

NORTH SUNDERLAND HARBOUR-HARBOUR USERS GROUP

MINUTES OF FIRST MEETING

Held on Thursday 16th May 2024 at 14:30

Present: Ailsa Shiel, John Thorburn, David Fordy, Paul Brown (Harbour Master), James Boulton (NSHC Chair), Ian Clemmett, Jonathan Dawson, Craig Pringle (c/o Julie Harris), Michael Dawson, Kay Barkess (NSHC Clerk).

Apologies for absence: Andrew Douglas, William Shiel, Kerry Loughlin

MINUTES OF MEETING:

01/2024 Welcome and introduction from HM.

The purpose/role of HUG, reason for its formulation, and terms of reference explained.

HM Report received.

02/2024 Appointing of chair.

Michael nominated by Ailsa seconded by John,

Members of the group agreed, Michael accepted and appointed as chair.

COMMENTS

03/2024 Ailsa commented on a need for more transparency and inclusivity, more engagement between Harbour and the wider community.

HUG discussed and agreed to make minutes of meeting public.

James confirmed NSHC had aspiration to make their meeting minutes public as soon as feasible to do so.

04/2024 Jonathan nominated Ian as clerk.

Seconded by Michael, Ian accepted position as clerk.

05/2024 Ailsa commented importance of bringing village together to feel more part of harbour.

Michael asked for possibility of NSHC to provide an update/report to parish council on Harbour business.

James suggested and HM agreed to provide quarterly written HM report to Seahouses Parish Council if they agree it is of benefit.

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06/2024 Ailsa commented on a desire to bring back more community-based events such as may week celebrations and boat races.

Jonathan commended the work by Seahouses lights committee, and the success of the firework displays held on the Harbour with a suggestion that they may participate in any future events.

James commented that NSHC would happily support but lack the resources to organise/orchestrate themselves.

07/2024 John commented on access to fluke hole and potential difficulties for less abled bodied or elderly members of the fluke hole marine club.

HM confirmed current risk assessment for fluke hole is satisfactory.

08/2024 David commented on the need for bins on Harbour.

Several members agreed this was a top priority.

Suggestions made to contact NCC for support (2 bins or more?)

Further suggestions to hire private waste companies.

Michael indicated as a Harbour trader he would be happy to contribute towards a better Harbour waste management system.

Jonathan suggested reaching out to some of the main street traders (who's custom is attracted mainly by the Harbour) for voluntary contributions as NSH is not covered by NCC or funded by business rates.

Suggestions made to raise awareness through the parish council and local press.

09/2024 Michael commented on concern over the tenure on the existing long-standing traders of the Harbour and the need for a more formal tenancy agreement, affording security for businesses that have invested over 20 years, and have worked harmoniously together on the Harbour for this time.

HM suggested a dialogue between Michael and James for the best way forward and expressed the need for fairness and transparency.

10/2024 Ian commented.

Provided a short introduction about the work of the National Trust on the Farne Islands and more on his role within the NT.

The subject of toilet facilities on the Harbour was raised.

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10/2024 contd...

It was agreed that providing public toilets on the Harbour was unrealistic, but better signage to the NCC public car park toilets would be a good idea.

11/2024 Jonathan commented.

Requested timescale on arrival of new storage units and confirmed that existing units were now empty and ready for dismantling and removal.

Garages above the beach are now overloaded with excess equipment awaiting arrival of new units.

David asked if scrap man has been booked?

HM confirmed storage and freezer units are on schedule and arriving as soon as practically possible.

12/2024 Craig commented.

Standing in temporarily for Julie Harris, Craig talked about changes that are taking place within the RNLI as a company and how efforts are being made by the Seahouses station to reintegrate with the community, he believes there is a distance to bridge between the Harbour and Station.

He is confident the supporters/fundraisers of the station would be interested to get involved with any future community events taking place on the Harbour.

He requested that the NSHC consider placing a bike rack somewhere near the station as the railings on the hill are increasingly being used as an area for bikes to be secured creating an obstruction for pedestrians.

NEXT MEETING

Members agreed the next meeting will take place on Thursday 19th September at 18:00