

Northern Ireland Fishery Harbour Authority

Portavogie Stakeholder Advisory Forum Meeting

held on

Friday 08 March 2024 at 2.30pm

<u>Present:</u>	
Stakeholders:	<p>Pete Wray (PW) - Ards & North Down Council Tomas Lennox (TL) – Ards & North Down Council Andrew Pearson (AP) – Ards & North Down Council Sam Mawhinney (SM) – Denholm Harry Wick (HW)- NIFPO CEO Clements Booth (CB) – Skipper Incentive Fergie Hughes (FH) – Skipper Heritage</p>
NIFHA:	<p>Stephen Welch (SW) – NIFHA Board Member & Chair of Meeting Kevin Quigley (KQ) – NIFHA CEO Siobhan McCauley (SMcC) – NIFHA Board Member Maynard Mawhinney (MM) – NIFHA Board Member Neil Warnock (NW) – NIFHA Harbour Master David Lindsay (DL) – NIFHA Project Manager</p>
Apologies:	<p>Kate Burns (KB) – NIFHA Board Member David Knott (DK) – NIFHA Board Member Lynne Gilmore (LG) – NIFHA Board Member</p>
	Action
1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES	
SW welcomed all to meeting and apologies as above were recorded.	
2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING	
Minutes of the previous meeting held on 24 February 2023 were approved.	
3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES	
There were no matters arising from the previous meeting.	
4. Thanks	
KQ complimented the team in Portavogie for all their hard work and thanked the cooperation received from the fishermen during what was a difficult year.	
5. Finance	
KQ presented on the difficult financial situation the Authority is in and the implications of this, which include possible significant fee increases or reduction in service. SW confirmed that the situation was a serious one	

<p>6. OPERATIONAL MATTERS</p> <p>Slipway – DL outlined progress on the new cradle and winch project and that there would be a prolonged closure early in 2025 to allow for the removal of the old cradle and the installation of the new cradle and winch. The need for a prior closure likely in the Autumn of this year to allow for the building of a foundation for the new winch was also outlined.</p> <p>Ice Plant – NW outlined that the need for producing ice over the winter will be kept under review but currently it is anticipated that ice supplies will continue.</p> <p>Fish Market Berthing – NW indicated that rules were well understood and adhered to and thanked the fishermen for their cooperation.</p> <p>Dismantling Vessels – KQ noted that the Aquarius has been dismantled and that the Boy Cameron is underway. It was noted that the focus for dismantling in the coming financial year would be on removing abandoned vessels in the other two harbours. Planning permission is taking a long time.</p> <p>Dredging Inner Harbour - KQ advised that the Authority was unable to obtain a licence to dredge the inner harbour due to the level of contaminants. Following a meeting with Marine Licencing it was agreed further sampling would be undertaken to determine the way forward.</p> <p>The issue of a lack of adequate power supply for the vessels was raised. A substantive discussion on this issue followed. It was noted that the Authority has listed addressing this as one of its urgent projects.</p> <p>It was noted that the ladder on the middle quay is not set in, and stakeholders requested that this be set in. It was agreed the Authority would investigate the feasibility of delivering this.</p> <p>Stakeholders requested that more ice supply hoses be made available to facilitate delivering ice at differing tides. It was agreed the Authority would investigate the feasibility of delivering this.</p>	<p>DL</p> <p>NW</p>
<p>7. HEALTH AND SAFETY / PORT MARINE SAFETY</p> <p>KQ noted that the Portavogie record on safety is excellent. This is thanks both to our staff and the fishermen. KQ offered his thanks to both staff and stakeholders for their co-operation on this vital issue.</p>	
<p>8. CAPITAL WORKS</p> <p>DL advised that the small slipway anchor points project had been completed. He noted that the Bridge Quay repair was almost complete and was expected to finish within a couple of weeks. He outlined that the new cradle and winch project was progressing well.</p> <p>DL summarised the difficulties the Authority was experiencing with both obtaining funding and tight timelines for delivery.</p>	

<p>DL advised the urgent projects for which funding is being sought. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revetment Repair Enhancement Replace Power Units Enhanced waste management facility <p>KQ confirmed that the Authority has renewed its preferred projects listing and would be seeking a meeting with stakeholders to consult on this list sometime after Easter.</p>	
<p>9. Harbour Investment (FSDP)</p> <p>DL noted that despite budgetary and resource pressure there has been progress. The tender documentation for the Ardglass Environmental & Technical studies are nearly complete and it is expected that DAERA will issue these shortly.</p>	
<p>10. ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>KQ noted that the Environmental Officer is currently on maternity leave and that he is looking forward to her return in the early summer.</p> <p>KQ again went quickly through forthcoming vessel dismantling plans. He thanked fishermen for contributing to the fishing for litter scheme and commended local groups for participating in beach cleans.</p> <p>KQ asked AP (the EHO) did he want to speak to the meeting. AP confirmed that regular visits to the fishmarket showed it was well run. He would like to get a better understanding of the volume and nature of the product landed. KQ indicated that if he got in touch with him, he would forward the request to DAERA as the Authority does not have full sight of this.</p>	
<p>11. EQUALITY</p> <p>It is important to acknowledge that we should treat each other with respect.</p> <p>The Authority is committed to treating everyone equally.</p> <p>Good relationships are important to everyone within NIFHA.</p>	
<p>12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS</p> <p>KQ thanked everyone for their attendance. We welcome feedback. We are all working to a common goal.</p> <p>There being no other business the meeting closed at 3.35pm.</p>	