

Northern Ireland Fishery Harbour Authority

Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting

In Head Office, Downpatrick

Tuesday 6 September 2022 at 2pm

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| Present: | Alan McKeown (AMcK) – Chairperson Kevin Quigley (KQ) – Chief Executive Davey Hill (DH) – Board Member |
| In attendance | Belinda McCaughey (BMcC) – Accounts Administrator |

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| 1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES Apology received from David Knott (DK) – Board Member | |
| 2. CONFLICT OF INTEREST DH declared vessel ownership. | |
| 3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING Minutes of the meeting held on 23 June 2022 were agreed. | |
| 4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES Most of the matters arising were taken to the June Board meeting. Projects will be covered later in the Agenda Paint Certificate was received from DH and plans are underway to implement sight of this from vessels booking our slipways. KQ advised on the progress of the samples which were taken in respect of dredging the inner harbour in Kilkeel. There is already grounding at low tide within the harbour. KQ confirmed a notice to mariners was in place. | |
| 5. 2022/23 MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS AND CASH POSITION – 3 MONTHS TO END JUNE 2022 KQ discussed the accounts. In particular he confirmed a better start to the year than anticipated. Both prices and volumes are good. Expenditure – Staff costs do not include an accrual for annual pay increase – rate to apply is still uncertain. Repairs are slow, Electricity costs show massive increases, and Dredging Costs include £27k in respect of hire of external dredger. | |

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| <p>Discussion was held on the increase in electricity costs and relative low increase in electricity recovery. AMcK asked whether checks could be made on electric points. KQ to consider.</p> | KQ |
| <p>BMcC confirmed that electricity cost increases have not yet been passed onto port users. Rate changes may need to be made more frequently – to be actioned.</p> | BMcC |
| <p>There has been no progress on Vessel dismantling. Legal agreement is in place but still no actual planning permission. Some issues have arisen over the Anchor Point needed to pull the vessel up out of the water. Engineers have been engaged to prepare appropriate designs.</p> | |
| <p>A survey on the Enterprise in Kilkeel has been completed but still awaiting the result. Permission to move to beach or top of slipway for breaking up is still a possibility. Not possible to re-float the vessel at the moment despite it being an eyesore.</p> | |
| <p>Ardglass – Solid first quarter with the biggest increase in landings. Ice sales are also good. Electricity costs are based on accrued figure due to no bill having been received from Budget Ireland since end of March 2022. After a brief discussion it was decided to leave the accrual at the level in the accounts. BMcC will continue to chase for an actual invoice.</p> | BMcC |
| <p>Kilkeel – steady results. Slipway well up on budget. Good turnaround on vessels using the slip – vessels are now booking for a shorter period of time. Kilkeel has the lowest landing increase across all the harbours. DH noted vessels landed in Whitehaven this year which may account for the lower levels. Staff costs down in the main due to Harbour Master on maternity leave. Repairs are lower than budget but this is mainly a timing issue and will increase as the months progress. Electricity costs are worrying and there is definitely a need to investigate the use of Solar Panels.</p> | |
| <p>Portavogie – Excellent landings but low ice figures. The trend in Ice Sales continues to decline. Electricity increase is again significant.</p> | |
| <p>Vessel dismantling has yet to begin. KQ discussed the process and timescales involved and the likelihood of only having planning permission last for 6 or 7 years.</p> | |
| <p>Head Office – As noted in papers.</p> | |
| <p>Capital Works spend – The committee discussed the breakdown supplied around capital projects and the need to provide up to date information. BMcC will liaise with David Lindsay and further develop the information provided in respect of Capital Spend.</p> | BMcC |
| <p>AMcK discussed the presentation of the papers and changes required to the next pack. BMcC will action.</p> | BMcC |
| <p>Discussion was had over where to note the Grant in Aid figures. It was decided to move this to a Revenue line.</p> | BMcC |

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| <p>6. CURRENT FORECAST</p> <p>KQ and BMcC explained the rationale behind the forecast figures. Market uncertainty makes it difficult to accurately forecast year end position.</p> | |
| <p>7. DEBTORS</p> <p>BMcC explained the level of Debtors.</p> | |
| <p>8. ESTATE MANAGEMENT</p> <p>Issues over staffing here but working on a solution.</p> <p>Parkgate Site is now functional and ready to use.</p> | |
| <p>9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS</p> <p>Board Date has been changed to 3 October 2022 @ 10am</p> | |
| <p>10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>Thursday 1 December 2022</p> | |