

MINUTE

‘A & B’

Harbour Board
Council Chamber, Town Hall, Lerwick
Thursday 20 February 2007 at 10.30 a.m.

Present:

Capt. D C Gray I J Hawkins
G Johnston J G Simpson
Mr C Smith Mr J Smith
W Tait

Apologies:

J Irvine E J Knight
W A Ratter

In Attendance (Officers):

J T Dickson, General Manager, Ports & Harbours Operations
B Edwards, Operations Manager, Ports
A Inkster, Port Engineer
R Moore, Operations Manager, Marine
S Summers, Administration Manager
L Gair, 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 11 January 2007 and 1 February 2007, having been circulated, were confirmed.

07/07 **Ports Project Monitoring Report**

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

In response to a query from the Chairperson, the Port Engineer advised that there was no further progress. He advised that Historic Scotland were still waiting for the Conservation Engineer's Report, before they would be able provide written confirmation to allow the work to begin.

The Port Engineer advised that the Scottish Executive funding for the current year would be lost, but the Scottish Executive were sympathetic to the situation and he expected the funding to be made available in the new financial year.

Mr W Tait asked how long ago the process had started and asked why Historic Scotland had dragged their heels, as the project had been held up so long that the structure had disintegrated and fallen into the sea.

The Chairperson advised that it began with plans being drawn up and submitted to Historic Scotland which they didn't accept because they said that the structure had to be built from the seabed up. The Chairperson added that the Port Engineer had been working closely with them to get a plan that they would accept, and verbal agreement was granted, but not yet received in writing.

The Port Engineer added that the project started about 5 years ago and the original problem was in finding out whether it was a listed structure and plans were drawn up. He said that it wasn't until the last minute that Historic Scotland found out that it was listed. The Port Engineer advised that at that time the cost of the work was £200,000 and the Scottish Executive agreed to pay 50%. He said that a Conservation Engineer helped last year and a verbal agreement was reached. He added that once Historic Scotland gave the go ahead, a report would be brought before the Council for approval. The Chairperson thanked the Port Engineer for the tremendous amount of work done on this.

The General Manager referred to paragraph 5.5 of the report and advised that he had been in contact with SBS who confirmed that the bunker capacity at Scalloway had doubled to 530 tonnes and the work would be completed by the end of March. Mrs I J Hawkins referred to all the information supplied in paragraph 5.5 and said that it was good news for Scalloway.

08/07

Port Operations Report

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

The General Manager referred to Appendix J of the report and said that this information had been supplied following a request, from Mr N McCracken, at the last meeting of the Harbour Board. The General Manager said that there were 3 standard ship sizes with a capacity of 600,000 barrels, 1 million barrels and 2 million barrels. He said that it was not possible to compare Sullom Voe to any of the other major ports around the North Sea, as they provided additional services. Mrs I J Hawkins asked if the figures were competitive in order to secure business, as they appeared to be in the higher bracket. The General Manager advised that in order to keep them competitive, there had only been an inflationary increase applied, and reminded Members that there was no longer an equalisations account.

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The Chairperson said that it was interesting to see the information provided on the fish landings in Scalloway in January and there were a lot more boats and fish coming into Scalloway.

The Chairperson said that as this was the last meeting of the Board for the current Council, he asked that it be noted that Mr W Tait had served on the Board for many years and wished to thank him for all work and time he had given to the Board and Ports and Harbours Operations.

Mrs Hawkins said that as this was the last meeting of the Board, she wished to remind the General Manager that they had requested information on the Membership of the Capital Project Management Team.

In response to a query from Mrs Hawkins, on the outcome of an FOI Request from the Lerwick Port Authority in relation to Scalloway Harbour Charges, the General Manager advised that the Head of Legal and Administration had received a response from the Edinburgh Solicitor. He said that the advice received stated that the course of action taken, to divulge the information, was the right thing to do. He added that it had cost the Council a lot of money to get to that conclusion.

CHAIRPERSON