

Collieston Pier Group

Minutes of the Meeting of 25th November 2013

Present: Chris Stewart (Chair), Roger Berl, Roddy Junor, Robin Mackie, Meg Wallace, Mike Wallace, Huib Attema

Apologies: David Stewart, Trish Cowie, Sally Sheehan, Rob Merson, Anne Craig and Anthony Craig .

Minutes:

Roger queried whether it had been agreed to hold the black tie dinner midweek. Chris explained this had been arranged on the advice of Stewart Spence at the Marcliffe Hotel.

An alteration to the wording in the section about the sale of the calendars (p2) was suggested. This was proposed by Roger and seconded by Mike.

Matters Arising:

Craft Fair: No reduction was granted for the cost of the hire of the Kirk Centre in Ellon but this expenditure was offset by a very generous donation.

Calendars: Chris suggested that they could be used for advertising, eg with business contacts, etc. Roddy said they could be sold at the Forvie Centre using an honesty box for the money and Robin added that the Tourist Board offices would be a good outlet. It was also suggested that in future perhaps only 500 should be published and that the pictures should be bigger. It was pointed out, in answer to Roddy's question, that we were not involved in the publication of the calendars as this was done by Collieston and Slains Community Trust aided by a grant from the Council.

Rock Recycling: A response from the Prison Estates indicated that they are likely to dispose of the granite from Peterhead Prison themselves when it is demolished.

Strathclyde University: There has been no feedback from them to date. However, Huib reported that he had been in contact with the University of Delft who are organising a field trip to Scotland for engineering students. He is trying to persuade them to come to Collieston to see the pier and to brainstorm possible solutions. Huib hopes to have a response soon and if they are coming we will lay on coffee, soup, etc. In the meantime, Huib is trying to source rugby tickets to enable the students to attend a match at Murrayfield and he will speak to David to see if he has a contact.

Miller Platform: Roddy informed the group that BP are very cautious about recycled materials lest there are any problems arising from them. Consequently, he has had no success so far in getting any indication that material could be made available for the protection of the pier but he will keep trying and report back.

Craft Fair:

The event in the Kirk Centre in Ellon was very successful and raised in excess of £3,700 on the day with more money having coming in since. A further £150 was raised at Slains Primary School Fair last weekend. In total we have raised over £4,500 from the two sales and this is all profit as all merchandise had already been paid for. It was agreed that it had been good to have our fair in Ellon as we got a lot of passing trade as well as Collieston folk who supported us so well.

Treasurer's Report:

In Trish's absence, Chris gave the Treasurer's report. There is currently £3,200 in the account after the recent work on the pier has been paid. This includes £117 berthing fees and car parking fees. A further £700 is waiting to be handed over from fundraising and this will take the account to almost £4,000.

Planned Events:

The two events currently being planned are the curry night, but no date has been set for this yet, and the black tie dinner. Roger mentioned planned community council events – the lighting of the Christmas tree, the Burns Supper and a celebration for the opening of the hall.

Collieston Offshore Rowing Club (CORC) Discussions will need to take place to plan how to work together for the Gala.

Mike asked when plans for the Black Tie event will need to be firmed up. Chris replied that Ian Donald had enquired about Sir Alex Ferguson's availability as guest speaker but Sir Alex was unable to commit at this point. Other possible speakers are being contacted and it is hoped that this will be organised shortly. Detailed arrangements will follow on from that. There will be 10-25 tables, depending on demand and tickets will be printed as soon as possible. Robin suggested that Bill Carr, a former chair of the Pier Group, would be a good contact for Sir Ian Wood.

Pier Work:

The most recent work seems to have been completed satisfactorily and payment of £13,000 (£11,000 + VAT) has now been made.

Scottish Water:

David contacted Councillor Merson about the outstanding work on the utility housing on the pier and Councillor Merson sent a letter to Scottish Water requesting that action be taken to secure the box. Scottish Water undertook to have the work done by the end of this month. Failing that, we will need to contact them again.

AOCB:

Roger queried where meetings would take place if the hall is out of commission. It was agreed to wait and see what happens and to make alternative arrangements if required.

Chris raised the question of whether the group should seek to become a registered charity. Sally has advised that it should not involve too much work to apply. Roger reminded us that certain obligations and declarations have to be made eg. accounts review every year, etc. There was some discussion about possible ways of getting VAT exemption on materials, etc. such as purchasing through Aberdeenshire Council. Robin reminded the group that the only way in which the status of the Harbour Trust could be changed would be through an Act of Parliament which would cost thousands of pounds. It was agreed that Sally and Chris should explore the possibility of charitable status further and report back to the next meeting.

Loaf Face: Elaine Adams has kindly offered to donate 10% of all sales to Collieston people to the Pier Fund, an offer which was gratefully accepted.

Roger asked what the focus of next year's work on the pier would be. It was agreed that it would be dependent on what is required but may involve working on the inside facing of the pier.

Robin will ask Boatie Shore users for a berthing fee of £30 each in January.

Roddy proposed that we should locate a beach hut on the beach and hire it out for day use. He suggested that this would generate a reasonable income and would be much enjoyed. There was considerable discussion of this idea and Roddy was asked to come to the next meeting with more detailed proposals particularly in relation to the viability of locating the hut on the beach.

Date of Next Meeting:

As previously agreed, the meeting scheduled for the 30th December will not go ahead. Instead, as there is much to be discussed, the next meeting will take place at **7.30pm on Monday 6th January 2014.**