

MINUTE

AB - PUBLIC

Harbour Board

Auditorium, Museum and Archives, Hay's Dock, Lerwick
Friday 10 February 2017 at 10am

Present:

A Cooper B Fox
R Henderson A Manson
F Robertson M Stout

Apologies:

M Burgess A Westlake

In Attendance:

M Sandison, Director of Infrastructure Services
J Belford, Executive Manager - Finance
J Smith, Acting Executive Manager – Ports and Harbours
B Dalziel, Harbourmaster
A Inkster, Team Leader – Port Engineering
B Robb, Management Accountant
S Summers, Administration Manager
P Wishart, Solicitor
C Anderson, Communications Officer
L Gair, Committee Officer

Also:

V Wishart

Chair

Ms A Manson, Chair of the Board, presided.

Circular

The circular calling the meeting was held as read.

Declarations of Interest

None

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 December 2016 were approved on the motion of Mr Henderson seconded by Mr Robertson.

01/17 2017/18 Budget and Charging Proposals – Harbour Board

The Board noted a report by the Executive Manager – Finance (F-003-F), which enabled the Harbour Board to consider the budget and charging proposals for 2017/18 for the services under their remit.

The Executive Manager – Finance introduced the report and Officers responded to a number of questions from the Appendices, as follows:

- Clarification was sought on the difference between live fish carrier charges and shell fish charges. It was agreed that there was potential for confusion in the description of these charge and following an explanation of what was intended under these charges, the Executive Manager – Ports and Harbours agreed that work would be undertaken to provide suitable wording as part of the overall assessment of charging arrangements for aquaculture. He said that the charges needed to be comprehensive and understandable, particularly where the same vessels are used to transport different products that are subject to different charges.
- Reference was made to the two new charges for the Fresh Shellfish and Officers were informed that there had been some dialogue between the industry and Members and that the industry had made a proposal to simplify the shellfish dues issue. It was noted that the industry had been advised and accepted that their proposals were not sufficient in terms of what the Council needed to support its business case. In response to a suggestion that the approval of these charges be delayed until talks with the industry had been completed the Director of Infrastructure Services said that the budget could be set and the two new charges taken out of the decision and brought to the next meeting of the Board.
- Members discussed the change in charges for cruise ships and were advised that the Council's charge currently sit outside the charges imposed by other areas. The Executive Manager – Ports and Harbours advised that this was a market was a growth area that would, in addition to the commercial value, it would also bring community and social activity for some areas. In response to a question on how the charges are collected the Administration Manager explained that Cruise ships provide information in advance, including the number of passengers coming ashore. She advised that contact has already been made providing dates for the new financial year.

Mr Cooper moved that the Board approve the recommendations contained in the report on the basis that there would be resolution of the shell fish charges. Clarification was provided that the Board could approve the budget proposals for 2017/18 with the exception that the two new charges listed in appendix 1, for Fresh Shellfish, which will not be implemented until this is considered in a further report to the Harbour Board on 6 March 2017. On that basis Mr Henderson seconded and the Board unanimously concurred.

Decision

The Harbour Board RECOMMENDED to Policy and Resources Committee and the Council that they approve the budget proposals for 2017/18 included in this report and set out in detail in the Budget Activity Summary (Appendix 1) and Schedule of Charges (Appendix 2), with the exception that the two new charges listed in appendix 1, for Fresh Shellfish, will not be implemented until this is considered in a further report to the Harbour Board on 6 March 2017.

The meeting concluded at 10.25am.

Chair