

Minutes of Annual Public Meeting of Tarbert (Loch Fyne) Harbour Authority held in Tarbert Art & Leisure Centre on Thursday 21st November 2019 at 7.00pm

1. Present:

Duncan Cunningham (Chairman of the Board)
Carolyn McDonald (Vice Chairperson of the Board)
John Hardie (Trustee)
Donald McAllister (Trustee/Port Manager/Harbour Master)

In Attendance: Pauline Laycock (Office Manager)

8 Members of Public

The Chairman opened the meeting welcoming those present.

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

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

4. 2018/19 Annual Accounts:

The Annual Accounts were distributed at the Meeting 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 the accounts were published and independently audited in line with statutory requirements. He referred to Pages 6 and 7 of the Accounts. Income for 2018/19 was £710K showing an increase as compared to the previous year of £645K, the direct costs were in line with the previous year showing £545K. Mr Hardie went on to refer those present to the Pie charts attached to the back of the accounts, which gave a breakdown in percentage of both income and expenditure. The administration expenses were up as compared to the previous year, but this had been due in most part to an increase in rates and Heat and Lighting. The Balance sheet on Page 7 gave a statement of assets and liabilities.

The Chairman thanked Mr Hardie for his presentation and asked whether there were any questions from the floor.

Mr Godfrey asked several questions concerning the differing figures shown in the accounts in respect of deferred taxation and about the deferred income. Mr Hardie gave an explanation as to how the figures were presented in the accounts, particularly in respect of the way in which the capital grants were released into the accounts and the overall effect on taxation and depreciation. Mr Hardie did however, agree to contact the Harbour Accountants for additional clarification should Mr Godfrey wish to discuss this further at any time. Mr Godfrey thanked Mr Hardie for his explanation.

There being no further questions, the Chairman referred to his Annual Review and highlighted the main issues.

5. Chairman's Annual Review:

The Board were pleased to announce the opening in December 2018, of the new Harbour toilet and shower block, including a separate large laundry facility and modern upgraded disabled facilities. The new facilities have been well received by both visitors and permanent berth holders, with many passing on their positive comments and appreciation of the new facilities.

The conversion of the old toilet and shower block into a chandlery/reception and new Harbour office commenced in January and was opened in May this year, in time for the Scottish Series, again the new facilities were warmly received.

Other works completed this year have been the new waste pump out facility at Jakes Quay and a dedicated rubbish/recycling area. He went on to advise that an extension to the car park is also planned and work is due to commence at the end of January 2020. The car park extension has been facilitated by the completion of the Barmore and Garval Road junction improvements, which should be completed by early December 2019.

The Chairman advised that the net surplus shown in the accounts for this year was approx. £30K and although work on all the above Harbour projects has meant that Harbour reserves have now been depleted; the Board are however, already looking to the future. A long-term planning meeting is due to take place next week and other Harbour improvement projects identified, these will hopefully be progressed within the coming years as and when funding allows.

Shipping

The Paddle Steamer Waverley did not sail in 2019 as she required new boilers. An appeal to save the Waverley was launched and has reached its target of raising £2.3 million, which will see her return to service in 2020 and we look forward to welcoming her back to Tarbert.

Fish farm traffic has continued to make use of the East Pier/knuckle facilities, ensuring the shipping revenue remains healthy.

Fishing

Fishing dues fell significantly this year due to the decrease in the Tarbert Fishing Fleet together with the continuing pressure on the fishing industry both in time at sea and the

uncertainty of Brexit. The Board remain resolute however, in providing support for the local fishing industry.

Fish farm traffic has continued to make use of the facilities this year and the Board are hopeful that this usage will continue into next year and beyond. This additional income is very helpful in ensuring that the facilities are properly maintained and improved where necessary.

Leisure

The 2018/19 accounts show an increase in income for berth holder dues, visitor berthing was slightly down, but the Board are pleased to report that with the new upgraded facilities, visitor numbers will have increased for the next financial year. It is envisaged that the new improved facilities along with other planned improvements to the Harbour surrounds, will attract additional visitors through next year and beyond.

Property and other Infrastructure

As stated earlier, the Chairman advised that the Board remain keen to continue with the development of the Harbour and the Amenity Area by providing improved leisure facilities. Investigations continue to progress into the provision of new facilities and although grant funding may be required to bring some of these projects to fruition, every avenue is being explored and the Board are hopeful that sufficient funding can be raised, in the not too distant future.

The Chairman gave particular mention to the work which has taken place this year in the Millenium Garden and on behalf of the Board of Trustees thanked all those involved with the improvements, which have made such a tremendous difference and been well received by villagers.

General

The Chairman advised that the Board had recently been in talks with Scottish Water about the planned upgrade of Tarbert's sewage system. The works are due to commence in February 2020 and will continue for 13 months. This will mean a great deal of disruption for the whole of the village however, Scottish Water have agreed to discontinue with work for the Scottish Series in May and the Seafood Festival in July. Some disruption at the Harbour is envisaged as Scottish Water will be utilising Harbour ground/space for storage of equipment and their own staff portacabins buildings and facilities.

The Chairman informed the meeting that the election of four Trustees was due in 2020 and that anyone interested in applying to join the Harbour Board should apply for a pack in December.

The Chairman opened the meeting for any questions/discussion:

Mr Bates asked whether Scottish Water had offered any compensation to the Harbour for the use of its land/amenities during the proposed sewage upgrade in 2020? Mr McAllister advised that an offer had been made, which the Board had found totally derisory and had referred this back to Scottish Water.

Mr Godfrey asked whether it was the intention of Scottish Water to take over the newly extended car park, once completed? Mr McAllister assured the meeting that this would not be the case.

Mrs Hunt enquired as to how many sheds were to be taken down to make way for the extended car park at the Harbour? Mr McAllister informed the meeting that there were 4 sheds in total, including Mrs Hunt's and Mr Barkers. He went on to advise that initially the intention had been to extend the present car park's width, however following ground investigations, this would have proved to be costly, time consuming and unviable. It had therefore been agreed by the Board, that the best way forward would be to extend the car park length ways. A Planning Application was in progress for the new car park and the council were aware of the project following initial conversations with them. The planned start date would be end January/beginning February 2020, with a completion date of April 2020.

Mr Barker asked about the possibility of improved access to the Boatyard site in Pier Road? The Chairman replied that this was not a matter for discussion at the Public Meeting and would best be addressed with the Harbour Master for discussion at the next Trustees Meeting.

Mr Barker also asked in respect of the use of social media to inform stakeholders of future Harbour plans? The Chairman advised that the Harbour's '5-Year Strategic Plan' was available on the Harbour web site and that following the Trustees 'Long Term Planning Meeting' next week, a new 5-year Strategic Plan would be produced and would be posted on the Harbour web site. Mr McAllister also advised that more interaction via social media was now taking place through the Harbour web site, Instagram, twitter and Facebook.

Mrs Hardie asked whether ideas for the 'Long Term Planning Meeting' could also be submitted by the public? The Chairman advised that if anyone had any ideas for the meeting, then they would be most welcome to submit these to the Board via the Harbour Master.

There being no other business the Chairman closed the Public Meeting.

Meeting closed 7.45pm.

Duncan I. Cunningham
Chairman of the Board of Trustees
Tarbert (Loch Fyne) Harbour Authority
November 2019