

North Berwick Harbour Trust Association (NBHTA)

Full Meeting – Minutes

On Monday 15 March 2010 at 8pm 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 Meeting 18/1/10 and Matters Arising

- **Lifeboat Slipway** – Gerry will now progress this
- **Condition of SSC Sun Lounge Building** – a response is awaited from East Lothian Council
- **Temporary Sign to Discourage Cars** – a sign has been made and lettering is being arranged
- **Esplanade Sub-Group** – Jim Sandison is having a meeting with P.Forsyth of East Lothian Council on Friday 19 March
- **Ladies Toilets** – East Lothian Council have done work but we are trying to get hot water arranged
- **Composition of Trust** – four members of the existing Association will stand down when we become a full Trust, namely:- David Reid, Jim Sandison, John Hookway and Gary Lawson

Minutes proposed by Jim Sandison and Seconded by Colin Cumming

2. Legal Issues

David Reid has been in touch with the Parliamentary Agent, who confirms that the draft Harbour Empowerment Order (HEO) has been sent to the civil servants at the Scottish Parliament, and we expect a response soon. The exact timescale for the final HEO is not known, but would expect a couple of months to finalise the order, then advertised for 6 weeks, then a period of 21 days for any objections. David advised that if there are any objections, then it is now not automatically necessary to have a public enquiry, and it is at the discretion of the Scottish Government. We would also be advised of any objections and given time to try to resolve the issue. Responding to a question from Jim Sandison, Gerry confirmed that the Harbour Residents are being kept up to date as well as others such as the SSC.

East Lothian Council have commented on the draft Minute of Agreement and David Reid and David Lombard will consider the comments and respond to ELC. The Rateable Value of the harbour is £2,500 and we will only receive a full rebate if the Trust is a Charity. We now have up to date details of all the leases, except for the lease for Galloway's Pier which is awaited. ELC have confirmed they will maintain the toilets. ELC have given details of the Marine Safety Code which is being studied, and this may affect the proposed bylaws.

David Reid advised that we should be ready to go with the Legal process, once the decision to proceed is made, which is dependant on the completion of the Harbour Works by ELC.

3. **East Lothian Council**

Gerry Hughes referred to the note from Bruce Todd which had been issued before the meeting. The work on the replacement handrails has been going well, and the new handrails are much better than the rusty old rails. There has been a delay in awarding the contract for the replacement crane and repairs to the wall. This will delay the completion date, and the date when we decide to go ahead to become a full Trust.

4. **Administration**

Jackie Tagg reported that the invoices for Moorings and Dinghy Parking and Annual Launch Fees have been sent out. There are 10 people on the waiting list for a dinghy parking space, and it is hoped they will be offered spaces if enough existing customers relinquish their spaces. The Fee Charges display board will be updated in April. One meeting with Fringe by the Sea has been held and another planned. The Reaper and another historic boat are expected to visit during the festival. Gerry Hughes wished to record thanks to Jackie Tagg for all her efforts which are much appreciated.

5. **Finance**

Alison Hall advised that a quarterly report will be issued at the end of March. Alison advised that she and Jackie would be loading up Sage and engaging a Sage Bookkeeper to assist. Alison is producing a 5 year plan and is looking at income and expenditure. Alison asked all members to provide their thoughts about running costs. Ken Burchell advised there would be costs for testing and maintenance of the crane. David Reid asked whether the Trust, if not VAT registered, would increase their prices by the amount of VAT currently charged by ELC. Various scenarios were described, but it was agreed that the full Trust would decide whether or not to be VAT registered and what fees to charge.

The report from the Auditor concerning the annual accounts will be considered by Gerry Hughes, Alison Hall, Jackie Tagg and David Lombard.

6. **Harbour Managers' Report**

Gerry Hughes spoke to his report which had been issued before the meeting. Additionally, Gerry and the Harbour Master will be meeting with ELYC to discuss the crane-in on 27 March. Jackie has also written to ELYC concerning their planned open events.

7. **Feasibility Studies**

Gerry again spoke to the paper from Bruce Todd which had been issued before the meeting. A Feasibility Report from Royal Haskoning, concerning a landing pontoon outside the harbour, and improvements to Galloway's Pier, had been received and arrangements will be made to distribute it electronically to members. The suggested costs are very large.

David Lombard spoke to his proposal for an extension to the esplanade to the east of the SSC. This could provide many opportunities for events, stalls, and some car parking. David had sent out a mock up photograph which had received positive responses. Ken Burchell added other ideas:- a) pile rocks from the west beach beyond the existing NW pier to protect any outside pontoons, b) Heighten the sea wall to give added protection to the dinghy park, c) reposition the dinghy park into an extended eastern esplanade and allow the harbour to be expanded into the old swimming pool. Colin Cumming suggested disabled access to pontoons, improved wash down facilities and holding tanks for lobsters. Bruce is creating a list of potential projects for future distribution and consideration. It was noted that some of the ideas were very large, and it was agreed that it would be for the full Trust to make decisions on large scale projects. We have spent about half of the money given to us by ELC for Feasibility Studies, and the

remaining amount will be ring fenced for more feasibility studies, but it was noted that the amount remaining would be insufficient for very large scale projects such as the extension to the esplanade.

8. AOB

David Reid asked about the reports in the Courier about the Lobster Hatchery. The current position was unknown.

9. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 26 April 2010 in the NB Council Chambers at 7.30pm

*Derek Braid
Secretary
23/3/10*