



NORTH SUNDERLAND HARBOUR USERS GROUP

**Note of Meeting held at The Olde Ship Inn, Seahouses
on Thursday 25th March 2025 6pm.**

1. Present

Members: Michael Dawson (Chair), David Fordy, William Shiel, Andrew Douglas, Hugh RNLI, Duncan Irons (Fluke Hole), Kerry Loughlin.

Ex Officio: Glen Annison (Harbour Commissioners); Fiona Kibby (Harbour Master) (minutes).

Apologies: none received.

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

Minutes of the meeting of 23/01/2025 were approved.

3. Matters Arising

- 3.1 In the absence of volunteers for the role of Clerk for this group, FK agreed to keep minutes.
- 3.2 A copy of the approved minutes will go on the website and MD will send to Parish Council.
- 3.3 Proposed action plan for bins at Harbour- **Carried forward Action: MD to speak to Guy Renner Thompson.**
- 3.4 (12) Proposed boot wash facilities – **discussed below.**

4. Harbour Master's report

- 4.1 The HM gave an update on the installation of the new power pedestals. A 'How to' guide is available to all users from the Harbour Office. Cards are ready for collection. Invoices will be sent at the end of each month although users have an option to pay as they go for each card. A reminder, that credit will be stored in the pedestal unless it is recovered to the card. To do this press and hold red button, before putting in the card.
- 4.2 Northern PowerGrid are monitoring the voltage issue at the freezer power supply. A report or further investigation will be shared at next meeting.
- 4.3 CCTV improvement work has started, replacing damaged cameras and adding new ones. Work will continue for up to 10 days.

- 4.4 Pontoon installation has also started. See Notice to Mariners for H&S measures while work is ongoing.

5.0 Biosecurity Presentation from Tessa Coledale RSPB

Tessa explained the importance of focus on the seabird islands around the UK coast. Their mission is to ensure that predators (e.g. rats) are kept off the islands. She shared some of the measures used to monitor predators and the risks posed by vessels, standing and visitors.

Key points;

1. prevent
2. detect
3. respond

Harbour users are asked to help through awareness and educating visitors. Check bags, cargo and boats thoroughly for signs of pests. If rats killed do not throw overboard.

Use of guards on ropes is helpful and these are available if needed. Use of chew blocks is a good detection measure. She also shared their experiences of using a dog for detection of predator species.

Boot Wash

There was an extensive discussion on the use of boot washes to cut down pathogens and seeds/burrs etc. spread to vulnerable islands.

She is keen for engagement on use of boot washes but stressed that they would not be compulsory for visitors to use.

The harbour users and Harbour Master expressed concern about congestion, queues etc. at the boot wash. Visitors may be keen to use the facilities but in peak season the harbour could not keep up with the numbers of people and the change overs of the disinfectant. Users were worried about slip and trip hazards and complaints about effect of wash on boots or clothing.

The HM expressed a willingness by NSHC to support awareness via posters and website info and interest in the outcomes of trials at other harbours or islands.

The boat users expressed support for mats and boot washes on the islands.

5.0. Any Other Business

- 5.1 MD noted he had not been invoiced for the advertising space. The HM will check with NSH Clerk and confirm prices and dimensions for ads (for those businesses at the harbour). **Ongoing**
- 5.2 There was a discussion on the lighting at the harbour. Middle pier light was not working (**Action: HM to check if repair is complete**) and the lights of the Bamburgh Inn were impeding vision for boats entering harbour.
- 5.3 Lifeboat fete day is 25th March – ideas and suggestions are welcome to the organisers.

6.0. Date of next Meeting- Tuesday 13th May 2025 6pm