

Minutes of Annual Public Meeting of Tarbert (Loch Fyne) Harbour Authority held via Zoom Teleconference Video Link on Thursday 26th November 2020 at 7.00pm

1. Present:

Duncan Cunningham (Chairman of the Board)
Carolyn McDonald (Vice Chairperson of the Board)
John Hardie (Trustee)
Steve Bleasby (Trustee)
Malcolm MacDonald (Trustee)
Roger Godfrey (Trustee)
Donald McAllister (Trustee/Port Manager/Harbour Master)

In Attendance:

Pauline Laycock (Office Manager), Darren Mair (Deputy Harbour Master)

3 Members of Public

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed those present. He went on to confirm that the Board had taken advice from the Harbour Clerk, to confirm the legality of the zoom meeting. The Clerk had confirmed that a zoom meeting was legal and the Harbour was meeting its statutory obligations in accordance with the Byelaws. He also advised that the meeting was being recorded to assist with the Minute taking

2. Apologies: Apologies for absence were received from Harbour Board Trustees James Prentice and Malcolm MacDonald.

3. Minutes of Meeting of 21st November 2019: Minutes of the previous Meeting had previously been published and made available to all attendees. The Chairman stated these had been agreed by the Trustees. No questions were tabled on these minutes and they were duly approved.

4. Chairman's Annual Review:

As the Chairman's Review will form part of these Minutes and all present had been given a copy of the Review; the Chairman advised that he would, for the purpose of the meeting, run through this quickly, highlighting one or two important points.

Accounts

The Chairman confirmed that the net surplus shown in the accounts for 2019/20 was approx. £18.5K, which had been better than expected and despite the effect on the Trusts activities during the 2020/21 season, due to the pandemic; the Board have a reasonable expectation that the Authority has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The Board were also pleased to announce that following negotiations with Crown Estates this financial year, the Harbour had been able to renegotiate the Pontoon Lease Agreement held with them, which has secured the Harbour just under a £300K saving over the next 10 years.

Shipping

Following her extensive engine refit, we were fortunate enough to welcome the Paddle Steamer Waverley back to Tarbert for two visits during August 2020. She regrettably had to prematurely end her season following an unfortunate accident, when she hit Brodick Pier, whilst visiting Arran. We are hopeful however, that we will be able to welcome her back to Tarbert in 2021.

Fishing

The COVID-19 Pandemic, lockdown, the uncertainty of Brexit and the market value of the landings this year, have all had an enormous adverse effect on the fishing industry in Tarbert. Despite this

pressure, the Chairman confirmed that the Board remain resolute in providing support for the local fishing industry, wherever it possibly can.

General

The delayed Scottish Water Sewer Replacement work commenced at the start of September this year and will continue for 13-16 months. This will mean a great deal of disruption for the whole of the village however, he stated that the Harbour were happy to co-operate with Scottish Water in any way they could and have a good working relationship with the contractors presently on site at the Harbour.

5. 2019/20 Annual Accounts:

The Annual Accounts had been made available to all attendees and the Chairman asked John Hardie (Trustee) to give a brief outline of the accounts for the benefit of those present.

Mr. Hardie explained that although the accounts layout was not easy to understand, the accounts were published and independently audited in line with statutory requirements. He referred to Pages 6 and 7 of the Account, showing the trading performance and balance sheet. There had been a slight drop in turnover and an increase in direct costs, however the accounts were similar to those of previous years and the cash position remained strong with a strong P&L and Balance Sheet. The Trustees were happy with the accounts and Mr Hardie made special mention to the way in which the Harbour Team had maintained the level of income and controlled overheads.

The Chairman thanked Mr Hardie for his presentation.

The Chairman then opened the meeting for any questions/discussion:

Mr Rushton asked a question in respect of the trade creditors and accrued expenses shown in the accounts and to what these referred to. For the benefit of Mr Rushon, Mr Hardie ran through the appropriate figures, explaining what each one was for. Mr Rushon thanked Mr Hardie for his explanation.

Mr Bates asked a question in respect of the car parking signage along the Harbour walkway. He asked whether, to alleviate the problem of motorhomes parking and obstructing the walkway, signs could be erected restricting the parking of vehicles over 6 metres. The Chairman agreed that this would be possible, however, nothing could be done until Scottish Water had completed the sewage works, when all the signage would be re-evaluated and replaced.

There being no other questions and before closing the meeting the Chairman expressed on behalf of all the Trustees their thanks to the Harbour Team for all their hard work and for making the role of the Trustees a lot easier. Mr Rushton also paid tribute to all the Harbour staff for their friendliness and efficiency. The Chairman closed the meeting by wishing everyone well for the 2021 season and hoped that next year everyone could meet in person.

Meeting closed 7.20pm.

Duncan I. Cunningham
Chairman of the Board of Trustees
Tarbert (Loch Fyne) Harbour Authority
November 2020