing to meet with the seafood industry, but it was also important to provide Members with the knowledge to defend the Harbour Board's position. It was agreed that a meeting would be held between the Chairman, Mrs E J Fullerton, Mr F A Robertson and the Port Operations Manager, and a report would be brought back to the next meeting of the Board.

23/07

### **Ports Project Monitoring Report**

The Board noted a report by the General Manager (Appendix 4).

#### **Uyeasound – RCM2314**

Members were advised that the tenders would be opened on 28 September. Three companies had been invited, and those returned would be assessed by the Capital Programme Service.

#### **Scalloway – RCM2312**

Members were advised that the Warehouse had been completed, and some use was already being made of it. An advert will be placed in the Shetland Times and the Press and Journal and this would include photos.

#### **Tug Replacement Programme – RCM 2315**

Members were advised that this programme was on schedule, and that 2 representatives from Valencia are to visit Shetland to view the existing fleet to see the standard of the existing fleet.

#### **Dock Symbister – RCM 2309**

Members were advised that still no approval had been received from Historic Scotland. The Port Engineer advised that he had again been let down by the Conservation Surveyor, but that another deadline had been set for 12 October. He added that the local community had also written to Historic Scotland directly, lending their support to the project.

Members discussed this at length and suggested that if the next deadline was not met, Tavish Scott MSP be contacted to see what support he can give to help move this project forward. The Chairman said that the project needed to move ahead and that Historic Scotland should be approached to source an alternative Conservation Surveyor. The Port Engineer stated that he had written to Historic Scotland in August, on that basis, but had not received a response. He added that to move to a new Conservation Surveyor at this stage would mean that it would be unlikely that everything would be done before next summer. He suggested that the Board wait a little longer to see whether the October deadline is met. The Board agreed.

24/07

### **Port Operations Report**

The Board noted a report by the General Manager (Appendix 5).

The General Manager introduced the report and advised that a vessel, had been towed into port and an obstruction removed from the propellers. He advised that otherwise it had been a routine month for the port.

Members noted that Scalloway had been busier, both during the day and at night.

Mr R C Nickerson requested that a paragraph be included in the report on sourcing new work. The Chairman said that it was important that Members be advised of what effect the down turn in production from Schehallion, the whole of the West Side, Clair and the Shetland Basis will have on the port. He added that the unit cost needed to be attractive in order to encourage new business. The Chairman requested that a report be provided on the volumes from the oil on the East and West of Shetland be prepared with an indication on what is going to happen. The General Manager advised that volumes are reported every year and Finance Services would be asked to redo the spreadsheets for the next financial year.

The Chairman referred to the West Burrafirth slipway and the prospect of the Council taking on responsibility of the pier. Members discussed other piers and the community and commercial uses made of them. The Chairman said that the Board should look at the extraneous works that could be put on the Harbour Board and requested a report in three cycles time on the extraneous piers around harbour areas to discuss whether the Board is required to do anything.

25/07 **Harbour Board Membership – Appointment of Non-Council Members**

The Board noted a report by the Head of Legal & Administration (Appendix 6).

The Chairman introduced the report, and advised that the time of the Special Harbour Board would be 2.15pm and not 10am as indicated. Members were advised that the venue of the meeting may change as it may be more convenient if it were held in the Council Chamber, Lerwick.

Members discussed and agreed that the next ordinary meeting of the Board would be held in Blacksness Pier Offices, Scalloway.

The meeting concluded at 11.00am.

CHAIRPERSON