



Minutes of Stonehaven Harbour Development Feasibility Study Stakeholders meeting at St James Hall on 27th August 2015

Present:

Wynne Edwards STP Trustee and Harbour Feasibility Study Project Leader

Douglas Samways STP Chair

Isabel Munn STP

Cressida Coates Tolbooth Museum

David Fleming STP Trustee

Charles Hawkes RNLI

Rod MacDonald RNLI

Steve Porteous ASYC

Keith Stewart ASYC

Phil Mills-Bishop SDCC

Alan Hurry SCI

Knud Christensen SDCC

Daniel Carneay SDCC

Cllr Raymond Christie Aberdeenshire Council

Cllr Graeme Clark Aberdeenshire Council

John Agnew Stonehaven Sea Cadets

Andrew Lawson Resident and Sea Cadets

Anita Lawson Resident and Sea Cadets

Jim Brown Aberdeenshire Council

Gavin Penman Aberdeenshire Council

John Ross Harbour user

Douglas Samways (DS) opened the meeting and handed over to Wynne Edwards (WE) who thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. WE went through the main points and recommendations of the Stonehaven Harbour Development Feasibility Study. WE stated that it's hoped that after this meeting the stakeholders will get together to take the project to the next step and confirmed that STP won't take the lead on the project although they would like to be involved where necessary.

Questions were then invited.

Q. Keith Stewart asked if Aberdeenshire Council were going to stop spending money on the harbour.

A. It was thought that Aberdeenshire Council would continue to provide minimal funding for repairs.



Q Knud Christensen asked what Aberdeenshire Council's view of the report was as they are the owners of Stonehaven Harbour.

A. Although 3 of Ward 18's councillors were present at the meeting, members of Aberdeenshire Council who were members of the Stonehaven Harbour Development Feasibility Study Steering Group were not available to attend the meeting. Gavin Penman from Aberdeenshire Council was present from the Council, but was not in a position to comment on the report.

Wendy Agnew wouldn't make any comment on the report on the night as she would like to speak to the people of the Town.

John Agnew Chair of Stonehaven Sea Cadets stated that Aberdeenshire Council have a Statutory Duty as owners of Stonehaven Harbour. He doesn't think that the next step is to form a "Harbour Sustainability Group" from members of the stakeholders but believes that the next step should come from Aberdeenshire Council, elected Councillors and the Harbour Advisory Committee after they have considered the report.

WE thought that due to the financial climate and council resources the pot of money available for Stonehaven Harbour will decrease over the next few years. Any damage to the outer breakwater could have disastrous effects on SCI and other harbour users and businesses in the locale so some action should be taken to mitigate this.

Wendy Agnew commented that she has spoken to George Cameron who has confirmed that Aberdeenshire Council are monitoring the hole in the outer breakwater wall and she felt that this was good enough.

Andrew Lawson noted that the harbour was designed a long time ago without an outer breakwater, so thinks that if anything happens to the outer breakwater that the businesses and harbour users would be unaffected. He also doesn't believe that the stake holders want to be involved in setting up another group as its hard enough getting people involved in the current groups. Aberdeenshire Council have to maintain the Harbour although money is tight and he thinks that 95% of people wouldn't want any changes to the harbour.

Cllr Graeme Clark mentioned that Aberdeenshire Council have to make savings of £50 million over the next 3 years. Although John Agnew is correct that the Council have to maintain the Harbour, he thinks that by setting up a new group, they would be able to access funding that Aberdeenshire Council can't access to help to make the Harbour sustainable.

Knud Christensen thanked STP for raising the issue and for getting the report commissioned. He thinks it's a good report as it shows the current issues and shares Cllr Clarks views about the £50m savings the council has to make. He would like the Council to take the lead and thinks that the public as well as the stakeholders should be involved in the next step.



Keith Stewart ASYC suggested that the report was a maintenance report rather than a development report and also thinks the majority of people are happy with the harbour as it is.

Anita Lawson understands that if another group was set up it could access other funding but commented that everyone at the meeting were involved with other charities who are already trying to access funds. She also commented that it was disappointing there was no one at the meeting from the pubs or restaurants and other businesses around the harbour.

John Agnew mentioned that the report put some figures on what was required but maintained that the Council have a statutory duty on the Harbour.

Q. Phil Mills-Bishop asked for confirmation that Aberdeenshire Council will not be selling the 7 harbours they currently own.

A. Gavin Penman, Cllr Christie, Cllr Clark and Cllr Agnew stated that they aren't aware of any policy document pertaining to this.

WE confirmed that he will make the report available to the Mearns Leader and the Press and Journal tomorrow.

David Fleming commented that the report has put figures on the maintenance work and immediate repairs required and this can help Aberdeenshire Council see what needs to be done. He also confirmed that Aberdeenshire Council are debarred from applying for other funds in their own right.

Cllr Clark is in agreement with DF.

Knud Christensen will put the Stonehaven Harbour Development Feasibility Study on the SDCC's agenda for the 8th September to discuss how this can be taken forward.

DS concluded the meeting by confirming that no one from the stakeholders was willing at present to take the report forward and this would go back to Aberdeenshire Council and the Harbour Advisory Group.

STP have carried out their job, as requested by Aberdeenshire Council to commission the Stonehaven Harbour Development Feasibility Study. STP organised this meeting to deliver the report to the stakeholders.