

# Northern Ireland Fishery Harbour Authority

Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting

Zoom Meeting on

**Wednesday 1 December 2021 at 10.30am**

<b>Present:</b>	Robert McConnell (RMcC) - Chairperson Kevin Quigley (KQ) – Chief Executive Alan McKeown (AMcK) – Board Member Davey Hill (DH) – Board Member David Knott (DK) – Board Member
<b>In attendance</b>	Belinda McCaughey (BMcC) – Accounts Administrator

	<b>Action</b>
<p>1. <b>CONFLICT OF INTEREST</b></p> <p>None declared. Although DH did declare ownership of Guard Duty Vessels.</p>	
<p>2. <b>MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING</b></p> <p>Minutes of the meeting held on 7 September 2021 were agreed.</p>	
<p>3. <b>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES</b></p> <p>G. Smyth lease request has not yet progressed. Right of Access is being looked into.</p> <p>All other matters arising will be addressed during the meeting.</p>	
<p>4. <b>2021/22 MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS AND CASH POSITION – 6 MONTHS TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2021</b></p> <p>First 6 months has been better than hoped but the second half could be grim. The majority of the Ardglass Fleet are tied up at the moment.</p> <p>Income is up and expenditure is only down due to no decommissioning of vessels. Overall we are in a good place.</p> <p>Staff costs are up – work has been busy. Covering for sickness and extra tasks.</p> <p>Electricity – increase in both usage and costs. KQ confirmed we are passing on electricity costs to our customers – price changes take place annually on 1 April. DH asked if Renewable energy could be considered. KQ also noted that we do hold the information on detailed meter usage but currently do not have the resource to analyse this.</p>	

	Action
<p>Energy resilience needs to be addressed as well as potential exposure.</p> <p>Dredging costs up as dredging was being conducted as much as possible to compensate for the down time when dredger being repaired..</p> <p>Ardglass – Problems with the Ice Plant have resulted in lower than normal Ice Sales.</p> <p>Portavogie has shown exceptional performance. Boat numbers have fallen but revenue is up. This may be due to Brexit and where catch has been landed.</p> <p>In Kilkeel revenue is down on the slipway – due to change of rules. More vessels are on and off with no extended periods on slip. DH also noted that coming out of Covid vessels are conserving revenue as much as they can.</p> <p>Head Offices is to be expected.</p> <p>The committee discussed EMFF funding.</p> <p>BMcC gave a breakdown of Harbour Dues for Fishing and Non Fishing Vessels.</p> <p>Sundry Costs are high this year due to Environmental purchases. These are under the Environmental Officer’s grant and will be subject to 80% funding.</p> <p>BMcC gave a breakdown of Dredging Costs and tonnage/days. Licence for dredging is for a 3 year period.</p>	
<p>5. <b>CURRENT FORECAST</b></p> <p>Forecast is based on the six months actual to the end of September 2021 and the remaining six months budget figure with exceptions as noted below:</p> <p>Income - Landings and Ice sales have been reduced whilst staff, electricity costs and professional Services are up.</p> <p>Expenditure - Staff, electricity costs and professional Services are up and Vessel Dismantling costs have been reduced due to delays with planning permission.</p> <p>RMcC praised the usefulness of seeing the changes in separate columns – easy to understand.</p>	
<p>6. <b>2022/23 BUDGET</b></p> <p>KQ and BMcC discussed the Key Assumptions. In particular:</p> <p>Landing and Market Dues – Chunky reduction in landings; 30% down on average of 4 years pre Covid-19. DH noted uncertainty over prices for whole prawns. Hard to predict.</p> <p>Guard Duty Vessels – No figure in budget as yet. The Committee discussed this fully and made suggestions as to the way forward. KQ will review.</p>	KQ

	Action
<p>Labour – Key Assumptions are</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Retain the Environmental Officer (funding only available for 8 months) – 4 months full cost to NIFHA.</li> <li>- Additional Administration support of 30 hours – recruitment.</li> <li>- Extra Full Time Person in Kilkeel – recruitment.</li> </ul> <p>Business Plan will go into more detail with these requirements.</p> <p>Dredging costs significantly down on this year as hopefully there should be no need to dredge at the same intensity. Expenses may be reduced in the coming year as some of the repairs may be completed whilst undergoing the current refurbishment.</p> <p>RMcC noted it was an interesting budget. Not like the private sector. Challenge with predicting revenue.</p> <p>The Committee discussed the costings and proposed price increases. AMcC asked should we be looking at new revenue models. KQ noted that we save costs as and when we can. We are a public body and have to provide a service.</p> <p>DH reminded the committee that the building of the new harbour in Kilkeel will result in bigger revenues.</p> <p>RMcC has spoken to chairs of other ALB’s and commented that it is unique that we generate revenue at all.</p> <p>KQ summarised the budget and approval was given to take to the next Board Meeting.</p>	KQ
<p>7. <b>ESTATE MANAGEMENT</b></p> <p>KQ confirmed that the Lessee of the Rooney Road Site has asked to get out of the lease and is prepared to pay 1 years rent to do so. Committee discussed this and decided to bring to the next Board Meeting for consideration.</p> <p>Gregory Nicholson has approached KQ with a view to land exchange. Committee discussed the location of both sites and the need to visualise where they actually are. KQ is to gather more information and update Board.</p> <p>McCullough Net Store – A formal appeal has been lodged against the decision to refuse the change of use in the lease. Committee discussed the basis of the appeal and await the solicitor’s comments.</p>	KQ  KQ
<p>8. <b>DEBTORS</b></p> <p>BMcC discussed the KDA debt and payments received since the last meeting. Agreement was reached to pay the current rent going forward together with a small amount to set against the debt.</p>	

	<b>Action</b>
<p>The Committee discussed options to clear the debt sooner. A formal agreement will need to be set up with consequences if they default.</p>	<p>BMcC</p>
<p>9. <b>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</b> none</p>	
<p>10. <b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b> To be confirmed at the next Board Meeting.</p>	