

Northern Ireland Fishery Harbour Authority

Portavogie Stakeholder Advisory Forum Meeting

held on

Friday, 25 February 2022 at 2.30pm by Zoom

<u>Present:</u>	
Stakeholders:	Robert Edmonds (RE) – Rosemary Ann Ian Kelly (IK) – NIFPO Sam Mawhinney – Denholm Fishselling
NIFHA:	Alan McKeown (AMcK) – Board Member & Chair of Stakeholders meetings Lynn Gilmore (LG) – Board Member Robert McConnell (RMcC) – Chair of NIFHA Board Kevin Quigley (KQ) – CEO Neil Warnock (ER) – Harbour Master Belinda McCaughey (BMcC) David Lindsay – NIFHA Project Manager Jenny Lau (Jenny) – Environmental Officer
Apologies:	Harry Wick (HW) – NIFHA Board Member Kate Burns (KB) – NIFHA Board Member David Knott (DK) – NIFHA Board Member
	Action
1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES	
AMcK welcomed all to meeting and apologies as above were recorded.	
2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING	
Minutes of the previous meeting held on 12 March 2021 were approved.	
3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES	
- Worn Rollers on the Cement palls – New pulley system has been installed and there is no longer any need for rollers.	
- Access to Cranes at the Fishmarket – This remains an issue for smaller boats. A system to deter larger vessels blocking these cranes is being utilized.	
4. THANKS	
KQ assured the meeting that NIFHA are aware of the difficult times being felt by its stakeholders. Co-operation is good and appreciated.	
5. HEALTH AND SAFETY / PORT MARINE SAFETY	
Portavogie has an excellent record on safety. KQ emphasized the need to use 3 points when using the ladders.	

<p>End of Life Vessels – Making progress. Planning permission has been received and we are just waiting for the signed legal document. 1st to be decommissioned will be the Boy Cameron – hopefully by the end of April. Aquarius will then follow.</p> <p>NIFHA do not have the capability to decommission more than 3-4 vessels per year.</p> <p>Installation of the Anchor Point is causing issues.</p> <p>The meeting discussed the logistics of decommissioning a vessel from taking ownership of the vessel to final disposal.</p> <p>Contract for disposal of any waste materials will be awarded through CPD.</p>	
<p>6. THE ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>Jenny updated the meeting on current grant claims. In particular A grant has been submitted to install a water fountain which will allow refillable bottles to be used.</p> <p>A pilot project to recycle end of life gear in Co. Meath – looking at nets, etc.</p> <p>Beach Cleans – these will kick off shortly. In 2021 there were 5 beach cleans – 140 man hours and a total of 571Kg of litter removed. This equates to approx. 100 black bin bags worth of litter.</p> <p>Fishing for Litter – 2.3T in 2021. Particular thanks were given to the Scallop fishermen. Jenny noted the importance of only litter caught in nets being placed in the FFL bags. An open day is planned for early summer.</p> <p>Green Machine Sweeper has been purchased and this will keep small pieces of net from being blown into the water. This is not a replacement for keeping the place tidy.</p>	
<p>7. OPERATIONAL ISSUES</p> <p>Covid-19. Hopefully this will be the last time that this appears at the top of our list.</p> <p>Parkgate – refurbishment is drawing to an end. Roof on the shed is being replaced. There has been a good response on hiring out these units. Costs will be as competitive as possible.</p> <p>Slipway – This is about to be closed for rail repairs. There was a full and frank discussion on the details of the closure of the slipway. Must happen now or grant funding will be lost.</p> <p>Ice Plant – The hot summer put a strain on both the plant and staff. Call out on a Sunday night is only available at peak times. We do not commit to a 24/7 service.</p> <p>Fishmarket Berthing – We are taking a stricter approach. There is no berthing permitted at the Fishmarket unless prior permission has been given by the Harbour Master. Smaller vessels need to be able to land their catch. NW works with the fishermen to facilitate this.</p>	

<p>Net Racking – We are currently in the process of dismantling this. Storage will be at ground level only. This is a slow process.</p> <p>Generally the harbour is running well.</p>	
<p>8. CAPITAL WORKS</p> <p>DL updated the meeting on the works carried out. In particular</p> <p>Parkgate Building – Roof is being replaced. Should be complete by the end of March.</p> <p>Traffic Management Due to commence shortly. Plans for proposed works are available for viewing at the HM office. If there are any issues please let us know. As part of this there will be parking spaces marked out for cars.</p> <p>Slipway Rails – This work is essential to retain the slipway. Disruption will be for a minimum amount of time. In an emergency the Small slipway has an ebbing area to make a vessel safe.</p> <p>Anchor Point - This is required for the vessel decommissioning. RE asked if fishermen would be able to buy the scrap aluminium before the waste is disposed off. KQ advised paperwork would need to be in place before anything is removed but NIFHA will work with the appointed contractor.</p>	
<p>9. POTENTIAL CAPITAL WORKS</p> <p>DL talked to the potential capital works. In particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Portavogie Slipway Cradle / Winch - Ice Plant Delivery System refurbishment – current system is 20 years old. - Small Slipway – Vessel lift similar to that is use in Bangor. Vessels could be taken out of the water for both storage and repair. - Navital Site – suggestions <p>KQ asked everyone to think about what is required. To pass the information on to other stakeholders for their feedback.</p>	
<p>10. EQUALITY</p> <p>KQ confirmed we are committed to equality in all that we do. Our view is that everyone should be treated fairly and equally.</p> <p>Best Practice – we have a responsibility to our staff. We are part of the local community and will work with the community as much as we can such as with the Seafood festival.</p> <p>Schools Project – This may recommence in the summer.</p> <p>KQ thanked everyone for their attendance. We welcome feedback. We are all working to a common goal.</p>	

11. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

AMcK thanked both stakeholders and the NIFHA team for their contribution to this meeting. The Board are particularly pleased with the good news around the granting of planning permission for decommissioning abandoned vessels.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 4.00pm.