

Harbour Board
01 June 2006 Public Minutes
Harbour Board
Port Administration Building, Sella Ness
Thursday 1 June 2006 at 10.30 a.m.

Present:

J G Simpson I J Hawkins
J C Irvine N McCracken
C Smith W Tait

Apologies:

Capt D C Gray E J Knight
W A Ratter

In Attendance (Officers):

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

Minutes:

The minute of meeting held on 27 April 2006, having been circulated, was confirmed.

Members' Attendance at External Meetings

The Chairperson advised that he and Mrs Hawkins had attended the Fishing Exhibition in Glasgow last month. The Operations Manager, Marine and the Operations Manager, Ports had also attended. The Board agreed it was important for Members to continue to attend the Fishing Exhibitions.

14/06

Skerries South Mouth – Dredging Proposals

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

The General Manager briefly introduced the report, following which a brief discussion ensued. In response to questions, the Chairperson advised that the old "Filla" had extensively used the South Mouth. He added that if there was a spell of northerly winds, this prevented the use of the North East Mouth. If the South Mouth was dredged, this would allow it to be used during periods of heavy swell and would greatly benefit the shellfish business when the shellfish factory reopened. The Chairperson also advised that there was pressure on the Ferry Skippers using the North East Mouth because once they had entered the North East Mouth, they were committed to continue.

Mr N McCracken said that he had also picked up on the element of risk for Ferry Skippers using the North East Mouth and asked what the ongoing cost of keeping the South Mouth open would be. The General Manager explained this would be quite small and only the new nav aids would require maintenance.

The Board approved the recommendations in the report, on the motion of Mr J C Irvine, seconded by Mr W Tait. In response to a suggestion from the Chairperson and, in receiving the consent of his seconder, Mr J C Irvine agreed that the words “but it is thought that sustained wind speeds in excess of 25 knots will preclude the use of the South Mouth” should be deleted.

The Chairperson said he appreciated Members’ support on this issue.

15/06 **Scalloway Harbour – New Business**

The Board considered a report by the Operations Manager, Ports (Appendix 2).

In introducing the report, the General Manager advised that the Operations Manager, Ports would be following up the interest that had been received from several companies with a further visit to the companies in the Autumn. He added that, as a result of the visit, 3 vessels had come into Scalloway and the Department had received some very interesting enquiries. The General Manager said that he would be vigorously progressing the enquiries next week and would report on the outcome at the next Board meeting.

The Operations Manager, Ports said that whilst Scalloway was in an ideal location, it did not have all the necessary facilities. However, it was hoped that the facilities would be built upon.

Mrs I J Hawkins said she was very pleased that the visit had taken place and had been so successful. With regard to the provision of a forklift and storage facilities, she asked if a special case could be made for these items. In response, the General Manager advised that the Financial Regulations had to be adhered to and the funding for the facilities referred to in the report had to be considered by CPMT. He added that since the report was written, 2 other issues had come to light, namely, the possibility of providing fendering at the north end of Blacksness Pier and installing a pontoon for visiting yachts. Also, consideration should be given to try and encourage the operators of the fuel bunkering facility to expand the facility. The General Manager confirmed that these issues would be included in the report that would be presented to the CPMT for consideration. Mrs I J Hawkins suggested that consideration should also be given to dredging a small area of Scalloway Harbour. However, the General Manager advised that this was not a small area as bends in the approach channel had to

be considered. This work had already been costed as part of the pelagic factory project.

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

The Chairperson thanked Mr C Smith for his assistance and help in this matter.

Whilst not on today's agenda, Mr J C Irvine reminded Members that it had previously been agreed that the Council should seek specialist advice from a QC with regard to the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 and the requirement for the Council to provide information to Lerwick Port Authority (LPA). Mr Irvine said that, rather than this issue always being considered by the Council, it was important that the Board also considered it. Members agreed.

16/06

Ports Project Monitoring Report

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

Dock Symbister

The Port Engineer advised that the consulting engineer from Historic Scotland had inspected the Peerie Dock last week and had agreed that the structure was beyond salvage. The consulting engineer would be submitting a report to Historic Scotland which he hoped would be favourable for the Council's proposed method of reconstruction. Thereafter, previous proposals would be re-estimated and an approach would be made to the CPMT for additional funding.

Walls Pier

The Operations Manager, Ports said that a number of stakeholders had attended a meeting about the Walls Pier on 30 May and it had been agreed to submit a proposal for pier facilities to be provided and improved. The Capital Projects Team hoped to be in a position to provide initial proposals next week.

Extension to Sella Ness Pier, Sullom Voe

The General Manager said Members would be aware that the Planning Sub-Committee had granted planning consent for the fish meal and oil factory at its meeting on 31 May 2006. The NID for the pier extension will be sent to the Scottish Executive for a decision.

Tug Replacement Programme

The General Manager welcomed Mr P Gray, Engineering Superintendent to the meeting. The General Manager said that the Tug Replacement Programme was progressing on schedule.

West Pier, Scalloway

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The General Manager explained that he had received an email from the Acting Head of Capital Projects which asked the Board to have a close look at the redevelopment of Blackness West Pier in view of the fact that, since the project had been approved for inclusion in the Capital Programme, it had come to light following a re-survey that the pier was not in such a poor condition as it was originally thought it would be at this time. The General Manager suggested that he prepare a report on the redevelopment, detailing various options, for consideration by the Board at its next meeting.

Mrs I J Hawkins felt that Members appeared to have lost sight of this project and reminded Members that several companies had recently expressed a very positive interest in Scalloway. She said that the project was already in the Capital Programme and it should continue to progress as planned and be built next year. In her view, the Scalloway community and industry had waited long enough.

Mr W Tait moved the Board agree to the suggestion by the General Manager that a report be presented to the next meeting of the Board. Mr J C Irvine seconded.

Mrs I J Hawkins moved as an amendment that the project should continue as planned. This, however, received no seconder.

The Chairperson said he was concerned that if the project was considered by the CPMT as it currently stood, the CPMT could reject the funding. In his view, all of the available options should be considered.

Mrs I J Hawkins said it should be borne in mind that the money allocated to the project could be allocated to something else.

17/06

Port Operations Report

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

In response to comments, the General Manager said that there had recently been an increase in enquiries regarding ship-to-ship transfers. He assured Members that companies were made aware that ship-to-ship transfer facilities were available in Shetland at every opportunity. Mr C Smith, as agent for FenderCare Marine, the only approved contractor in Sullom Voe for ship-to-ship transfers, reiterated this point. Members agreed it was important that Shetland ports were promoted to the best of their ability because it was evident that marketing had achieved positive results.

In response to a question, the Operations Manager, Marine, provided Members with an update on the transfer of Shetland Towage to the Council. Members noted that things were moving ahead.

CHAIRPERSON