

Minutes of DHT Management Meeting
Date: 30 Oct 2024. McArthur's Store 18.30

Present: Eric Robertson (Chair), Fiona Kibby (Harbour Master), James Bisset, Alison Wilson, JR Eunson, Paul Ingram, Andy Pringle, Christy Pryse Hawkins (minutes)

Minutes from the last meeting: not accepted, acceptance carried over to the next meeting on Jan 9.

- 1.0** DHT Audit: AW requested that people who have the Port Authority Training register in order to comply with the Audit. There is a link with which to do this; and it is very important to be able to produce the required certificates. They will be stored on a central database.

ACTION: AW to set up the database or folder.

- 2.0** HM Training certificates: there was a general discussion about where these should be stored. AW reported that DHT has received £500 from Seahouses Harbour Authority as a donation.

AW reported that Ron Bailey (Ports Authority) has been pushing for the completion of the registering of the skills of the current directors. Once this is done and completed it will become easier to recruit new directors with different skills.

3.0 HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEY.

- 3.1** Not resolved since last audit. DHT had agreed to measure any changes with a laser level, this has been accepted as a solution, but not carried out. A discussion ensued, in which it was suggested that although a full hydrographic survey is expensive, if DHT can schedule one then they can afterwards continue to monitor with the laser level. Possibly look to outside sources of funding, such as Viridor or the RNLI (not considered a good idea). In any case, finance needs to be in place, a digger is not suitable.

ACTION: FK (and maybe also CPH) to assess whether it is possible to get funding, or if the Trust needs to fund it themselves.

ACTION: Proceed with the Hydrographic Survey, hopefully when the company who carries out the surveys can do it more cheaply.

ACTION: CPH to try to put together a general project plan and presentation for approaching people for money so the Trust does it all in

a more structured way; PI happy to be involved and also utilise JRE lists?

3.2 The Trust needs to find new ways of fundraising, aside from Robin's work with Marine Scotland, but part of the problem is that there are many charities in Dunbar all working in isolation. It will be a tough year financially.

ACTION: try to convince the rest of Dunbar that a happy harbour equates to a thriving town.

4.0 FINANCIAL REPORT

4.1 PI reported that the loss of six boats resulted in a drop in the landing fee in September. There will be more boats leaving, mostly part-timers.

ACTION: AW to schedule a time to go through the budget, in January, or February.

5.0 PARTNERSHIP GRANT APPLICATION

5.1 PI is ready to fill in the new Grant Application when it comes in November. JRE said that for the application it is important to show that the Trust is supporting young and vulnerable people - schools etc.

5.2 CPH raised the question of the Trust supporting the Sea Cadets in Dunbar. AW put back the discussion to the AGM in December, and FK spoke about all the support that the Trust currently gives the Sea Cadets.

6.0 HARBOUR MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT (DHMC)

6.1 ER has already circulated the minutes of this meeting. They were accepted.

7.0 HARBOURMASTER REPORT

7.1 FK reported that North Sunderland paid for her to do a 4-day level 4 oil spill training; as a result of which she has to review Dunbar's safety protocols and plan.

7.2 FK also reported that the breakwater is 99% finished, and appears a lot more solid and better than before. There is one more delivery to come, and the invoice has been received. The new breakwater is bigger at the base, slightly curved by the Battery and butts onto bedrock. This new shape, with a slope, makes it easier to protect and maintain.

7.3 CPH asked about excavating the beach in Broadhaven, but there is no need, and the sand holds the stones in place. However, hopefully in 2025 FK will be able to use the mornings in Broadhaven again, which is an increase of 4 or 5 boats and income.

7.4 Discussion around noise complaint from Maureen - centred around a digger starting work at 6am on a Sunday. There is a tension between using the correct tides to complete the work, and being "neighbourly".

7.5 Outreach work is going well - FK speaking to the community about the harbour in general - hopefully a help for grant applications. FK has given 3 talks already, with more to follow. Collaboration with the local schools to get more boards done and engage with the schoolchildren on their John Muir projects, and get the harbour understood by the local community.

