

At a meeting of the Harrington Harbour and Dock Board held in Council Chamber, Allerdale House on Tuesday 31 January 2023 at 1.30 pm

## **Members**

Councillor Hilary Harrington (Chair)  
Charles Grant  
Councillor Mike Johnson

Councillor Michael Heaslip

Apologies for absence were received from

## **Staff Present**

N Bragg, B Chambers, G Doran, C Fleming, T Hurst and K Magnay

## **8. Minutes**

Councillor M Heaslip had asked for clarification of the wording used on agenda in the meeting held on the 7 December 2021.

Councillor Heaslip had been advised that they are board members but for the purpose of the agenda has no impact.

Councillor M Heaslip also advised the board he had asked for clarification of the money held in reserves in the meeting held on the 7 December 2021.

T Hurst advised members he had read out an email in the meeting held on 30 June 2022 with a response from B Lennox. T Hurst will resend the email to Councillor Heaslip following the meeting.

## **9. Declaration of Interests**

None declared.

## **10. Harbourmaster's Report**

Members considered the contents of the Harbour Masters report which gave details of recent progress and highlighted some of the current developments.

Members questioned the Harbour Mater on the costs of the repairs to the navigation markers. The Harbour Master confirmed the costs would roughly equate to £5k.

Members also questioned the Harbour Master on abandoned boats and the procedure.

C Fleming, Legal Officer advised members to speak to the Education and Enforcement Officer to see if the enforcement team could handle it and report the abandoned boats through myallerdale rather than maritime law.

Councillor M Johnson thanked the Harbour Master for attending the Maritime and Coastguard Agency visit.

Members noted the report.

#### **11. Budget Update**

T Hurst, Engineering Manager presented the expenditure report which informed members of the current expenditure on the harbour as of 31 January 2023.

#### **12. Health and Safety**

B Chambers, Resilience and Safety Manager presented the Port Marine Safety Code Health Check Report following the Maritime and Coastguard Agency visit.

It had been highlighted to appoint a new designated person who would be independent due to the Resilience and Safety Manager having a pecuniary interest with having dual roles. B Chambers advised the board they would need to consider this going forward.

It was an exceptional visit, from the summary of findings and recommendations from the 10 areas assessed 6 were green, no actioned needed and 4 amber, partial deficiency. The management systems were all green and had been complimented for this with robust systems in place.

The amber ones will be rectified within 6 months.

Following members debate concerning the independent person, Councillor M Johnson proposed internal audit carry out the duties.

All agreed.

#### **13. Legal Update**

C Fleming, Specialist – Legal, presented to the board advice on steps to futureproof harbour regulation.

C Fleming advised members substantial research had been done and it was apparent that there was limited legal professionals with the appropriate knowledge of Maritime laws to provide substantive advice and support.

Ashfords Solicitors have a team dedicated to this service and have confirmed they would be able to assist and have given a quote of £50'000 to complete the process from end to end. C Fleming advised members with price increases to seek a further £10'000 with an agreement that any unspent funds would be returned.

Members were advised they have two options.

Option one – Leave the board as is.

Option two – Harbour Board to approach the Executive of Allerdale Borough Council and seek £60'000 and an undertaking for the Council to agree to provide officer support to enter into a joint instructions of external legal advisors

(subject to approval of Cumberland Council). Should the funding be approved, the Board will be required to seek approval from Cumberland Council to commence the process and formally instruct the external advisors. The process is stated to take between 12 and 18 months to complete.

Following members debate Councillor M Heaslip proposed to accept officer recommendation for option two to request funding off the principle authority.

All agreed.

#### **14. Any Other Business**

Councillor M Heaslip requested a date to be fixed for the next meeting.

Officers advised there is a requirement to have the annual meeting in the month of June and to make a determination at the earliest opportunity once Local Government Reorganisation has taken place.

Members were reminded that officers are there to assist with the process, there is no requirement for agendas or minutes to be produced.

**The meeting closed at 2.53 pm**