

**Adjourned General Services Committee Meeting**  
**Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2021**  
**Via Teams**  
**1500 hours**

**Mr B Kelly, Chairman**  
**Ms A Burgess**  
**Mr G McKinley**  
**Mr R Jenkins**  
**Mr S Roberts**

**Mr R Nash, Deputy Chief Executive**  
**Mrs S Pengilley-Price, Executive Officer**  
**Mrs L Baines, Minute Secretary**  
**Ms S Ireland, Programme Manager**  
**Mrs E O'Toole, Finance Manager**

**Apologies: none**

**In Attendance: Mr J Taylor, Harbour Master for item 04/2021;**

**02/2021 Matters Arising**

**2.1 Alderney Bird Observatory Report** – Reports from Deputy Chief Executive dated 20<sup>th</sup> February 2021 tabled and considered.

**6 B Policy Proposals**

Taking into account the points made within the reports, the appended documents, and members own experience of the matters relating to the ABO, members considered the following list of policies that might be adopted (changed as necessary) in relation to the future of the ABO:-

In relation to a bird observatory and the ABO

1. The Committee wishes to see a properly accredited bird observatory operating on the Island to make use of the potential for the increase in scientific knowledge and for promotion of this aspect of the island's wildlife for niche tourism.
2. *A single Island wildlife and environmental organisation running this function and an associated field centre, alongside others supported by the States would be preferable and more cost effective* **(The Committee agreed for this to be removed).**
3. The Committee is prepared in principle to enter into a partnership agreement with the ABO, but any such Agreement must be based around an agreed SLA giving specific and measurable targets where ever possible and useful to achieving the scientific, financial and economic benefits sought by the Committee **(not to be funded by the SoA).**
4. The Committee will engage in discussions in good faith on such an agreement, but reliant on full access to and analysis of financial information from the ABO, regarding supporting the ABO through a support grant to the organisation linked to agreement on and SLA. Such discussions to be completed by 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021.

In relation to a bird warden

5. The Committee will not continue the (temporary) employment of the bird warden on behalf of the ABO beyond 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021. It will consider an interim arrangement to cover ABO costs up to £3500 over the period April to June 2021 inclusive, but only if full and frank discussions are taking place.

In relation to the use of the Nunnery site

6. The Nunnery site is primarily a heritage site and all activities considered for it will be secondary to the primary designation and will be judged for suitability against that policy.
7. It will support the operation of a bird observatory and field centre based within the heritage site of the Nunnery Fort.
8. Subject to agreement on a future relationship between the States and the ABO, the Committee will lease the Nunnery hostel block to the ABO in 2021 and for 3 years from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022 reviewable and renewable annually.
9. Lettings for this accommodation shall only be in connection with “bird, wildlife, and heritage activities”.
10. In the absence of new and compelling information to demonstrate the critical importance of the Ground floor flat to the ABO, Committee will remove this from the lease with due notice.
11. The Committee will engage in discussions with the ABO regarding a possible replacement ringing room facility following the demolition of the “Sun Room” and will seek to ensure that any such facility if created will be available for as wide a variety of activities of a broadly education nature in co-ordination with the ABO’s needs.

**The General Services Committee resolved to:**

- i) Agree to a time limited period of discussion with the ABO to seek to establish a new relationship with the States and such financial and other support that is necessary to create a 3 year agreement to enable it to continue in operation.**
- ii) Consider and agree the policy framework that it wishes to adopt in relation to support for the future work with the ABO as set out in section 6 B in the report.**
- iii) Agree to the following actions (as set out in section 7 in the report)**
  - a) Further discussions are offered to the ABO with regard to the future relationship and based on the policy framework adopted.**
  - b) The Committee to be represented by a designated Committee member (Mr Kelly) and by representation from the Chief Executive’s Office.**
  - c) The ABO are advised that the States will terminate the (temporary) employment of the Bird Warden from 31st March 2021, but that a request for an interim grant to the ABO be made to the Finance Committee to cover the second quarter of the year while discussions take place.**
  - d) The Committee should advise the Finance Committee immediately of the situation and the recommendation for the interim grant proposal and request that funding is found to cover this period.**

- e) **All negotiations with the ABO should be completed by 30th June 2021 and all documents drawn up and agreed by that time. Failing that the States shall withdraw completely from the project and give the ABO 3 months' notice of the end of their tenancy on facilities at the Nunnery.**

#### **04/2020 Harbour & Fisheries**

**4.1 Current Harbour Crane Options Paper** – Report from Harbour Authority dated February 2021 tabled and considered.

The Committee were advised that the programme for the construction of the new crane is a 7 day build. Engineers are arriving on island on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> February. Crane warrantee to be circulated to members. Noted.