7.6 FK hoping to implement corporate volunteer days, which may include people working on various jobs at the harbour and also making a donation to the harbour.

7.7 Mooring cost increases - need to be determined asap as the mooring applications are returned before the end of December, and the prices must be published beforehand. There is the standard increase of 3% for the leisure boats, and an increase to £20 per metre for the hard standing from October to April. Potential to increase leisure berthing fees over commercial, but it doesn't amount to a lot of money. As ever, there is a waiting list for moorings. Should the parking £10 charge for camper vans be increased? In fact, it is just a donation, so the HM still has control and many people give more than the suggested donation.

Fee-wise, Dunbar is about right compared to other harbours.

7.8 Rowing club skiffs pay both for hard standing and launching, this has been increased. The sea cadets pay nothing. Surf school pays a commercial rate, which will go up by 3%. The day launch rate will remain at £20, but the annual pass will increase.

7.9 PI mentioned kayakers - could they and paddle boarders be asked for a donation? If low but plentiful it will add up. FK thinks it easier to ask for an annual donation; CPH suggested maybe a payment machine? AW said that the amount of capital investment and then maintenance makes it not really worth while. A QR code is easier, and already present.

7.91 McArthur's Store rent to be increased by 6%. JRE suggested keeping it down to 3%. JB in favour of 6%. Agreed to keep it at 6%, although open to discussion for individuals having problems with this.

7.92 Contracts for HM and deputy to be formalised, especially as deputy was receiving too much of the income from Seahouses. AW wants to get a better HR structure in place.

MEETING INTERRUPTED TO HEAR A REPORT ON BLUE WILD FROM ALAN STEWART.

8.0 AOB

8.1 LONG TERM PLAN

The increasing danger posed by the castle crumbling. As the Trust has been officially informed, they would have no mitigation were anything to happen. There are now barriers which can be put up at especially risky times. However, it is a working part of the harbour and cannot be closed off completely. AW thinks that in this case, the RNLI are a suitable place to look for financial help with the problem, as they berth there. Pilgrims Trust, National Lottery, Historic Environment Scotland possibly may be able to provide funding. The creels may not be able to be stored under the castle for much longer, and maybe the HM Office will have to be moved to a portacabin-type solution. Possibility of building a tunnel?

ACTION: CPH and AP (?) to have an informal meeting about the current state of play.

Long term strategy - read and report back.

Confirmation that AGM on Dec 5 at Harbour Chapel. Invitations from the Stakeholder List and anyone else that the Trustees think

should be there. Someone to give a presentation, JR? Need to make sure the event is well-attended, as usually there are too few people. Maybe have a meeting beforehand to engage the fishermen so they do not feel blindsided by the Long Term Strategy at the meeting, but also invite them to the Chapel meeting.

AW proposed moving the approval of the environmental to the next meeting on Nov 14. Eric accepted as chair.

8.2 MP visit, November 1, Douglas Alexander to meet with whichever directors are available.

8.3 East Lothian Partnership Grant Application. Emphasis needed on how community-minded the DHT is. PI taking the lead on the application, to be done by the end of November. If possible to have the first draft by Nov 14, then it can be ratified at the meeting and submitted early. Volunteer Centre 8.5 East Lothian, formerly STRIVE, now run by Maureen Allen, and a potential source of information re funding and co-ordination of volunteers. Possibly of more use to Harbour users, but ER to reach out and make contact.

8.4 AW knows a possible new director, Andrew Middlemass, he also emailed the office. Dunbar resident, ex-RNLI, boat owner, has finance business. Proposal to set up a coffee meeting with him.

8.5 CPH Move to put the meetings back to 2nd Thursday of the month, either in person or on teams.

8.6 PI litter-picking kits from Nature Scotland - suitable for the Harbour? At present, ELC provides litter-pickers for volunteer events organised by FK.

Meeting end @ 21:15