

General Services Committee Meeting
Tuesday 12th October 2021
Anne French Room
0930 hours

Present:

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

In Attendance:

Mrs L Baines, Committee Secretary
Miss A Bird, Admin Assistant
Mrs S Pengilley Price, Head of Government Support (HoGS)
Mrs E Maurice, Head of Finance (TREASURY)
Mrs K Hatcher-Gaudion, Capital Projects Co-ordinator (CPC)
Mr J Taylor, Harbour Master (HM)
Mr A Rose, Assistant Harbour Master
Mrs C Veron, Policy Assistant (for item 4.8)

Apologies: Ms K Jones, Chief Executive (CE); Ms S Ireland, Programme Manager (PM); Mr R Phelan, Estates, Environment & Infrastructure Manager (EEIM); Mr S Roberts

01/2021 Minutes from previous meeting for approval – Draft minutes from 14th September GSC meeting tabled and **approved**.

CE OFFICE

02/2021 Matters Arising

2.1 Ambulance On Call Allowance Update – The Chairman advised that he is awaiting the outcome of the Ambulance review before submitting a paper to GSC for consideration regarding the introduction of an on call allowance, as he did not want to pre-judge the review findings. It was noted that the crew are to be kept up to date.

BK

2.2 Old Vicarage Lease Update – The Committee were advised that civil service were meeting with Law Officers this afternoon to discuss this issue. An update to be circulated to members via email following the meeting.

HoGS

2.3 Old Steam Crane Update – The Committee requested for the States of Guernsey to be chased on the progress of the removal of the old steam crane.

HoGS/PM

2.4 Airport Wildlife Hazard Management Audit Update – The Committee requested an update from Mr Roberts on this issue at the next GSC meeting. Noted.

SR

03/2021 Harbour & Fisheries

3.1 Harbour Report – report from Harbour Master tabled and **noted**.

Existing pontoon – The Estates and Services manager has contacted a surveyor to carry out an inspection of the pontoon and piling tubes to attempt to gauge the remaining lifespan of the current facility. Harbour Master to chase progress on this issue, with a short additional GSC meeting to be organized to update members.

HARBOUR MASTER

Harbour Review – The Guernsey Harbour Master, Captain David Barker has been invited to Alderney to carry out an independent review of Harbour functions and operations in Alderney. A report detailing the results of the review will be prepared by the Guernsey HM and presented to the Committee upon its' completion. The review will begin on the 8th of November.

Survey Vessel – It was noted that a survey vessel is paying to be moored alongside the quay for a couple of weeks while they carry out work in the Raz Blanchard. Press release to be prepared by the Harbour Master in liaison with the Chief Executive.

HARBOUR MASTER

Harbour Crane Storage – Works have commenced on the ramp. Noted.

3.2 Harbour Capital Projects Report – Report dated October 2021 tabled and considered.

The General Services Committee resolved to note the October 2021 Harbour Capital Projects Report.

3.3 Pontoon Proposal – Report from Harbour Authority tabled and considered.

Engineering company Wallace Stone have completed their feasibility study for a proposed new multi-purpose berth in Braye Harbour. This included a detailed wave study of the area which investigated the feasibility of placing a pontoon system in several locations within the harbour area. The results of this investigatory work were discussed during a recent site meeting with the consulting engineer from Wallace Stone and 2 members of the RNLI's regional estate team. During the meeting the engineer outlined his thoughts on the challenges of building such a berth in the current location without significant structural alteration which would include the building of a breakwater. In the engineer's opinion, it would not be possible to reduce the wave height enough to allow the safe placement of an all year-round facility. The engineer did however provide some ideas as to how to improve the seasonal facility – included in the wave study provided. Subsequently the RNLI's representatives informed us that as things stand, they have no desire to pursue an alongside berth for the Alderney Lifeboat in Braye Harbour under the current conditions.

A proposed mechanism of investigatory works and pricing structure has been received from Arch Henderson LLP following concrete interest. They have also been provided with the recent wave study with the permission of the RNLI who commissioned the initial investigation. Preliminary discussions have taken place with a senior partner from the company.

The General Services Committee resolved to approve:

- **£25k funds from the Capital Budget for the works; and**
- **To commission Arch Henderson to carry out the preliminary works as detailed in the submission.**

HARBOUR MASTER

3.4 Crane Breakdown – additional expenses – Report from Treasury dated 7th October 2021 tabled and considered.

At its July meeting, the Policy and Finance Committee (PFC) resolved to approve specific costs relating to the hire of the temporary crane. These costs were paid in full at the time. Following repairs and resolution of the issue with the crane, an invoice was received on the 4th August and 16th September from Channel Seaways for additional associated cost following the crane breakdown.

The General Services Committee resolved to approve the additional expenses totalling £12,343.78 from Channel Seaways relating to the crane breakdown, subject to supporting documents and justification on item 3 and 4 of the breakdown.

TREASURY/P&F

3.5 Any Other Business – Harbour

Water Taxi/Mooring Contract - It was noted that the advert for Water Taxi and Mooring Contract was being issued today. **Noted.**

04/2021 Estates Environment & Infrastructure incl Water Board

4.1 SWD Capital Projects Report – Report dated October 2021 tabled and considered.

Speed Limit Signage at Bottom of Victoria Street – This issue had been raised at the weekly drop-in session with Ms Burgess stating that the signage is not adequate. **Issue to be raised with SWD.**

AB

Condition and Access to Pavements in Victoria Street – The Committee noted that the condition and parking on pavements in the town area is becoming a major issue, where parents are having to come onto the road with pushchairs to pass parked vehicles on pavements.

