

COLLIESTON HARBOUR HERITAGE GROUP

MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON MONDAY 26TH MAY 2014

Present: Councillor Isobel Davidson, Councillor Rob Merson, David Stewart, Chris Stewart, Sally Sheehan, Roddy Junor, Mike Wallace, Huib Attema, Trish Davidson, Lewis Cowie, Roger Berl, Robin Mackie

Apologies: Meg Wallace, Ann and Anthony Craig, Trish and Ewan Cowie

Before the meeting began, those present stood for a minute's silence in memory of Norman Moncrieff, who had died earlier that day.

Minutes of previous meeting: Proposed by Robin Mackie, seconded by Lewis Cowie

Matters Arising:

- A 2015 Calendar is to be produced, using a variety of photographs. Sponsors are being sought for each page, three or four already confirmed. Intention is to have stock available for Gala.
- Councillor Davidson had the design to be used on the front of the parking meter. Sally to send her the Collieston logo. The design is to be printed onto Perspex. Final wording approved by all present, with a suggestion that the Collieston website address be added as a footer. David thanked Councillor Davidson on behalf of the group.
- No news as yet from the Charity Regulator's office about the application to become a SCIO.
- No news either from Delft University, but Huib was to follow this up.
- Ewan has been very busy barrowing earth to the Boatie shore to fill the gaps. David Huxtable has also offered to help – using earth from the landslip at the back of his house.
- No further news on the beach huts at present.
- The boat in the harbour which was gifted to the community will be advertised – initially through Facebook, colliestononline and the notice boards. David and Sally will finalise the wording etc. Graeme Scott at the Ellon Times may also be contacted.

Treasurer's Report:

Trish reported that the bank balance is £33,358.34. A further donation from the shop of £20.38 is to be banked, along with another donation from Rhoda Dunbar for £50. Lewis gave Trish the latest collection from the bollard and meter. A sponsored walk organised by Slains Parent Forum had taken place the previous weekend, the amount raised will be notified later.

AOCB:

- More Jute bags have been ordered and Meg Wallace is to organise another tea towel design for future merchandise sales.

- Chris told the group that friends had donated a stained glass panel to the Pier fundraising. The group talked about possibly displaying the panel in the Heritage Room, or asking the Tolquhon Gallery whether they might sell the piece on our behalf.
- Roddy told the group about an idea which may tie in with the Delft project. BP are to sail an FPSO vessel from Korea to Scotland around October/November. The ship has tow breakers attached, each of which weigh 48 tons. These could be used as a temporary measure to diffuse the strength of the waves at the back of the pier. If they were to be used, they would eventually rot and disintegrate so could not offer a permanent solution. Roddy was to email Huib with the information, with Huib passing on to Delft. A lot of issues would have to be addressed before a project of this sort could go ahead, including getting permission from the Crown Estate, SEPA etc, and undertaking an environmental assessment and measuring the effect on the sediment flow. There is also a chance that submerging the breakers could result in a hazard being created, the water is quite shallow around the ebbing stone area at about 3 fathoms. Roddy stressed this was only an idea at the moment, but if nothing else, it has raised a conversation within BP which may be useful in itself - everyone was in favour of making more enquiries.
- David said that John Frew had telephoned to ask if any work was likely this year. The group suggested areas around the ladders may be a possible site and that there were also a number of large cracks in need of attention. It was also noted that Mr Frew's contractors had apparently lost two steel shutters last year while carrying out the work at the back of the pier.
- After some discussion, the group decided to use the next meeting to revisit previous surveys, and plan a course of direction. We need to know if the University of Delft will be able to undertake a project on the pier, but at the same time we need to consider how the project might be funded. An alternative route may be to apply to the Heritage Lottery. The Coastal Communities fund has now closed and it is unlikely there will be further rounds of funding. Submission dates for the Heritage Lottery are 29th August and 28th November this year. Huib was to contact Royal Haskoning. It was also thought that Arch Henderson, who have done previous surveys on the pier, might do costings – but we would have to first find out what costs might be involved.
- Roger told the group about some current issues – the upstairs meeting room in the hall is to have filing cabinets installed, subject to successful funding bid, and asked if the group wanted to keep any paperwork there. The Multi Terrain Challenge will take place on 5th July, and the Coastal Café will also operate again this year. It may be possible to sell Pier merchandise at the Café as was done the previous year.
- A fundraising curry night is planned for September.

- Lewis reported that one of the locks on the collecting box has broken, but it was thought the remaining lock would provide sufficient security.
- Councillor Merson will ask Infrastructure Services if they have ground penetrating radar equipment that could be used to detect the voids in the pier.

Date of next meeting: Monday June 30th 2014 in the hall.

No meetings are planned for July and August.