

North Berwick Harbour Trust Association (NBHTA)

Full Meeting – Minutes

On Monday 26 July 2010 at 7.30pm at Council Chambers, North Berwick

Present: Gerry Hughes (Chairman), Cameron Small, Bruce Todd, Alison Hall, David Reid, David Lumbard, Colin Cumming, Jim Sandison, Jane McMinn (part), John Hookway, Stewart Auld, Derek Braid (Secretary)

Apologies: Jackie Tagg, Ken Burchell, Benjie Pearson, Gary Lawson

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

1. Minutes of Meetings 15/3/10 and 12/4/10

Minutes proposed by David Lumbard and Seconded by Colin Cumming

2. Approaching Trust Status

Bruce Todd reported on the meeting, held earlier in the day, with Helen Bruce of East Lothian Council. The report which had been prepared by East Lothian Council about storm damage in East Lothian, had only a very small section about North Berwick Harbour, and categorised the work required as Priority 4 (out of 5), and had only a very small cost suggested. There was no information about when ELC would attend to the work. Bruce advised that a meeting is being arranged with Tom Shearer of ELC to discuss the harbour, repairs and the way forward for the Trust. Bruce also referred to other, non-storm related items discussed with ELC, and these will be detailed in the minutes which will be circulated in due course.

Bruce referred to his report 'Approaching Trust Status' which had been issued to members, identifying the various possible options. It was recognised that if the storm of 30/3/10 had not occurred we would be pressing ahead to become a full Trust. It was also recognised that, despite the storm of 30/3/10, ELC would not be prepared to spend significant amounts of money to improve the dinghy park or provide better sea defences. There was considerable discussion, but the meeting decided unanimously, that we should press ahead to become a Full Trust as soon as possible, but discussing and negotiating with ELC on a final list of items which were required before proceeding, including essential repairs required after the storm. Our proposed final list of items would be circulated to all members for comment before the next meeting with ELC.

Regarding the suitability of the dinghy park for boats, it was considered that boat owners were aware of the risks, and that would be emphasised on future documentation. It was considered that future trustees would not be financially liable if another damaging storm were to occur.

3. Legal Issues

Responding to a question, David Reid advised that despite the storm, we would not be proposing an amendment to the Empowerment Order, as that already adequately covered various situations, and the Minute of Agreement will cover detailed issues, if necessary, such as funds or repairs outstanding. We are not expecting to need to ask our Solicitors much more work. Any more work will need to obtain financial approval before proceeding.

4. Finance

Alison Hall reported that we have been reimbursed for legal expenditure in 2009, and we have

received all expected funds from ELC in 2009. The outstanding amount from 2008 (£13k) will be covered in the Minute of Agreement. Income from the dinghy park is down, as due to the storm damage, we previously decided to only charge a launching fee for dinghy owners in 2010/2011. It was proposed that the full fees should be charged in 2011/2012, but that will be dealt with in the budgeting procedure for next year.

(Jane McMinn left the meeting)

5. Feasibility Reports

Gerry Hughes and Bruce Todd are meeting with Royal Haskonings at 10am on Friday 30 July 2010, to discuss their report on all tides landings. Cameron Small will also attend, or will ask another representative from the North Berwick Commercial Boat Owners Association to attend. After this meeting, the remaining 10% of the Royal Haskonings invoice will be due. It was noted that the remaining £7k for feasibility studies could be used to fund, or part fund, a feasibility study into improving the sea defences.

6. Harbour Manager's Report

Gerry referred to his report which had been circulated before the meeting. One of the factors is the increased activity of the Commercial Boats providing day trips, and Gerry advised that the self regulating guidelines appear to be working, although Cameron Small reported that there had been occasional problems.

Gerry asked all members, wishing any changes or new facilities in the harbour, should speak to himself in the first instance, to avoid the Harbourmaster receiving conflicting requests. Gerry also emphasised that any member is welcome to attend Harbour Management Team meetings.

7. AOB

Lobster Hatchery – Colin referred to the Lobster Hatchery Implementation Team Minutes of 25/6/10 which had been circulated to NBHTA Members.

SSC – Bruce advised that he has had discussions with Tom Brock of the SSC, who advised that they are in the middle of an insurance claim for Storm Damage. The SSC, and their insurance company, are likely to press for action to prevent future storm damage. Bruce has agreed with Tom Brock that they will channel efforts through the NBHTA, and it was noted that the SSC influence may be beneficial.

8. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 1st September 2010 in the NB Council Chambers at 7.30pm *(please note change from previously proposed date)*

*Derek Braid
Secretary
27/7/10*