

Northern Ireland Fishery Harbour Authority

Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting

In HM Offices, Kilkeel

Thursday 23 November 2023 at 10.30am

Present:	Alan McKeown (meeting chair) – Board Member Kevin Quigley – Chief Executive Davey Hill – Board Member Lynn Gilmore – Board Member (Teams)
In attendance	Belinda McCaughey – Accounts Administrator David Lindsay (David L) – Project Manager

	Action
1. Welcome & Apologies	
Alan welcomed all to the meeting. Apology received from David Knott.	
2. Declaration of Interests	
Davey confirmed nothing new – just usual as owner of 4 vessels. Kevin advised possible conflict with item 2a on Estate Management.	
3. Minutes of Meeting held on 12 September 2023	
Minutes were agreed subject to change in Matters Arising from MCA to Marine Licensing.	BMcC
4. Matters Arising	
Belinda advised that Ice Plant Costing was still a work in progress and will be brought to the next Finance meeting.	Belinda
David L spoke to the licencing arrangements for the Dredger and the need for every application to have a screening opinion.	
Kevin confirmed contact with Marine Licensing has been deferred to early January.	Kevin
Corporate Planning meeting took place and Kevin will have a draft to present at the December Board Meeting.	Kevin
All other matters arising have been completed.	
5. 2023/24 Management Accounts and Cash Position – six months ended 30 September 2023	
Kevin gave an overview of the figures.	

	Action
<p>Alan thanked Kevin for the Overview Report included in the pack.</p> <p>Kevin confirmed Solar panels have been installed in Ardglass and seem to be working well. This should ease Electricity Costs in Ardglass particularly in the Summer months.</p> <p>Kevin advised the major Portavogie Capital Works Project is about to launch. Grant payments from DEFRA may take up to 2 months to pay so affecting NIFHA Cash Flows.</p> <p>DAERA have been approached with regard to permission to open a loan bank account to facilitate this and the significant payments required for projects ending in December. DAERA are considering loaning the cash directly. Grants Team are considering making payment up front instead of drawing down on a payment by payment basis.</p> <p>Committee queried the length of time it takes to open a new Bank Account. This will be addressed as a matter of urgency.</p> <p>Landings have fallen from the relative highs of the first quarter. Ardglass vessels have tied up early due to crewing issues. A significant fine has been received by an Ardglass vessel owner for having illegal crew on board his vessel.</p> <p>A retirement crisis could be looming with age of vessel owners increasing.</p> <p>Davey noted that prices are down and fuel costs are up which has contributed to the reduction in fishing activity in the last quarter. 8 Fishing vessels have recently moved to guard duty work.</p> <p>Dredging Costs. Normally dredging would have stopped by now for the winter. Unfortunately the recent survey carried out has shown still a considerable amount of build up at the Pier head. The inner harbour will also still need to be dredged.</p> <p>In Portavogie there is no licence for the inner basin. It will cost c.£1m to dredge the inner basin and possibly remove to land fill. A way forward will need to be agreed.</p>	Kevin
<p>6. Current Forecast – 2023/24</p>	
<p>Kevin discussed the forecast.</p> <p>Vessel dismantling – Tender has been awarded for decommissioning of the Aquarius. A meeting has been organised to discuss this in detail.</p> <p>It is hoped to issue a tender for decommissioning the Boy Cameron before Christmas.</p>	
<p>7. Capital Works Update</p>	
<p>David L discussed the projects.</p>	

	Action
<p>FSDP Projects for Ardglass and Kilkeel. At a recent meeting in Ardglass DAERA indicated that money had been approved for the ITT. There is £1.3M set aside for this. It will be a difficult process on the Environmental Side.</p> <p>Portavogie Cradle Upgrade – Costs were reviewed and project has been awarded to Qualter Hall. They plan a site visit in mid December.</p> <p>Relationship with DEFRA is good. Project timing has slipped slightly and there will be a need to pull this back in order to complete on time.</p> <p>Portavogie Bridge Pier Strengthening – Work has commenced. Risk will be that it will not complete on time to draw down funds by 31 December 2023.</p> <p>Ardglass Solar Panels – 30Kw panels installed. Power being produced is good. Information is available on a linked App on power generation. No battery storage yet. This will be the next stage.</p> <p>Ardglass Fish Market Welfare Facilities – This work has commenced. Costs are escalating. This work is being carried out by service division of CPD. Currently £3k over budget.</p> <p>Ardglass and Kilkeel Quay Edge Fendering – White Mountain have commenced work. Fendering has been ordered. Surveys being undertaken at the moment which should be completed before the fendering arrives. Project must be completed by Dec 2023.</p> <p>Kilkeel Workboat – Tender has been awarded. Mecal has approved the initial designs. This must be delivered by Mar 2024.</p> <p><u>Emerging Issues</u></p> <p>Kilkeel river and fish pass damage – This damaged occurred during the severe flooding event in Kilkeel on 30 October 2023. River Training piles have also potentially been damaged. Engineers are looking at identifying temporary works which can be implemented to provide greater assurance that if future similar events occur the piles will hold.</p> <p>NIFHA do not own this structure. Kevin advised that DoI have been seen on site carrying out an inspection. Alan suggested that NIFHA should write to the owner highlighting the urgency of remediation works and clarifying that NIFHA will hold them responsible for any future damage to the harbour estate arising from a failure to remediate the structure.</p> <p>Kevin will email DAERA with an update on the situation and the need for urgent works due to survey results.</p> <p>Portavogie Revetment – Storm Babette has damaged this area which was only repaired in 2020. There is a need to look at what type of remedial works need to take place to take account of climate adaptation measures. Any works here will definitely need a marine licence.</p> <p>Contract for Consulting Engineers expires in November 2024. There will be a need to commence the tender process soon.</p>	<p>KQ</p>

	Action
Kilkeel Slipway Rails – Plan is to replace these when the Portavogie Slipway project is completed. The committee discussed possible options and the need to consult with stakeholders to seek their opinions.	
8. Estate Management and Development	
Kevin discussed current estate issues across all three harbours.	
North Harbour Ardglass – transfer of lease to a new owner. Committee discussed; this will be taken to December Board meeting for full approval.	Board
Rooney Road Site, Kilkeel – Committee discussed proposals put forward by Gregory Nicholson. After a full discussion it was decided to recommend to the board that NIFHA should retain this important property as is until its future purpose is considered as part of the wider estates management strategy.	Board
Lowry Building & Civil Engineering on behalf of NI Water wishes to rent the Rooney Road site as additional space during the construction of a new sludge tank. This could be for a period of up to 1 year. To be taken to December Board Meeting for approval.	Board
Kilkeel Fishselling lease transfer to Sea Source. Completion date was 1 Nov 2023. Davey noted that issue with ANIFPO is no reflection on Seasource as all the consolidation accounts of SeaSource and SeaSource Offshore have been filed.	
Navital Site – Leaseholder has ceased to pay rent on this site. This will be transferred to our solicitors in due course.	
9. Debtors	
Belinda gave a verbal update of aged debt and a breakdown by service provided. From the Feb meeting a report will be included on changes to the debt profile and an analysis of service provided.	Belinda
10. Any Other Business	
Kevin updated the Committee on the Traffic Management Project and issues around actual equipment supplied. Grants Team are working on the final claim for this project.	
11. Date of Next Meeting	
Tuesday 20 February 2024 in Ardglass Harbour Master's Office.	