



COLLIESTON HARBOUR HERITAGE GROUP

SCIO Number 44974

Minutes of the Meeting on 20th May 2025

Present: Mike Earlam, Sally Sheehan, Trish Davidson, Roddy Junor, Ollie Davidson, Robin Mackie, Anne and Anthony Craig

Apologies: Roger Berl, Councillor Louise McAllister

Matters Arising:

No progress as yet concerning the deregistration of port status. The group felt it might be useful to write to the new Formartine Area Manager on the current position.

A bid to last year's Marine Fund had not been progressed. It was believed that the funding only applied to commercial harbours.

An application to the Formartine Coastal Communities fund for £10,000 had been successful and had been used to improve the slipway.

The Beach Shelter was finally to re-open at the beginning of the school holidays.

Removal of Sand and Stones from beaches:

A concern had been brought to the Community Council regarding the removal of stones from Cransdale. Several incidences of large-scale removal had been seen by residents. A post had been put on Facebook alerting people that removal of anything from the foreshore was illegal. As the land owners, the Harbour Group supported the statement. Cransdale has suffered significant erosion in the last few years.

Boat Berth update:

David Burrows and David Argo had given up their berths. A trailer and an old boat needed to be removed from the boatie shore. Trish reported that the majority of berth holders had paid their annual donations. A contact email was needed for a new berth holder.

Treasurer's report:

The current balance was £25,984.18. £650 had been donated for boat berths with private donations from Mike Wallace and the sea kayakers.

£250 had been received for parking donations over the last two months, with approximately £1000 since last September.

Income had been £12,759 and outgoings had been £18,700. Harry Gilmour's final bill had still to be received.

Any Other Business:

The group acknowledged the need to be ready for future funding opportunities. The Aberdeen Coastal Communities Challenge Fund and the Aberdeenshire Rural Development grant are both very good sources of potential funds but with a very short turn around time quotes and specifications must be “shovel ready” when a fund is announced.

A working sub group would progress potential ideas for the short, medium, and long-term future of the Pier. The old Arch Henderson and Delft reports would be used as a reference starting point. Mike, Roddy, Robin and Ollie were to meet the following Monday. Roddy and Ollie were going to investigate the depth of water behind at the back of the Pier before then.

Anne commented that, thanks to the efforts of CHHG, a lot of the repairs identified by Arch Henderson had actually been completed effectively and at low cost.

Harry was to be asked to secure the new chain with shackles as a matter of urgency.

The two CORC boats can now be left behind the Pier bollard.

A new paddleboard and beach sauna business was to be starting soon at Cransdale.

Following discussion, it was agreed that a padlock would be put on the barrier to limit access for cars. Keys can be made available to any boat owner needing one. At the present time, it was not thought necessary for the slipway to be locked.

It is a requirement of berth holders that boats should be kept secure in the event of storms preventing damage to their own and other vessels. Ollie commented that some of the berths are in a very poor state and unlikely to attract any potential new berth holders. He was also concerned that some people sit directly below the boats on the boatie shore, unaware of any potential accidents.

Children were to be discouraged from digging trenches in the sand at the bottom of the slipway. It may be useful to have a sign to say launching access must be kept clear.

The Coastguards would have a stall at Gala.

Date of Next Meeting: The sub group were to meet on Monday 30th June. A date for the next CHHG meeting to be arranged.