

NBHTA Business Meeting
Monday 3 November 2008
Council Chambers North Berwick
7.30 p.m.

Minutes

Present:

Gerry Hughes	Chairman
Stewart Auld	
Derek Braid	
Colin Cumming	
Alison Hall	Treasurer
David Lumbard	
David Reid	
Jim Sandison	
Jackie Tagg	Minutes
Bruce Todd	

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

1. Apologies

Ken Burchell, John Hookway, Jane McMinn, Cameron Small

2. Minutes of Meeting 13 October 2008 and Matters Arising

Page 1 Some comments re SSC received from Jackie Tagg.

Page 2 Charity Status –all at meeting agreed this decision to be left until full Trust Status achieved

Page 3 Noted that the SSC will be applying for funding for a feasibility study for a Lobster Hatchery. Tom Brock has been contacted and asked to ensure that the harbour area is not specified in any application as the NBHTA are neutral on the scheme at present and this could adversely affect the opportunity for NBHTA to acquire funds for other projects within the harbour area. It was also suggested that the NBHTA have sight of any applications prior to posting.

Proposed: Stuart Auld

Seconded: Jim Sandison

3. Towards Trust Status – David Reid and David Lumbard

3.1 Revised Harbour Empowerment Order [new document circulated prior to meeting]

David R gave an overview of the process and work done so far. It is hoped that the ELC will be able to agree the changes. The Independent Solicitor will now make a site visit and check the documents. The aim would be to have the document to Parliament by mid December in order to achieve Trust status in June 2009.

It was confirmed that we need to be really sure about agreement in principle on a number of outstanding issues with ELC before the Empowerment Order is sent to Parliament, as it would be difficult to stop the process once submitted.

There followed some discussion and David R confirmed that there will be a clear plan showing the areas included in the transfer and all NBHTA members must be given the opportunity to agree the plan before submission of the Empowerment Order

Action - Stewart and Bruce to provide a plan of area, showing the land to be transferred to the Trust. A copy of the plan will be left at the Harbour Office for people to study prior to next meeting. Bruce to send an e mail to members to advise when the plan is available.

There was discussion about the ELC timescale for advising us on their proposals with regard to outstanding fabric issues. This is not likely to be before the Empowerment Order should go to Parliament. After discussion it was agreed that not knowing the situation about the crane could cause a delay in achieving Trust Status.

Action: Gerry and Bruce to discuss this issue urgently with Tom Shearer with a view to getting a written commitment with regard to outstanding fabric issues by mid December 2008.

Action: David R to circulate draft of Minute of Agreement, showing the format, but without the detail, prior to December meeting

Action – NBHTA to vote on agreement of the draft Empowerment Order and draft Minute of Agreement at December meeting.

3.2 Appointment of Trustees – document circulated prior to the meeting
Document discussed and questions answered.
2 paragraphs still to be completed.

Thanks to David R, David L and Derek for the work done.

4. Report Back from East Lothian Council - Bruce

Discussions have now started in earnest with Helen Bruce with regard to the elements of the grant that the ELC will pay the Trust.

Gerry, Bruce and Stewart met on 3rd November with Alan Forsyth and Murray Hutchison. The ELC produced a detailed report on the costs of putting right all the elements of harbour that NBHTA had identified. It also included items that had been identified in the ELC H&S report.

The H&S report was discussed and ELC are going to look at this again. There had been a delay in ELC progress due to sick absence. An early on site meeting between NBHTA and ELC is being arranged hopefully by 10 November.

Crane and booms – ELC are willing to fund a feasibility study, using Royal Haskonings.. This will be supported by: Bruce, Gerry, Stewart and John. The total repairs for all items are thought to be in the region of £¼ Million.

New railings were also discussed and various quotes provided. Wooden ones were too expensive but the meeting agreed the cast steel railings would be acceptable.

The old swimming pool buildings were touched upon and ELC offered that one of their engineers investigates possible solutions. .

Galloways Pier – NBHTA now accept that the work done is acceptable [report and DVD provided by ELC confirm this].

5. Finance and Administration (Alison Hall)

October accounts circulated prior to the meeting. Little change since September accounts.

Still awaiting the transfer of monies from ELC. Helen Bruce is chasing.

Alison has managed to get a higher interest for money held in accounts.

Harbour Master and office is now being properly kitted out. A trundle trolley has also been purchased to help harbour users transport heavy items.

6. Harbour Manager Report – Gerry

Circulated prior to meeting.

Winter hours for the Harbour Master will be: Saturday 09.00 till 13.00 and 2 hours on two other consecutive days.

7. A.O.B.

None

8. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 8 December 2008 at 7.30 p.m Council Chambers