

Minutes of a Meeting of the ABERAERON Harbour Users Consultative Committee held remotely via video-conference on Thursday, 30 October 2025

Representing Ceredigion County Council: Councillor Shelly Childs (Chairman)
Councillors Elizabeth Evans, Matthew Vaux

Officers in Attendance: Owen Morgan, Katy Spain, Robyn Beresford, Dana Jones

Harbour Users: Jonathan Price Jones, David Nicholson, Martin Wood, Steve Webb, Julian Driver

(5.30pm – 6:25pm)

1. **Apologies**

None.

2. **Minutes of the Meeting held on 27 March 2025**

It was AGREED to confirm the minutes of the meeting of the 27 March 2025 as a true record.

Matters Arising

None.

3. **Harbour Services Update**

- Two new seasonal assistants (Chloe Roberts, Eve Rees) had joined the team; both may return next year.
- Robyn Beresford had been appointed as Harbour Works Leader following Chase Anders departure
- Coastal defence scheme concluded; communicated via Calm Waters newsletter
- New Port Marine Facility Safety Code revised by MCA in April; Council aims for full compliance by January 2026.
- Reminder to use VHF radio properly; incidents of inappropriate language reported elsewhere.

4. **Mooring Waiting List**

It was reported that there wasn't a current waiting list for Aberaeron harbour. Two boats on New Quay waiting list had temporarily moored in Aberaeron; and added to movers list for New Quay availability.

5. **General Maintenance and Cleanliness**

The Harbour Manager reported that debris and logs had been removed from harbour in March before the season commencement; there continued to be ongoing monitoring with ecology and the legal team on future removal. Concerns were raised by Harbour Users about lack of immediate debris removal during incidents; users had to remove debris themselves to prevent vessel damage and to mitigate loss of their vessels in accordance with their insurance policy. As a response, Officers stated that debris, including large logs, were monitored and removed as needed; removal depended on risk and

contractor availability. As there wasn't a 24/7 staff presence on the harbour; issues should be reported via 'Clic' system, email, or phone for timely response. It was reported that contractor mobilisation was required for large debris as in-house staff lack equipment and training for removal, the contractor response time varied due to other commitments; however, urgent safety issues were prioritised. A framework already existed for debris removal, and a local contractor had been appointed. It was also reported by Officers that the harbour authority could not condone the removal of debris by Harbour Users. One harbour user stated there that there was unresolved communication (e.g., no reply to a 2-year-old email on a similar issue)

A request was made for accurate minute-taking, especially regarding navigational hazards and incidents (e.g. yacht wreck in June last year which JPJ claimed was due to incorrect channel marking) as this request had not been included in the March 2024 minutes. It was agreed that this would be noted, although JPJ was also advised that minutes were not a verbatim record of every word said by everyone, but a general record of matters discussed and that there was insufficient evidence to support the statement made.

6. Issues raised by Harbour Users and Harbour Manager

- Concerns were raised regarding the unmarked mound and lack of safety markings at the harbour entrance. It was reported by Officers that stone and debris accumulation were noted post-works; there could be potential design issue with breakwater, which required further assessment. The Harbour Manager stated that due to the level of the mound, this was not seen as a hazard, however, he would continue to monitor it and circulate a notice to mariners if required.
- Red and green entrance poles lacked lighting; only pier ends were lit raising safety concerns at night. The Harbour Manager stated that in his opinion there was adequate lighting and safety concerns were low.
- The Harbour Manager reported that dredging plans were depended on legal and ecological assurances, monitoring was ongoing, no set timeframe to date. Doc Bach would also be included in the dredging plans and the removal of stone by Quay Parade. It was reported that there was allocated budget for this dredging to include the option to check mooring chains.
- Concerns regarding significant drop in harbour usage and income since previous years following and FOI request by a Harbour User on the collection of day launchers fees. Councillor Elizabeth Evans stated that she would raise this in the budget workshop meetings which would be held in the next few weeks.
- A request for face-to-face meetings to return was requested and would be considered
- Concerns were also raised on the new walkway