

Harbour Board
10 November 2005 Public Minutes

Harbour Board
Scalloway Harbour Office, Scalloway
Thursday 10 November 2005 at 10.30 a.m.

Present:

J G Simpson	Capt D C Gray
I J Hawkins	J C Irvine
E J Knight	W A Ratter
W Tait	

Apologies:

N McCracken	C Smith
J Smith	

In Attendance (Officers):

J T Dickson, General Manager, Ports & Harbours Operations
R Moore, Deputy Port Operations Manager
A Inkster, Port Engineer
A Rendall, Piermaster, Scalloway
D Haswell, Committee Officer

Chairperson:

Mr J G Simpson, Chairperson of the Board, presided.

Circular:

The circular calling the meeting was held as read.

Minutes:

The minute of meeting held on 29 September 2005, having been circulated, was confirmed.

Minute Reference 21/05

In response to a question from Mr E J Knight, the General Manager advised that the Met Office were rethinking their options and it might be the case that they retain 22 staff at their Aberdeen Office. There was continuing correspondence between the Council and the Met Office with regard to radar coverage in Shetland. The General Manager added that he had spoken to Mr Alastair Carmichael, MP, and Mr Carmichael had indicated that he would be responding to the General Manager's most recent correspondence. The Chairperson said that this issue had been discussed at the Council meeting on 2 November and had supported the argument for weather radar coverage to be extended to Shetland.

Members' Attendance at External Meetings

The General Manager advised that he had attended a meeting of the British Ports Association Marine and Pilotage Group and the autumn seminar of UK Harbour Masters Association.

(Mr W A Ratter attended the meeting).

22/05

Harbour Charges – HM Coastguard Emergency Response Vessel

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

Some Members felt that the Council had fought hard for an emergency towing vessel in Shetland and the benefits provided by the tug were clear. Concern was expressed that if the Council started applying charges to this could jeopardise the tug provision.

Mr J C Irvine was of the view that if the tug was paid for by the MCA and, therefore, Central Government, it would not have a huge effect on Central Government to pay harbour charges. Mr Irvine questioned if the MCA had threatened to withdraw the vessel if charges were applied. In his view, the situation should be investigated further and, accordingly, Mr Irvine moved the Board defer consideration of this report for one cycle in order to allow the General Manager and Officers to investigate this matter further. This, however, received no seconder.

The General Manager explained that the advice from the Head of Legal and Administration in terms of the ZCC Act 1974 and as indicated at section 1.2 of the report, had been very specific. Hence the reason for Members to “note” the information in the report. If the Council did apply harbour charges to the tug, it might be difficult for the Council to defend itself legally.

Members noted the report.

23/05

Ports Project Monitoring Report

The Board noted a report by the Deputy Port Operations Manager (Appendix 1).

Members were provided with an update on various projects as follows:

2.1 – Dock Symbister

Historic Scotland had been in contact with Officers seeking further clarification on the project.

5.4 – Mid Yell

As indicated in the report, the Deputy Port Operations Manager advised that 2 companies had expressed an interest in providing a bundled fuel supply on Mid Yell pier. The Council’s Asset and Property Unit had sent leasing information to the companies and both companies had replied expressing their interest. There was a slight difference between the 2 companies in the amount of rent they were offering. The Deputy Port Operations Manager said it had not been possible to prepare a report for consideration by the Board today because the replies from the companies had only just been received.

The Board agreed that a report should be prepared for the next meeting. However it was recognised that because both companies were keen to move forward, a decision may need to be taken prior to the next meeting. In this regard, the Board unanimously agreed that delegated authority should be given to the General Manager (or his nominee) in consultation with the Chairperson, to decide which of the companies should be offered the lease.

Small Ports Marketing Group

The Deputy Port Operations Manager said it had been hoped that a meeting of the Group would be held before the meeting today but, due to Member availability, this had not been possible. However, it was hoped a report on the findings and recommendations of the Group would be presented to the next Board meeting.

In response to a request from the Deputy Port Operations Manager, the Board agreed that, although in terms of the remit of the Small Ports Marketing Group, the duration of the Group was originally meant to be for a period of one year and that year had now passed, the Group should continue until the recommendations of the Group were reported to the Board. Mrs I J Hawkins suggested that once the report from the Group had been considered, the Group could continue to allow Members to monitor the recommendations.

Walls Pier

The Port Engineer advised that the Member for the Area would be organising a meeting with the small pier users. It was recognised that although the meeting was specifically being arranged to address the fendering problem, it might be the case that other issues would be raised. The Board agreed that Officers from the appropriate Departments should also attend the meeting.

Extension to Sella Ness Pier, Sullom Voe

The General Manager advised that this project has now been transferred to Ports and Harbours Operations from the Economic Development Unit. Mr W A Ratter said that an Environmental Impact Assessment meeting was being held on 21 November 2005. Members agreed that, at this stage, there was nothing more the Council could do and it was now up to the company involved to make their own decisions.

Mrs I J Hawkins expressed disappointment that the redevelopment of Blacksness Pier was not going ahead at this time but accepted the reason for the delay.

24/05

Port Operations Report

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

The General Manager said Members would be aware that Schiehallion was currently closed for maintenance but would restart production around 21 November.

There was a brief discussion regarding fish landings at Scalloway. The Deputy Port Operations Manager advised that progress was being made in this area. Officers were in discussion with one particular company with a view to improving shellfish landings and, it was possible in the future that there would be a significant increase in shellfish landings. With regard to the tax disc system that would, hopefully, be coming into operation in April 2006, it was noted that this system was for shellfish fishermen, not shellfish farmers.

The meeting concluded at 11.10 a.m.

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