

# Dunbar Harbour Trust

Minutes of the AGM held at Hallhill Healthy Living Centre, Dunbar  
Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2009

## **1. Welcome and Apologies**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the 10<sup>th</sup> AGM of the Dunbar Harbour Trust

## **2. Minutes of previous AGM**

The minutes of last year's AGM - correction to previous Minutes – Tidal Gauge in Harbour Master's Office – this mechanism no longer exists it is planned to install a modern version to replace the original.

## **3. Chairman's Report and Resume of year ten**

Colin McWhannell delivered the Chairman's report. (A copy is attached in the appendices)

He thanked the members of the DHT and HMC for all their hard work and mentioned any prospective candidates to both committees would be welcomed.

The Chairman introduced the Finance Director's report and thanked Becky Donald and John Norman the Auditor for all their work on the preparation of the Annual Accounts

## **4. Annual Financial Statement**

Becky Donald – Finance Director, presented the Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> January 2009. A copy of the Accounts will be posted on the DHT web site. There were some question around the increase in fuels sales and if the small increase added by the Trust was enough to cover maintenance costs. The accounts were approved.

## **5. Questions from the floor**

### **Is the Seabird Centre Rib moored with a view to offering trips out of Dunbar?**

They pay for the mooring but mostly operate out of North Berwick as there was little interest from visitors to Dunbar Harbour for their trips.

### **The issue of positioning of the branders in the Cromwell Harbour was raised.**

Cromwell Harbour is a listed structure and Historic Scotland restricted DHT to what is in place.

It may be possible to approach them to ask for changes but there appears to be little representation to suggest such change is needed. Any possible approach would only be considered if a number of fishermen suggested to the Trust that they were unhappy with the current situation.

### **Road Maintenance/ Parking issues**

ELC and DHT share responsibility. The Trust has met with ELC transport to discuss boundaries – ELC will resurface their areas of responsibility and will quote DHT to resurface the remaining DHT ground. ELC will also look at methods of preventing HGV's from turning in the harbour area which causes much of the damage. Irresponsible parking is also a problem even on double yellow lines.

The Harbour management committee will look at options to deter this practice.

### **Any news on the Vaults project?**

DHT are still awaiting final report from the Vaults Investigation Group – CMCW will pursue.

### **When will work commence on the Maintenance Bay?**

A G Thomson will start work on repairing the wall on Tuesday September 29<sup>th</sup>. The raising of the level is ongoing

## **7. Any other Competent Business**

Colin McWhannell announced that he plans to stand down as Chairman of the Harbour Trust as soon as a successor is identified.

Chairman thanked all for attending and brought the meeting to a close.

Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the 10<sup>th</sup> annual general meeting of Dunbar harbour trust and thank you for coming along. Copies of the accounts for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2009 are available and I hope you have taken a copy to read. Recent changes in legislation associated with the preparation of charities accounts have made the preparation of the accounts much more complex and I am grateful to our Finance Director Becky Donald and our auditor John Norman of Norman, Downie and Kerr Ltd for all their hard work in preparing and auditing the accounts for us.

I don't propose to go over the activities of the Trust for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2009 in any detail for two reasons – firstly because you will find details of the Trust's activities set out in the Directors' Report in the accounts and secondly because they are now somewhat historic and I would prefer to talk about more recent events.

I would however like to make special mention this year about the successful completion of the restoration and renovation of McArthur's Store. Although work was still in progress and the end of the financial year we are reporting on at this meeting, since the year end, as I am sure you are all aware, the work has been completed, a memorable opening ceremony has taken place and all the stores are now in use by Dunbar based fishermen. From the Trust's point of view, the restoration of McArthur's Store has been the largest project the Trust has been associated with and the Trust is extremely grateful to the many people who and organisations which gave the Trust their support and without which the project would never have been successfully completed.

The majority of the Trust's projects are managed either by members of the Dunbar Harbour Management Committee, chaired by Rodney Thomas, or members of the Dunbar Harbour Trust all of whom are volunteers. The Harbour Management Committee are also responsible for the day to day running of the harbour and their activities during the year have included:-

- Repairing and restoring the harbour master's office – unfortunately traces of asbestos have been found in the walls of the office which has resulted in a considerable increase in the cost of the repairs and a delay in completion.
- Repairing the maintenance bay – as some of you will know, there is some erosion along the quay wall of the maintenance bay and work is required to prevent this getting any worse. The HMC is also looking at the possibility of raising the level of the maintenance bay in order to make more time available for maintenance to be carried out.
- Landscaping of the area around the propeller and the vaults – both these areas will benefit considerable from improved landscaping
- Maintenance of the slipway – there has been a build up of algae on the slipway which will require regular cleaning in order to keep it safe.
- Administration of moorings – the moorings policy has been formalised and considerable effort has been put into improving the general administration of the moorings.
- Maintenance of the CCTV cameras
- Installation of a power davit – once grant funding is in place.
- General housekeeping around the harbour – dog fouling and rubbish continue to be a major problem around the harbour and the HMC is in touch with both the ELC and the police to see what joint actions can be taken to reduce the problem to a minimum.

Particular attention is also being given to ensuring, as far as possible, that the harbour environment is safe both as a working environment for the harbour master and the fishermen, and as a leisure environment for visitors. A detailed Health and Safety Policy is being formalised which will provide a record of risk assessments and safety inspections which are carried out and record the action to eliminate any faults or concerns which arise from them. An emergency plan will also be incorporated into the Health and Safety Policy document. The Trust is very fortunate to have recently appointed Robin Hamilton to the Board who has considerable experience of Health and Safety legislation and I am also very grateful to Brian Cleator for his assistance on this matter.

On the main Board's front, projects which are currently being undertaken include:-

- The construction of an amenities block for which planning permission is being sought,
- The development of the battery on Lamer Island to make it more easily accessible and improve its attractiveness to visitors,
- The preparation of a 5 year harbour fabric maintenance programme which will include priority areas, timescales, estimated repair costs and a monitoring programme which will allow the Trust to plan the funding for the upkeep of the harbour.

Probably the largest project which the Trust is currently engaged on is a study of possible options for the development of the harbour both in terms of improving the ease and safety of access to the harbour and also improving the attractiveness of the harbour to visiting commercial and leisure craft. This covers the study of breakwater options which will make the entrance to the harbour safe in all weather conditions, the deepening of the harbour and the possible installation of pontoons which could accommodate and encourage more leisure craft to visit Dunbar. I am grateful to the RNLI for their support with this project and one of the outcomes we hope will be the welcome return of the all weather lifeboat to the harbour.

As always, the success or otherwise of all these projects depends entirely on the goodwill and efforts of the members of both the HMC and the Board and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them all for the considerable amount of their spare time which they have dedicated to the Trust and the Trust's activities. We are all volunteers and we are always on the lookout for new volunteers to join us so if any of you are interested in giving some of your time to the benefit of the harbour and its community, I will always be pleased to hear from you.