

# Northern Ireland Fishery Harbour Authority

Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting

In Head Office, Downpatrick

**Thursday 1 December 2022 at 10am**

<b>Present:</b>	Alan McKeown – Chairperson Kevin Quigley – Chief Executive Davey Hill – Board Member David Knott – Board Member
<b>In attendance</b>	Belinda McCaughey – Accounts Administrator

	<b>Action</b>
<b>1. Declaration of Interest</b>	
Davey declared vessel ownership.	
<b>2. Minutes of Meeting held on 6 September 2022</b>	
Minutes were agreed.	
<b>3. Matters Arising</b>	
<p>In respect of Electricity – further investigations were carried out as requested and the Executive are satisfied there are no faults with the electricity points in the harbours. Kevin discussed minor customer usage issues that can arise in Kilkeel and Portavogie from time to time which are now being closely monitored.</p> <p>Customer electricity prices were increased in October 2022 and will be reviewed again at the end of December 2022 and quarterly as previously agreed</p> <p>Ardglass Electric Ireland bill was received which covered the first 5 months. Higher than expected due to tariff allocated to the harbour. More information has been sought on tariffs available.</p> <p>Capital Works Spend – still a work in progress with David Lindsay being on an extended holiday since the last meeting. Belinda will progress this.</p> <p>Changes to the pack have been made as suggested at the last meeting.</p>	Belinda
<b>4. 2022/23 Management Accounts and Cash Position</b>	
Accounts were provided for 7 months ended 31 October 2022. Kevin discussed details of Income and Expenditure. In particular the following:	

	<b>Action</b>
<p>Crewing issues have started to hit with the complete Ardglass fleet tied up by the end of October. Kevin has informed DAERA of the impact the vessel staffing problems is having in our harbours.</p>	
<p>No pelagic landings have been recorded yet for October as the accounts were prepared ahead of the information being made available – Belinda will check with Ardglass Harbour Master on this and make any necessary adjustments.</p>	Belinda
<p>Electricity Prices were amended on 1 October 2022 and will be reviewed in the 2023/24 Budget. Cost recovery from the vessels is being made in line with the increases on a quarterly basis. The new electricity contract does not provide a night-time tariff which disproportionately affects NIFHA’s costs as NIFHA main usage is running Lights and ice production which was scheduled for night use. NIFHA could potentially achieve better electricity tariffs to meet its usage pattern but it is mandatory to use the NICS wide electricity deal. Ice charges will need to be reviewed in light of the new electricity costs and this will be brought to next meeting.</p>	Belinda
<p>It was discussed and decided that a leaflet providing information on reason for price increase will be distributed with our Dues and Charges Booklet.</p>	Kevin
<p>Water charges were discussed and Belinda confirmed the water tariffs are correct but that usage against budget was up due to the timing of meter readings at last year end. Belinda has reminded all Harbour Masters of the need for timely and accurate meter readings going forward.</p>	
<p>Grant in Aid – this years figure is £489k (deficit on 2022/23 budget). Already claimed £100k and will be submitting another claim shortly.</p>	
<p>Cash Forecast will be prepared and included with papers for February meeting.</p>	Kevin/ Belinda
<p>Kevin discussed the issues around vessel dismantling in Portavogie in light of planning permission finally being granted. The plan is to press ahead with the planned dismantling of two vessel before the end of the financial year.</p>	
<p>Kevin advised the committee that he has confirmed to DAERA that NIFHA will spend all allocated resources. There will be no further monitoring rounds from DAERA and this will make it difficult to release any monies closer to year end.</p>	
<p>An amended Capital Spend summary will be brought to the February meeting.</p>	Belinda
<p>Kevin discussed the Capital Works and in particular any over/under spends.</p>	
<p>Grant Window has opened for the 2 new projects – Ardglass Pontoons and Portavogie Slipway. There should be no issues meeting the deadline of February 2023 for submission.</p>	

	<b>Action</b>
<b>5. Current Forecast</b>	
Forecast is based on actual to 31 October 2022 and budget for the final 5 months with a few adjustments. Kevin discussed the reasoning behind the adjustments.	
<b>6. 2023/24 Budget Considerations – inc Dues and Charges</b>	
<p>The main budget and increases to Dues and Charges will be discussed at the February 2023 meeting. Charging for Non Fishing Vessels will need to be addressed.</p> <p>Davey discussed potential opportunities to provide facilities to Operational and Maintenance Companies who are serving the Offshore renewable sites. They expressed an interest with him when he attended a recent show in Denmark.</p> <p>Kevin and Alan are keen to meet with the company to understand the potential opportunities for NIFHA harbours and Kevin will schedule a call with Davey next week to discuss.</p> <p>Kevin also noted that the FSDP tender is being assessed and agreed that positive information being provided to DAERA was very useful.</p> <p>Davey will be conducting roadshows around harbours and would be willing to give a presentation to NIFHA Board. Kevin will liaise with Davey and arrange in 2023.</p>	<p>Kevin/ Davey</p> <p>Kevin/ Davey</p>
<b>7. Estate Management and Development</b>	
<p>Kevin discussed current estate issues across all three harbour.</p> <p>In Portavogie SFITA have requested an area to place a Fire Training facility for fishermen. A discussion was held as to the location for this and its proximity to food processing businesses. No decision is to be made until EHO has approved the location. Once more information is received Kevin will report back.</p> <p>The committee has requested the Estates Management agenda item be supported with a written paper for consideration in advance of all future meetings.</p>	<p>Kevin</p> <p>Kevin</p>
<b>8. Debtors</b>	
Current situation is good. An agreement with some accounts to pay over a period of time has been agreed.	
<b>9. Any Other Business</b>	
None.	
<b>10. Date of Next Meeting</b>	
Thursday 16 February 2023 @ 10am in Downpatrick	