

Northern Ireland Fishery Harbour Authority

Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting

In Head Office, Downpatrick

Thursday 23 June 2022 at 10.00am

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

	Action
<p>1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES</p> <p>RMcC welcomed all to the meeting. There were no apologies.</p>	
<p>2. CONFLICT OF INTEREST</p> <p>DH declared vessel ownership. RMcC declared previous dealings with G. Nicholson.</p>	
<p>3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING</p> <p>Minutes of the meeting held on 24 February 2022 were agreed.</p>	
<p>4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES</p> <p>Electricity costs are still rising and concerning. BMcC noted the change in electricity supplier to Electric Ireland under government procurement.</p> <p>DH asked about converting to Solar energy. KQ noted this would be expensive but may be a possible future Grant Funded Project. No quick solution on this. DK asked that when planning capital works in the future that energy from a renewable source could be included. Wind would also be a possibility but may be difficult due to proximity of dwellings. DH noted the new roofs on buildings within the Harbour Estate would be ideal for Solar.</p> <p>AMcK asked could a Solar Project be scoped to be available should any grant fundings become available at short notice. KQ noted there are projects already in the pipeline for grants. We need to prioritise what needs to be done. Maxed out with projects at the moment. In fact some of the initial works may be carried out by our Consulting Engineers.</p>	

	Action
<p>KQ – going forward we must approach projects and their budgets differently.</p> <p>RMcC suggested that as costs are increasing it would be good if we could mitigate some of the expenditure.</p> <p>Accounts and Budget were both taken to the March Board Meeting.</p>	
<p>5. 2021/22 MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS AND CASH POSITION – Y.E. 31 MARCH 2022</p> <p>KQ noted overall a better outcome than expected. If Vessel Dismantling is stripped out we are up £100k on forecast.</p> <p>Revenue has improved - accrual regarding equality case and the release of rates provided for has reduced the overall outturn.</p> <p>Electricity is still at an all time high.</p> <p>Landings are up £100k but Kilkeel performance is not as strong as the other two harbours.</p> <p>Ardglass – Revenue is strong due to good Pelagic landings. Ice sales were down – possibly due to self declaration in the summer months. Repairs up due in the main to lighthouse repairs and repainting which finally took place.</p> <p>Kilkeel – Solid performance. Rent up on budget due to Rooney Road Site not being included in budget figures.</p> <p>Portavogie – good performance – landings up 36% on last years figures.</p> <p>KQ asked DH about quota levels. Price of prawns has been pushed up. Difference in fishing patterns within the Kilkeel Fleet. They will only go to sea when it is cost effective. DH confirmed SeaSource are giving rebates to their members.</p> <p>Overall Kilkeel fishermen are trying to fish smarter. In Portavogie more landings are being brought back to the Harbour as opposed to being landed in Scotland.</p> <p>DH also noted the difficulty some vessels were having in getting crews.</p> <p>KQ advised that Portavogie fleet consists of older vessels with less ice making facilities resulting in higher ice sales.</p> <p>BMcC provided a response to DK in respect of the breakdown of other expenses.</p> <p>Head Office – Equality case has been accrued for on the advice of our Auditors.</p> <p>Balance Sheet – Near cash reserves is down to c. £500k at year end.</p>	

	Action
<p>Capital Works spend of £1.993M was noted. AMcK asked for a breakdown against budget for each project. This was discussed and BMcC will create for next meeting.</p> <p>DH asked about information being made available regarding lessons learnt from this years overspend on projects. KQ confirmed that DAERA have no issues with the Grant process. This information is more Board related and will be dealt with then.</p> <p>Bad Debts – Credit Control procedure is working well.</p> <p>Landings – Good landings especially pelagic in Ardglass.</p> <p>BMcC explained the Data Matching Process was carried out in 2021/22 and invoices will be raised shortly.</p> <p>Sales of Ice are slowly declining as are Vessel Numbers.</p> <p>Electricity Income down on last year due mainly to an invoice being raised last year in respect of back dated electricity costs. Water income from Ardglass is included as a Utility Meter cost under Electricity Income.</p> <p>Sundry Income – KQ noted the increase in the issue of Breach of Byelaws notices for those vessels who, despite warnings, do not adhere to harbour instructions.</p> <p>Quayside repairs are for vessels which are carrying our repairs on the quayside. Not so many places now for this to occur but to the new traffic management system.</p> <p>Dredging costs up due to extensive dredging program prior to the Kilmourne being taken out of the water for refurbishment.</p> <p>DH asked about whether dredging was taking place at the moment? KQ confirmed not at the moment. The Pier Head was dredged a few weeks ago and the inner harbour cannot be dredged due to pollutant being discovered in a sample taken. Two new samples have now been taken and sent away for analysis. We expect results by end of July.</p> <p>KQ confirmed the dredger is certified to sail. New anchor chains are being fitted next week and stability book is also being checked. Mecal have issued a temp certificate permitting the vessel to go to sea until the middle of August.</p> <p>Tender process to obtain a Skipper has completed and appointment will be made shortly.</p> <p>The Committee discussed the issues around the pollutant found in the sample and where it could possibly have originated from. A further two samples have been taken. If these contain the same pollutant then no dredging will be able to take place.</p>	<p>BMcC</p>

	Action
<p>Portavogie Site for Fish Processing Factory has now recommenced and move to put a lease in place will happen in July.</p> <p>No progress has been made yet on the Promenade improvement.</p> <p>Planning Permission on the Dismantling Vessel site is still awaited.</p> <p>We consented to the sale of a Small Unit in Portavogie on the Princess Anne Road.</p> <p>Units and Compounds on the old Parkgate Factory Site are ready to rent out once electricity supply has been connected. We have a number of expressions of interest on file.</p> <p>A request has been received from a local man to trade from a converted horsebox in Portavogie Harbour. After a brief discussion it was agreed that a Trading Licence can be issued and trading can only proceed once paperwork is complete. KQ noted a complaint has been received from this local man and will be addressed at the Board Meeting.</p>	
<p>10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS</p> <p>None</p>	
<p>11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>Tuesday 6 September 2022 @ 2.00pm</p>	