

Harbour Board
Boardroom, Port Administration Building, Sellaness
Thursday 14 August 2008 at 10.00am

Present:

A T J Cooper	L Boswell
A T Doull	E L Fullerton
I J Hawkins	R S Henderson
R C Nickerson	C Smith
J Tait	

Apologies:

J H Henry	A Polson
F A Robertson	

Also:

Professor A Kemp, Aberdeen University
J Budge, SIC Councillor
F B Grains, SIC Councillor
A J Hughson, SIC Councillor
W H Manson, SIC Councillor
G Robinson, SIC Councillor
J G Wills, SIC Councillor
A Wishart, SIC Councillor
J Foubister, OIC Councillor
A Drever, OIC Councillor
J Baster, OIC Director of Development
D Sawkins, OIC Ferry Operations Manager

In Attendance (Officers):

J T Dickson, General Manager, Ports & Harbours Operations
B Edwards, Operations Manager, Ports
A Inkster, Port Engineer
D Irvine, Head of Business Development
B Robb, Management Accountant
W Shannon, Assistant Chief Executive
R Sinclair, Senior Contract Manager, Capital Programme Service
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.

Declarations of Interest:

None.

Minutes:

The minute of the meeting held on 29 May 2008 was confirmed, with the exception of the following:

Mr R C Nickerson advised that a report on the STS equipment being available in Sullom Voe, full time, was to be presented at this meeting. Mr J Dickson advised that there would be an update on that at the next meeting.

Members' Attendance at External Meetings – Update

None.

21/08 MCA Consultation on Ship-to-Ship Transfers

The Board considered a report by the Operations Manager, Ports (Appendix 1).

The Operations Manager, Ports, introduced the report. Mr R C Nickerson moved that Members approve the recommendations in the report with an amended 7.1.2 that, where there are concerns relating to environmental issues, the Secretary of State for Scotland be given the authority to call in licence applications.

During discussions, clarifications was sought on the matter of who had authority to call in licences or applications, and it was explained that the MCA would have that power under the new Marine Shipping (Ship-to-Ship Transfers) Regulations 2008. The Operations Manager, Ports advised that the Harbour Authority had to submit, to the MCA, environmental statements and risk assessments to the Secretary of State for Scotland and had to satisfy them that conservation areas would not be put at risk and operations would be carried out in a safe manner. He added that what would happen in Sullom Voe was that the STS Contractor would also have to be approved by BP Shipping, and the MCA would have to agreed that the contractor was approved to carry out transfers.

Mr R C Nickerson said that the new legislation had been significantly improved, and was content to withdraw his motion.

Mrs I J Hawkins moved that the Board approve the recommendations contained in the report, Mr R S Henderson seconded.

22/08 Analysis of 2007/08 Recharges

The Board noted a report by the Head of Finance (Appendix 2).

The Management Accountant introduced the report and drew attention to the explanation for the level of percentage recharged, contained in Appendix 1.

In response to queries from Members, the Management Accountant explained that some departments keep timesheets and split their recharges accurately, however others take a judgement and the cost of the whole service is proportioned across all services. She added that at the year-end when recharge sheets were created, there was an opportunity for services to query the charges, but it was incumbent on managers and budget responsible officers to do so.

Mrs E L Fullerton said it was important for Harbour Staff to discuss, with the service provider, what would be required during the year. During further discussions, the Chairperson and the General Manager expressed their concern regarding the ICT recharge and asked the Management Accountant to look at it in more detail.

The Board agreed to note the report but to revisit the subject in the future.

23/08 Port Project Monitoring Report

The Board considered a report by the General Manager, Ports and Harbours Operations (Appendix 3).

Dock Symbister – RCM 2309

The Port Engineer advised that a range of options had been investigated and presented to the last meeting, where Members requested that the options be discussed with the community and Historic Scotland. He said that this had been done, and reported that the feeling of both had been that the dock be restored to its former appearance.

At the request of Members, the Port Engineer gave a brief summary of the options, and advised that these ranged from £95,000 to £1.25m plus fees.

The Port Engineer advised that a repair had been carried out following a recent collapse. He added that an option available would be to close the dock but that would not be easy as access could be gained from the sea and marina and there was pressure to do something. In response to further queries, the Port Engineer advised that the dock was a listed structure together with two sheds. He said that part of the Marina gangway was on the dock and some strengthening works would be needed.

The Chairperson said that the Council would be reviewing the capital programme, and given the scale of works and desires of the community, the dock should be considered as part of the capital programme.

The Port Engineer confirmed that external funding had been considered and that he had approached Historic Scotland and The Shetland Amenity Trust who were not keen on the project. He had also approached the Scottish Government who indicated that there might be some funding available. Mr R C Nickerson said that as this was a heritage issue, there may be other funding avenues available such as the Lottery fund and other heritage funds.

Mr R S Henderson said that it was important to visit the dock so that Members could see what was being discussed.

The Chairperson said that external funding would be considered once the project had moved forward in the capital programme, as there would be an expectation for match funding, and that could not be considered until it had been reviewed under the capital programme.

The Board agreed.

