

# **NORTH BERWICK HARBOUR TRUST ASSOCIATION**

**Chairman: Gerry Hughes**

**Secretary: Bill Roberts**

**Treasurer: Alison Hall**

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## **Full Meeting – Minutes**

**Tuesday 22 May 2013 at 7.30pm**

### **East Lothian Yacht Club**

#### **Present:**

Gerry Hughes Chair  
John McCarter  
Susan Hopkin  
Colin Cumming  
Charlie Crawford

Jane McMinn  
Bruce Todd  
Jackie Tagg  
David Fortune  
Bill Roberts (Minutes)

#### **1. Apologies**

Gerry welcomed all to the meeting.

Apologies from: Donald Wright; Robin Rae; Colin McGrory

#### **2. Introductions and Welcome**

Gerry welcomed everyone and new members took a walk around the harbour to get an understanding of what the Association had achieved and its ambitions.

#### **3. Roles**

BR outlined some of the roles that need to be undertaken and made suggestions regarding individual new members who might accept those roles.

#### **BR to circulate a list of members**

#### **4. Harbour Repairs Update – Bruce Todd**

BT explained that the priorities for the Association are to repair and improve the sea defences and Galloway's Pier.

We are awaiting a response from Fairhurst regarding the existing rock armour and recommendations on its repositioning. Fairhurst have also been asked to comment on stabilising the dislodged stones on the north wall.

ELC have still to reach a decision on repairs to the Pump House; the damaged lintel on the walkway to the old diving board area; the harbour sill; harbour booms; various trip hazards; Galloway's pier; and hand rails at the boom crane. ELC are trying to find funds for these works.

SH was asked about our relationship with ELC. GH replied that it is good with ELC having spent a considerable amount of money over 6 years to the Harbour ready the change to Trust status. ELC are now a little frustrated and we must show real intent to move to Trust status.

DF asked about the advantages to ELC once a Trust is formed. GH explained that the Association was formed to replace the now extinct non-executive Harbour Management Committee as the harbour was becoming increasingly run-down. The Association reached agreement with ELC to make the Harbour "fit-for-purpose" before full Trust status.

JMcC asked if further funds will be needed once a Trust is formed. JMcM replied that the Trust will need to find funding for projects from sources other than ELC, and we will need to link our objectives

to those of various grant awarding bodies. BT explained that the Trust will get an annual grant from ELC to cover defined commitments.

#### **5. Feedback from Meetings with Local Councillors and ELC –Jane McMinn**

JMcM explained that this group had been formed in response to the December storm.

JMcM reported that the funding available via SESTRAN for an upgrade to Galloway's Pier was now reported to be £150k (rather than the previously reported figure of £250k). Regardless of the SESTRAN project the pier still needs remedial work. JMcM also asked for more formal procedure for opening and closing the pier.

JMcM explained the history of leasing the ex-changing rooms and the rationale for redeveloping the area as part of the sea defence project. Appropriate leasing charges for the area were being discussed with ELC.

JMcM explained the necessity of making a more attractive proposition to potential funders than a pure sea defence wall. Concept drawings were available to create opportunities for commercial and community development. We are waiting on the outcome of our application to the Coastal Communities Fund. We have lodged an expression of interest with Viridor (Landfill Tax Credits). We are also examining the Growing Community Assets scheme.

#### **6. Feedback from meeting with Scottish Flood Forum – Jane McMinn**

JMcM and BR met with Paul Hendy of the SFF who had suggested forming a Flood Action Group. He will contact ELC to check if they have initiated any groups. He also suggested that the Association would derive many benefits from launching a public appeal for funds.

GH said that any public appeal would need full and proper governance. He suggested that a percentage of mooring and parking income should be applied to a separate sea defence fund. BT endorsed keeping monies aside for seed funding and this principle could be adopted at this meeting.

The meeting agreed to set aside £40k to support development projects. Also, 20% of income from mooring and dinghy parking fees would be allocated to the fund. The proposal was put by GH; seconded by JMcM; and passed unanimously by the meeting.

#### **7. Public Meeting Spring 2013**

The themes and messages for the Public Meeting were discussed. Publicity is to include posters, letters of invitation and radio messages.

JMcM noted that letters of support from the wider community will be needed when applications for external funding are submitted.

#### **8. AOCB**

JT noted that income this year was down by £3,000 and there were 30 free spaces in the dinghy park compared with 12 at the same time last year.

The dinghy park will need to be made ready for Fringe by the Sea on 5<sup>th</sup> August

CC produced a proposal on disability issues which he asked be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

#### **9. Date of Next Meeting**

1<sup>st</sup> July 2013 at 7.30pm in the Council Chambers.