

Special Harbour Board
Council Chamber, Town Hall, Lerwick
Tuesday 2 February 2006 at 2.15 p.m.

Present:

J G Simpson	I J Hawkins
E J Knight	N McCracken
W A Ratter	C Smith
W Tait	

Apologies:

J C Irvine	J Smith
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In Attendance (Officers):

J T Dickson, General Manager, Ports & Harbours Operations
H Tait, Management Accountant
D Haswell, Committee Officer

Chairperson:

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

Circular:

The circular calling the meeting was held as read.

6/06 **Harbour Estimates – 2006/07**

The Board considered a report by the Head of Finance (Appendix 1) and, on the motion of Mrs I J Hawkins, seconded by Mr W Tait, approved the recommendations contained therein.

7/06 **Table of Dues – 2006/07**

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

On behalf of the Sullom Voe Users, Mr N McCracken reiterated his comments that he had made at the Harbour Users Panel. The Sullom Voe Users had no objection to the 2.5% increase in charges and, on the face of it, felt it was a reasonable increase. However, it was important to take into account the fact that Shetland Towage had increased their charges by 25% which was a significant increase.

(Mr W A Ratter attended the meeting).

Mr McCracken continued to say that Sullom Voe Users had not seen a reduction in cost base for a number of years. He added that throughput at Sullom Voe Terminal continued to decline and the infrastructure was not being built to address this. Mr McCracken concluded by saying that the key issue for the Harbour Board was to ensure that there was a long-term plan for Sullom Voe Terminal

Harbour Board
02 February 2006 Public Minutes

and the Board should be provided with clarity on these various steps and plans.

The General Manager advised over the last 2 years, costs at Ports and Harbours Operations had decreased by over £1M and this had been aided by the deletion of 21 posts. In relation to the increased charges by Shetland Towage, he advised that Shetland Towage had not increased their charges since 1997 and the 25% increase was intended to be a “catch-up” since 1997.

The Board approved the recommendations in the report, on the motion of Mrs I J Hawkins, seconded by Mr W A Ratter.

CHAIRPERSON