Tug Replacement Programme – RCM 2313

The General Manager advised that drawings were being checked by Ports and Harbours officers. He advised that the first scheduled meeting with the Yard was on 1 September 2008, and he and two others would be at that meeting. The General Manager also advised that the first steel was on schedule to be cut in early 2009, and a report would be presented to the Harbour Board, by the Operations Manager, Marine, on the supervision of the contract and confirmed that delivery was expected in 2010.

The General Manager advised that this was a fixed price contract and there had been no extra costs.

Uyeasound – RCM 2314

The Port Engineer presented photographs by way of a slide show, and advised that a site meeting had been held on Tuesday. He advised that the piling was complete and had gone to plan. The Senior Contract Manager added that there had been delays due to bad weather in July, but the contractors had caught up again. He confirmed that there had been no health and safety issues to report and Members were advised that completion was expected in March/April 2009.

Navigational Aids – PCM2104

The General Manager advised that Pathfinder was now on and gave a speedier service for Ports and Harbours Operations.

The General Manager advised that wave height software was being developed for the radar system. He explained that there was currently a wave height buoy in place, but advised that radar software would be cheaper as it was expensive to maintain the buoy, as it had to be lifted to change the batteries and one had previously been lost.

The General Manager advised that Fair Isle had requested a marker to assist vessels in the dark. He advised that he would be visiting Fair Isle and expected that the marker would be fixed to the seabed. He said that the costs would be met from existing budgets.

Sullom Voe Terminal Jetty Maintenance Contract

The Port Engineer advised that the Tower had been completed on time. Mr L Boswell expressed his thanks for the safe completion of the works. The Port Engineer added that he would like to congratulate Malakoff. He advised Members that their contract would come to an end this year and there would be another tendering exercise to secure a new contractor.

In response to a query the Port Engineer advised that the scrap metal from the tower would be advertised in the Shetland Times inviting licensed contractors to submit offers for its removal. He expected to know who the successful licensed contractor would be by 5 September 2008, and the scrap would be removed shortly after.

Warehouse, Scalloway

The Port Engineer advised that there had been no further correspondence. The Chairperson advised that he had spoken to the Company Secretary of SLAP who had advised that in order to meet the requirements for parking, the warehouse would be reduced to two units and he had also indicated that there had been little interest in the units from local businesses. He added that SLAP would only build the warehouse if a long-term contract were in place.

Mr J Tait said that the space was currently being well utilised and he had been concerned that the warehouse would restrict the amount of space available. Members considered the space required for activities such as cage assembly.

Scalloway Dredging

The Senior Contract Manager provided an update on the recently completed wash probe. He advised that the next stage was to apply for two consents, which would be through in two weeks. The General Manager advised that the last consent could not be applied for until the project had moved on. He said that the consent to dump would be applied for once the advert for an approved contractor had been issued.

In response to a query from Mr J Tait, Members were advised that the worst case scenario would be that the material would be dumped, but it was expected to be used for the Scalloway breakwater and/or the west side of the college. The Chairperson said that the Walls breakwater would also be considered at that time, and would be dependent on the capital programme prioritisation of projects.

24/08

Port Operations Report

The Board noted a report by the General Manager, Ports and Harbours Operations (Appendix 4).

The General Manager advised that Schehallion had been closed and would not be up to maximum capacity until next week and confirmed there had been no incidents in the Port.

Members were advised that two Trainee VTS Officers were currently undergoing on the job training and would be attending training in South Shields in September, following which they could apply for a logbook. The General Manager added that one Pilot would retire after 28 years service and another would retire early next year. Members discussed whether VTS training could be provided by the NAFC and were advised that there were only 2 approved VTS training providers in Britain, and if NAFC were to be approved by the MCA, they would be able to attract outside business.

Mrs I J Hawkins drew attention to paragraph 6, Port Security, and Members were advised that the production of a Plan was part of legislation following 9/11. The Operations Manager, Ports advised that a template had been provided by the Department of Transport, therefore all Plans used the same template but differed between each Port. He added that ships had their own Security Plans and ships were not to let people on board without ID.

Mrs E L Fullerton expressed her concerns that the public were restricted from walking along the piers, due to the security gates and barriers that were in place. The General Manager advised that whilst there was activity on piers the barriers would be in place, for security and safety reasons, but these would be taken down when it was safe for the public to access the piers.

(10.55 am - The meeting briefly adjourned whilst the Chairperson greeted Professor Kemp and non-Harbour Board members).

(11.05 the Board reconvened)

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25/08 **The Future Development of the Port of Sullom Voe**

The Board noted a report by the Assistant Chief Executive (Appendix 5).

The Board were introduced to Professor Alex Kemp, who then gave a forty minute presentation on the Future Development of the Port of Sullom Voe. A question and answer session followed Professor Kemp's presentation. Professor A Kemp's report has been attached as Appendix 5A and the presentation slides attached as Appendix 5B.

The Chairperson advised that he, the General Manager and Mr L Boswell had to leave the meeting, in order to take a conference call. Mrs I J Hawkins, Vice-Chairperson, took the Chair. Following further questions and answer, Mrs Hawkins thanked Mr Kemp for his informative presentation.

The meeting concluded at 12.30pm

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A T J Cooper
CHAIRPERSON