

North Berwick Harbour Trust Association (NBHTA)

Annual General Meeting – Minutes

On Monday 15th March 2010 at 7.30pm at Council Chambers, North Berwick

Present: Gerry Hughes (Chairman), Jackie Tagg, Ken Burchell, Alison Hall, David Lombard, Colin Cumming, Jim Sandison, David Reid, Derek Braid (Secretary)

Apologies: Bruce Todd, Jane McMinn, John Hookway, Stewart Auld, Benjie Pearson, Gary Lawson, Cameron Small

Circulation: As above plus NBHTA Web Site (www.nbharbour.org.uk), Harbour Master and NB Library

1. Minutes of Annual General Meeting 25/3/09

Proposed by David Reid and Seconded by David Lombard

2. Report by Chairman

It is just as well that we all concurred with the policy of not implementing the legal process until we were satisfied with the condition of the harbour. There have been delays in the harbour works due to the tight purse strings in East Lothian Council. However, our persistence and dogged determination is getting things done, and we will continue to do so. I can only apologise if I have provided timescales that have slipped.

So, as ever, I thank everyone for their efforts and I think we can be reasonably happy with progress to date, bearing in mind we are bringing the Harbour Area back into local control and ownership, to secure its future and development for years to come.

3. Approval of Accounts

Alison Hall presented the accounts. One of the questions concerned the Harbourmaster's salary. Alison advised that, apart for period to cover absences, this is not borne by the NBHTA and therefore does not show in the accounts. When we become a full trust, we will pay the Harbourmaster's salary, but we will receive a grant from East Lothian Council to cover this.

The accounts were proposed by Colin Cumming and Seconded by David Reid. Gerry Hughes wished to record his thanks to the Treasurer, Alison Hall and to David Lombard who had audited the accounts.

It was noted that David Lombard had produced an auditor's report with recommendations. This report will be discussed at a meeting of Gerry Hughes, Alison Hall, David Lombard and Jackie Tagg.

4. Election of Office Bearers

Derek Braid reported that the following nominations had been received:-

Chairman	Gerry Hughes	Proposed by Jane McMinn, Seconded by Stewart Auld
Treasurer	Alison Hall	Proposed by Bruce Todd, Seconded by Ken Burchell
Secretary	Derek Braid	Proposed by Jackie Tagg, Seconded by Jane McMinn
Officer	Bruce Todd	Proposed by Gerry Hughes, Seconded by Stewart Auld
Officer	Jackie Tagg	Proposed by Jane McMinn, Seconded by Stewart Auld

There were no other nominations therefore the above Office Bearers were elected unopposed.

5. Future AGMs

Colin Cumming had proposed that AGMs of the Harbour Trust, which would replace the current Harbour Trust Association, should be open to the public and advertised in the press. He was also surprised that the draft Harbour Empowerment Order (HEO) did not specify this. David Reid advised that the HEO followed the Government's Modernisation of Port Trusts guidelines and that the HEO remained sufficiently flexible to allow the trustees to decide on this issue. Both David Reid and David Lombard argued that it should be left to the future Trust, and there was no point in the Association making a recommendation to the Trust that was not enforceable. Derek Braid, seconding Colin's proposal, argued that making a recommendation now, to open AGMs to the public would provide a pointer for the Trust. A vote was taken with 3 in favour of the proposal and 5 against, with 1 abstention. Therefore, the Harbour Trust Association will not make a recommendation to the future Harbour Trust on this issue. It was emphasised that this decision was not stating that the AGMs should not be open to the public, but that the decision was against making a recommendation.

The meeting was closed at 8pm

(and followed by a normal Full Meeting of the NBHTA)

*Derek Braid
Secretary
22/3/10*