Chairman to draft a letter to Chief of Police regarding parking, obstruction of pavements and speeding concerns within Victoria Street.

BK

Old Connaught – Reports commissioned by the previous Asset Working Group on the Old Connaught and Old Fire Station to be circulated to all GSC members for their information.

AB

Roads Resurfacing Contract - Inspection and assessment of roads by SoG Engineer is imminent, with Ronez due to submit their proposal by end September (currently being chased up).

The General Services Committee resolved to note the October SWD Capital Projects & General Works Report.

EEIM/CPC

4.2 Water Board Capital Projects Report – Report dated October 2021 tabled and considered.

The General Services Committee resolved to note the October Water Board Capital Projects & General Works Report.

EEIM/CPC

CPC left the meeting after this item.

4.3 Filming Permission – FOR RATIFICATION – Report from CE Office dated 8th October 2021 tabled and considered.

The General Services Committee resolved to ratify the approval for filmmaker and presenter Stewart McPherson to film the following areas of States land:

- Nunnery Roman fort
- Odeon
- Neolithic burial
- Tourgis
- Breakwater

- **Napoleonic Semaphore Telegraph Tower (just outside shot) Maybe Fort Doyle if possible / outside Bibette Head**
- **Larger Sylt posts (areas that belong to the States)**

4.4 Eelgrass Project Proposal – Funding – FOR RATIFICATION – Report from CE Office dated 8th October 2021 tabled and considered.

Dr Mel Broadhurst-Allen contacted Mr Abel with a proposal for GSC consideration regarding funding. The Harbour Authority were initially happy with the scope in terms of logistics/health and safety.

GSC supported this initiative in principle, as the Finance Committee would assess the application for suitability and demonstration of financial need etc. The AWT were advised to complete a grant application for further consideration by the Finance Committee.

The General Services Committee resolved to ratify the approval in principle for the Eelgrass Project proposal, subject to Finance Committee consideration and further approval.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

4.5 Crusher Site Update – CONFIDENTIAL ITEM – See Confidential Annexure

4.6 BDCC Referral – PA/2021/107 New Substation – Report from Planning Office dated 8th October 2021 tabled and considered.

The existing substation occupies a bunker constructed as a substation during the occupation of the Island in WWII. Some original operating gear was still in use after the war but the existing gear now needs to be upgraded. A new substation is proposed for construction alongside the existing. It will be smaller than the existing and will be accessed by the same track from the road to the north (opposite the Works Agricultural barn). An application has now been made to the BDCC for the construction of the new substation which will be considered at their meeting on 04 November 2021.

The General Services Committee resolved to approve (Mr Jenkins abstained) the construction of a replacement substation adjacent to the existing substation on States land south east of Sharpe’s Farm. Formal lease for the rental of land to be referred to the Finance Committee for consideration.

BDCC/FINANCE COMMITTEE

4.7 Kiln Farm – Dairy Management Subsidy Update

The Committee were advised that the slaughtering operation is the responsibility of the States of Alderney. **Head of Government Support to liaise with current slaughterer and update Committee members via email prior to the next GSC meeting.**

HoGS

4.8 Emergency Preparedness Update

The Committee noted a verbal update from the Policy Assistant, where she is currently updating the Alderney Emergency Plan, working through a number of objectives set by the Chief Executive.

A risk workshop has been held recently with States of Alderney staff which worked through the Bailiwick Risk Register to identify any significant risks for Alderney. SoG are preparing a briefing for

the Policy & resources Committee for political sign off, which can then be shared with the States of Alderney members for their information.

Once the highest risks for Alderney have been identified, these will be tested through a tabletop exercise in the form of half day training for operational officers in the civil service run by the Channel Islands Emergency Planning Officer Kevin Murphy in November.

It is aimed to have the draft plan updated by the end of October – which will come to GSC for approval.

Noted.

The Committee queried if there should be the option for an Alderney specific CCA to enable the States of Alderney to enact certain legislation when emergency incidents arise only on Alderney.

The Chairman also expressed an interest to be an observer for the tabletop exercise. **Noted.**

4.9 Culling of Feral Pigeons – Report from CE Office dated 6th October 2021 tabled and considered.

It had been advised that Feral pigeons have now become a nuisance at Fort Grosnez and the Breakwater area. It is especially relevant that they are found to be roosting in the area designated for the storage of the harbour crane.

Advice has been sought from the States Vet, David Chamberlain, and he has advised that these birds can be culled as they are not protected by The Protection of Wild Birds (Alderney) Ordinance, 2005, but would advise obtaining the permission of the General Services Committee in the first instance.

The General Services Committee resolved to refuse the culling of feral pigeons as deemed necessary at the harbour area at this time, and for Mr Roberts (being responsible for agriculture and wildlife) to liaise with the Alderney Bird Observatory regarding feral pigeons.

SR

05/2021 Any Other Business

Nothing to report.

06/2021 For Information & Noting

Nothing to report.

Meeting Closed: 10.50am

Signed: Boyd Kelly

Date: October 2021