



COLLIESTON HARBOUR HERITAGE GROUP

MINUTES OF THE NINTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MONDAY 28th OCTOBER 2024

Present: Mike Earlam, Robin Mackie, Trish Davidson, Sally Sheehan, Roger Berl, Roddy Junor, Councillor Louise McAllister, John Kelly, Ollie Davidson, Anne Craig, Anthony Craig, Lewis Cowie

Apologies: Chris Hovey

Approve 2023 Minutes: Proposed: Roger Berl Second: Roddy Junor

Matters arising: There were no matters arising

Chairperson's Report: "2024 is another year in the life of our Pier, the winter gales have again taken their toll and will require repairs. For now, we will leave any repairs until after this year's gales will no doubt do their worst. Except for the pier deck top which has taken a battering from the weather and will require a large spend to repair. Last year we did spend quite a reasonable amount on repairs, so we were generally in good shape

As I reported at the last AGM we been visited by the Maritime & Coastguard Agency regarding our Port operation and safety code etc. Since our group are not the Trustees as defined within the 1991 No. 2513 Statutory Instrument, we are not responsible. This lies with Aberdeenshire Council, the Church of Scotland and the settled estates of Richard Sutton. Anyway, where we are now, thanks to Councillors Isobel Davidson and Louise McAllister, Aberdeenshire Council is in the process to have Collieston deregistered as a port, along with several other in the shire. This will take time and due process".

Mike asked Councillor McAllister if there had been any updates from the Council's legal department – none as yet.

"Other high lights: -

One point we did determine during our search through Steve Ritchie's archives is the that the pier is owned by the Collieston Community.

Chris Hovey liaised with the harbour master at Boddam about the Maritime Safety Code who was unaware of it. Subsequently Chris met up with Paula Webber, the harbour master at Port Errol on the 26th April 2024, to ascertain her understanding of it and a report on the meeting was forwarded to the group on the 28th April 2024.

We are still having some issues with unauthorised vehicles on the pier and we arranged for new signs to be made up". Robin commented that yellow hatchings were needed in front of the barrier to prevent people from blocking emergency access.

"Boat berths have been well supported this and we only have a couple of vacant berths. Mike reminded the meeting that no boats should be left on the slipway.

Roger Berl attended a local harbour group meeting at Pitullie on the 6th October". Roger said it had been useful meeting other groups and another meeting is planned for March, probably at Port Errol.

"We also completed some open water safety training with the coast guard on line throwing techniques. We have purchased throwing which are positioned around the harbour. Mike asked if the throw lines are taken in for the winter. They are not, and Roddy checks their condition regularly.

Most of you will have seen Marco's chip van that has been parked on the pier and has provide sustenance to several villages.

Earlier this year we had a request from a lady who wanted to put a wood fired sauna on the pier, like the one on Aberdeen beach. This would have gone down well with the wild water swimmers. However, the CHHG thought this might be too intrusive with the wood smoke to low town residents. Personally, now having seen the units on Aberdeen beach they don't emit a lot of smoke, so this might be revisited.

Some of you who walk over to Cransdale will have noticed there has been erosion caused by the water runoff, currently we believe this is the councils responsible".

Clarification is needed regarding responsibility for this area. John Kelly commented that the eroded area has got worse but that placing large boulders to shore it up would help. John suggested that Pete McDonald may be able to help as he has a business with heavy plant.

The footbridge, which is not on Harbour land, has deteriorated even more and has become a safety risk. Harry Gilmour did the original repair and has been contacted for comment.

"On a more positive side we have received a grant from the Formartine Costal Communities fund to help with our repair burden of £10,000.

We also participated in research project on Community Ownership and Democracy being run Emma Bell, Professor of Contemporary British Politics at Savoie Mont Blanc, Chambéry, France. The output is quite enlightening on how small communities like Collieston work and function. (If anybody is interested, I can email you a draft summary of her study.)

Looking ahead we will at some time in the near future need to repair the pier deck top as it is breaking up after each winter gale. This will be serious expenditure somewhere in the region of £100,000. Based on the current local council finances they would be unable to assist, therefore we will need to explore other areas for new funding"

Sally suggested there were two possible funding streams – the Coastal Communities grant and the Marine Scotland Grant. A sub group were to investigate drawings, costings and specifications which could form the basis of an application.

Treasurer's Report: Trish Davidson gave the report –

"This is the Treasurer's Report for the period 1st September 2023 to 31st August 2024. We started the year with **£23,150.29** and ended the year on **£20,612.74**. The accounts have been independently examined – in line with OSCR requirements - by a friend of mine who has a background in finance.

The total **Income** for this year was **£2,400.29**

Private donations totalled **£325.00**. This total is made up from donations from a resident, a friend of the village, the North Sea Kayakers Club and Marcos Chipper.

Donations from **Parking** on the pier came to **£970.79**. It's worth noting that a few weeks after the end of the financial year, over £400 was banked from pier parking so the figure for the 2024 summer season is, in fact, over £1400.

We raised **£311.00** from the sale of Bryce Thomson prints but mainly from the sale of a painting of the pier kindly donated by Paul Ritchie at the Gala.

Berthing donations from individuals who have boats on the Boatie Shore totalled **£725.00**.

A payment of **£68.50** was made from the community council relating to the removal of the dead seal. This was an error which is corrected in the Payments section.

In terms of **Payments and Expenditure**, this totalled **£4937.84** this year.

Insurance for the pier totalled **£2456.14**, an increase of around £400 on last year. It's worth noting that the cost of the insurance premium basically equalled all our income this year.

Admin charges relating to the hire of the hall for our meetings totalled **£84.00**.

We have spent **£2210.00** this financial year for **Repairs** done on the pier by Harry and Ryan in September 2023.

Miscellaneous payments related to **£137.00** for the removal of the seal carcass and **£50.70** for a sign about unauthorised entrance to the pier.

Finally, I decided not to move the account to the Bank of Scotland – a good decision in the light of the closure of their Ellon branch.”

Trish Davidson, Treasurer 21 October 2024

COLLIESTON HARBOUR HERITAGE GROUP ACCOUNTS SUMMARY

Balance @ 1 September 2023	£23,150.29
Income	£2,400.29
Expenditure	£4,937.84
Balance @ 31 August 2024	£20,612.74
Income	
Private Donations	£325.00
Pier Parking	£970.79
Merchandise Sales	£311.00
Berthing Donations	£725.00

Miscellaneous £68.50

Payments/Expenditure

Insurance	£2456.14
Administration	£84.00
Harbour Repairs	£2210.00
Miscellaneous	£187.70

The idea of using a PayPal donate button was suggested. To be investigated further

Retiral and Election of Trustees: Sally Sheehan and Roger Berl were standing down as required by the Constitution and were subsequently re-elected as a Trustee. All in agreement.

Any Other Business:

A question had been asked about a large lump of concrete in the harbour which could be an obstacle to boat and pier jumpers. It is 5 metres from the pier. It was agreed that no action is required.

Two large chains were attached to bollards by someone who used the harbour over the summer and would be removed shortly.

A question was asked regarding ongoing plans to protect the Pier. Would similar work to that of Port Errol's who have built another wall within the original wall be feasible for Collieston? Ideally yes, but probably beyond the scope of our fundraising ability.

Ollie asked if a low-lying breakwater might help deflect the power of the waves. John Kelly commented that anything that changes the water flow can have unexpected consequences such as the harbour silting up.

There were no further questions and the meeting then closed.

Date for next meeting to be arranged.