**The General Services Committee resolved to approve:**

- **For expressions of interest to be advertised as soon as possible for the purchase of the current crane; and**
- **For a further options paper to be placed before the next meeting - this to include valuation of current crane; cost of refurbishment; potential purchase of a reserve crane; and disposal costs.**

**HARBOUR MASTER**

**4.2 Crane Shed Report – Options for consideration** – Report from Harbour Authority dated February 2021 tabled and considered.

With Fort Grosnez now available for use by the States of Alderney, it was noted that there could be an opportunity to house the machine within the walls of the unused hangar. The use of an existing structure would be the best option, as the opening has been measured by harbour staff to confirm its suitability for use. It was noted that it would require some alterations to the height of the roof, but since structural work is already required this shouldn't pose an issue. The Committee were advised that costings for these works have been requested, and are awaiting a response.

**The General Services Committee resolved to approve Option C – Repurpose the Breakwater Crane Shed for further investigation.**

**HARBOUR MASTER**

**4.3 Sand Grabbing Report – Options for consideration** – Report from Harbour Authority dated February 2021 tabled and considered.

The Committee were advised that the operation of a clamshell grab by a roped machine, such as those used in port operations, are notoriously hardwearing on the machines wire ropes. This is not a factor which is specific to this crane but something which is well known within the crane community. The purchase and fitting of a replacement rope will typically cost in the region of £3,000 which exceeds the average income from the discharge of a ship using the clamshell grab. The Harbour Master advised that a rope cable requires replacing after every third ship due to the wear and tear.

**The Committee requested the following information to be provided for the next meeting: how many ropes have been replaced in the last 2 years; and the service record for the current crane.**

**HARBOUR MASTER**

**Pilot Boat** – The Committee were advised that the Pilot Boat had been sent to Guernsey last year as it was un-coded. Harbour Master to provide a report to GSC for consideration on two options – continue with the coding costs for the Pilot Boat, or look at replacing the vessel.

**HARBOUR MASTER**

**Mooring Buoys** – It was noted that these are surveyed and maintained every year. The Chairman raised concerns regarding the timeline for this year's maintenance ready for the 2021 season. The Committee were advised that the tender process for the 2021 contract is underway, and will be advertised shortly. **Noted.**

**Pontoon** – The Committee were advised that there is no outline plan from the RNLI currently, as this work has been delayed due to the COVID lockdown. The office is in liaison with the RNLI, and hope to press on with research as soon as the restrictions are lifted.

Concerns were expressed regarding the condition of the large pile. The Harbour Master advised that the same sea anchor system will be used this year, which was sufficient for the level of traffic that was seen last year. It was noted that both piles have structural defects, and that a full redesign and remake is required.

**Fisheries Briefing** – Presentation to be made to local fishermen – this is being organised at officer level and will include an invitation to David Wilkinson, Sea Fisheries Officer to attend the update.

**DCE/EO/HARBOUR MASTER**

**Alderney Shipping Office Move** – Request details have been sent to the Harbour Office. The Harbour Master advised that in principle he has no objections to the request, subject to planning and GSC approval. A site visit with Members is to be organised once restrictions allow to view the proposal. To be deferred to March meeting. **Noted.**

**HARBOUR MASTER**

**Water Taxi** – The Harbour Master advised that proposals for GSC consideration are semi drafted, and will be coming to Committee to consider the option to put the service out to tender for a third party to operate with a service level agreement in place. **Noted.**

**HARBOUR MASTER**

**Mooring Fees for 2021** – Mr McKinley requested that free mooring fees are offered to Guernsey visitors for the 2021 season, as was offered in 2020. It was noted that this offer didn't necessarily make a difference to people wanting to come to Alderney, as some were unaware of the offer. The Committee were advised that the financial impact would need to be properly assessed before a decision is made. The Chairman, Mr McKinley and Harbour Master to discuss further and produce a report for the March meeting for consideration.

**BK/GM/HARBOUR MASTER**

**Harbour Master Plan** – The Committee agreed that this issue needs moving forward, as conversations are usually paused in relation to any GSC progression within the harbour area due to the potential

harbour master plan. It was advised that the previous CEO had produced some preliminary documents on this topic. Executive Officer to circulate draft copies to members. Noted. It was noted that the Harbour Review completed by the Strategic Financial Adviser in 2014 focused on costing and employment, where some recommendations have been implemented.

**EO**

**Meeting Closed: 5.16pm**

**Signed: Boyd Kelly**

**Date: February 2021**