

# North Berwick Harbour Trust Association (NBHTA)

## Full Meeting – Minutes

**On Monday 12 April 2010 at 7.30pm at Council Chambers, North Berwick**

**Present:** Gerry Hughes (Chairman), Alison Hall, David Lumbard, John Hookway, Stewart Auld, Colin Cumming, Derek Braid (Secretary)

**Apologies:** Jackie Tagg, Bruce Todd, Ken Burchell, Jane McMinn, Jim Sandison, David Reid, Benjie Pearson, Gary Lawson, Cameron Small

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

**This was a special meeting called to discuss the impact of the storm damage, Week 13, 2010**

### 1. Damage

The major damage caused by the storm 30/31 March is to the dinghy park. Apart from the extensive damage to many boats in the dinghy park, the surface of the dinghy park has been destroyed. There is also a need to check for latent damage to the rest of the harbour. John Hookway has already had a walk around and the wooden wedges on the outside wall of the harbour will need to be checked. East Lothian Council (ELC) are compiling a report of all damage within East Lothian and this will include North Berwick Harbour. NBHTA expect to see the report and to comment as appropriate.

Gerry Hughes and others of NBHTA have had the following meetings at the harbour:-

**Thursday 1 April** – with Helen Bruce of ELC

**Friday 2 April** – jointly with East Lothian Yacht Club (ELYC), Scottish Seabird Centre (SSC), North Berwick Commercial Boat Owners Association (NBCBOA), Harbour Residents

**Saturday 3 April** – with Councillor David Berry

**Monday 5 April** – with Councillor Neil Rankin and ELYC

**Friday 9 April** – with Helen Bruce and another Council Official

In addition Alex Coull from ELC was at the Harbour on Tuesday 6 April and the three local councillors met together on Wednesday 8 April to discuss the situation.

ELC have advised that it is their intention to clear up the dinghy park, and then to reinstate it, but a timescale is not known.

### 2. Impact on Usage

Meeting agreed that the dinghy park was totally out of action and should not be used. Temporary spaces on the esplanade and alongside the harbour are available and John Hookway has drawn up a diagram for 28 spaces initially. NBHTA are arranging ropes/chains tie downs, and this will be completed when the Harbour Master returns from holiday. Priority will be given to boats that will be used and not just for storage. For ELYC open events, it was agreed that visiting dinghies should not use the esplanade, and only visiting RIBs/rescue craft should use the esplanade. It is understood that ELYC are investigating use of Anchor Green and Elcho Green. Derek will advise ELYC.

### 3. Short Term Fix

Meeting agreed that dinghy park must be tidied up and ELC have agreed to do this, but timescale not known.

#### 4. Long Term Reinstatement/Upgrade

The meeting agreed that there was no point in returning the dinghy park back as it was, with a thin membrane over rubble. It needs a concrete type of plinth. It is also an opportunity to upgrade the drainage and to revise the layout. We expect ELC to draw up plans and then NBHTA will comment.

#### 5. Sea Defences

It is necessary to keep the dinghy park area dry and ELC are responsible for sea defences. There is a risk of the same situation occurring again. There is a need to incorporate into the dinghy park design drawings, some means of removing the energy or deflecting the water. The other requirement is to raise the sea wall, which is a major heavy construction job. We await the outcome of the ELC report.

#### 6. Impact on Strategy

The following points were made:-

- Brings into question liability and it may discourage people from becoming trustees
- We should, at least delay becoming a trust, until the dinghy park is reinstated and protected

Progress will be reported to all members.

#### 7. AOB

**Correspondence and Payment** – The cheques for 2010/11 have not been cashed, and Alison Hall will send a letter, (Gerry to agree wording) which will return cheques to dinghy park boat owners, stating that there will be no charge this year, and that there will be no charge for temporary spaces either. Alison will also agree this with ELC before returning the cheques. The letter will explain that temporary spaces will be used at the owners' risk.

*(Subsequent to the meeting, it was noted that the anomaly regarding launching fees had been overlooked. The Treasurer, Alison Hall has suggested, that owners of boats using the temporary dinghy parking spaces should be charged £64 for annual launching. This will be ratified by ELC and the members of NBHTA)*

**Open Events** – there will be no charge to ELYC this year for open events.

**Website** – David Lumbard will place a notice on the front page reflecting the decisions about no charge for the dinghy park this year.

**Fishing Boat Double Moored** – a fishing boat belonging to Jim Pearson is double moored on the harbour wall, and is restricting access to other boats at the fish steps. The owner has been asked on several occasions by the Harbour Master to move the boat, but to date he has refused. The Harbour Master has asked for this matter to be discussed at the NBHTA meeting and to be raised with ELC. All parties agreed that a letter should be sent to Mr Pearson, stating that his actions of ignoring the Harbour Master are unacceptable and that he must move his boat by 19/4/10, or risk losing his mooring in the harbour.

**Harbour Wall and Crane** – Gerry reported that the contract for the new crane and repairs to the wall it stands on, have just been awarded by ELC

#### 8. Next Meeting

The next meeting was originally scheduled for Monday 26 April, but it was agreed that this should be postponed. Another meeting will be arranged in due course.

*Derek Braid  
21/4/10*