

Minutes of a Meeting of the NEW QUAY Harbour Users Consultative Committee held remotely via video-conference on Thursday, 24 October 2024

Representing Ceredigion County Council: Councillor Keith Henson (Chairman)
Councillors Elizabeth Evans, Matthew Vaux

Officers in Attendance: Rhodri Llwyd, Owen Morgan, Katy Spain and Dana Jones

Harbour Users: Jennifer Davies, Julian Driver, Jonathan Price Jones, David Nicholson, Carl Rich, Chris Seal, Martin Seal, Owen Stephen Webb, NJ Robertson, Kevin Sandover, Martin Wood

(6.30pm – 7.30pm)

1. **Apologies**

None.

2. **Minutes of the Meeting held on 21 March 2024**

It was AGREED to note the minutes of the meeting held on the 21 March 2024

3. **Harbour Services Update**

It was reported by the Harbour Manager that a meeting had been scheduled for the following week with representatives of the yacht club regarding the proposals for storage of the dinghies.

It was reported as the Clic service was not available during the weekend, therefore boatowners would soon be able to pay for their day launches or visitor moorings via an online payment system on Ceredigion CC website which had recently been developed. Users would have access to this on their mobiles via the website or at the Harbour office, at which assistance could be provided from a member of the Harbour Services Team if necessary on the office computer. It was also agreed that the proposal at Aberaeron Harbour Users Consultative meeting would also be noted in the NQ Minutes as follows:-

Harbour users also suggested that a lock bar gate with a code could be used to address this issue, and payment could be done online with an email code been sent to the users to access the slipway, however, there could be an issue that users could share the code and the access to emergency services. Others were of an opinion that a QR code was a sufficient way to pay, however, noted that there had been issues with fraudulent stickers being placed over the original and payment being sent to an unknown company/person. These would be considered by the Harbour Manager/Authority.

Clarification was sought if the removal of the yachts on the pier over the winter period would be a permanent arrangement. The Harbour Manager clarified the

arrangements for the area and reported that it was permanent arrangement, the decision was made as a result of access concerns to the pier end in the event of an emergency, particularly if the emergency services require access to the end of the pier during the winter months. The area is also for access to the tender rack which will no longer have to be dismantled, and subsequently reassembled each season. Chris Seal noted that whilst he accepted Mike Masters (lift organiser) may be disappointed with the impact this may have on the boat lift arrangements, he was pleased that this would enable the rack to be a permanent feature.

Due to yachts no longer being permitted to be stored on the lower part of the pier, it was reported that concerns had been raised that it was no longer economically viable in the future to hire a crane company for users that required this service. It was currently £180 per vessel due to the crane being used for other purposes and the banksman being a local person with the relevant qualification to assist. Dates for craning were discussed and it was asked if a date during Easter holidays would be suitable or possible, it was suggested that the co-ordinator write to the Harbour Authority with the proposals. It was noted by the Harbour Manager that the request would be considered by the Activity and Events committee, and if the date was during school holidays a greater concern would be raised due to an influx of children in the vicinity, however, additional control measures could be considered by the committee if necessary.

A request was made to review the tender rack by replacing it or making it more robust. Several tenders were stored on the rack; however concerns were raised over ownership of some of the tenders. Some tenders were pushed in and others already on the rack were consequently damaged. The Harbour Manager stated that he would visit the storage facility as they should adhere to the naming vessels policy. The Harbour Manager advised that these comments would be considered as part of any review of the facility but there was no intention to remove the facility.

Concerns were also raised that dinghy owners had only received two weeks' notice to remove their dinghies from the beach. It was confirmed that no agreements and permissions were currently in place for those dinghies and owners have a responsibility to store their dinghies in locations where they have appropriate permissions.

A harbour user raised a health and safety concern regarding the vehicles that were parked below the harbour office as the barriers required repair as the bolts were loose. The Harbour Manager advised that he would liaise with colleagues in health and safety to review these concerns.

The lights at the end of Penpolion had extinguished and a new light had been purchased, together with the need to fix the railings. A contractor would be appointed through the procurement process.

An inspection of the mooring points and rings had been carried out and the Harbour Manager stated that he was liaising with the planning service regarding their replacement due to the CADW status of the pier. Once a response had been received, the work would be procured subject to available budget. A harbour user stated that he had reported that the base of the rings had corroded. The Harbour Manager stated he would look at them further during his visit to New Quay the following week.

A harbour user raised the issue of surveys of New Quay Pier. . The Harbour Manager stated that a survey was currently being progressed by colleagues in engineering, and that the pier was subject to regular scheduled surveys..

Concerns were raised by a harbour users on the running of the harbours as the number on the waiting list for moorings had decreased significantly, with 50 spaces available in Aberaeron and 22 moorings not used in New Quay, this had a significant impact on the income received by the Harbour authority. In response, the CLO reported that the County Council were monitoring the situation. However, as all were aware Pwll Cam was out of action to the work on the coastal defence, and that the pattern of available moorings at New Quay and Aberystwyth would be assessed. Any proposals and solutions would be considered in light of information collated. Any proposals would be welcomed from Harbour Users. The Harbour Manager also reported that the waiting list had reduced in accordance with the Harbour Management Policy and consequently a number had been removed from the waiting list. It was explained that several moorings were vacant in Aberystwyth and Aberaeron due to their position and access to the harbour being undesirable.

A Harbour user had been informed that the remaining slit at Pwll Cam would not be removed by the BAM contractors, even though this was an ideal opportunity to do so. In response, the CLO stated that decision on this request had not been made to date and the current chemical analysis on the slit would be obtained

Councillor Elizabeth Evans stated that once the works had been completed by BAM, she urged that Aberaeron Harbour would be relaunched to attract the return of boats into the harbour, and especially Pwll Cam where harbour users wished to moor their boats.

4. Redacted Mooring Waiting List

It was agreed to note the mooring waiting list as presented.

5. General Maintenance and Cleanliness

The Port Waste Management facility had been implemented less than 12 months and had worked well over the summer to assist New Quay being clean and tidy. The Seasonal Harbour Assistants were also litter picking as part their roles.

A request to dispose of oil and filters at the Waste Management facility was made by a Commercial boat owner. Further consideration would be given to this request as there were enhanced restrictions associated with disposal of commercial waste. Several users believed this would be a useful facility for the harbour users.

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