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MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE ARGYLL AND BUTE HARBOUR BOARD HELD ON A HYBRID BASIS IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, KILMORY, LOCHGILPHEAD AND BY MICROSOFT TEAMS ON THURSDAY, 29 JANUARY 2026

Present: Councillor Ross Moreland (Chair)

Councillor John Armour
Councillor Gordon Blair
Councillor Maurice Corry

Councillor Andrew Kain
Councillor Dougie McFadzean
Councillor Andrew Vennard

Attending: Kirsty Flanagan, Executive Director
Andrew Summers, Head of Roads and Infrastructure Services
Scott Reid, Marine Operations Manager
Shona Barton, Governance Manager

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest intimated.

3. PIERS AND HARBOURS - MARINE ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN - WORKS UPDATE

The Committee gave consideration to a report providing an update on the latest programmed Capital Works being carried out to develop and upgrade the Council's marine infrastructure.

Decision

The Argyll and Bute Harbour Board noted the update on capital works currently being progressed within the Marine Asset Management Plan.

(Reference: Report by Executive Director with responsibility for Roads and Infrastructure, dated December 2025, submitted)

*** 4. PIERS AND HARBOURS - MARINE ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN FEES & CHARGES 2026 / 2027**

The Committee gave consideration to a report which proposed the necessary increases in fees and charges for the forthcoming financial year 2026/27, to meet the requirements of the Argyll and Bute Council Asset Management Plan referenced in the September 2025 Harbour Board report.

Decision

The Argyll and Bute Harbour Board:

1. agreed to recommend to the Council, when setting the fees and charges for 2026/27, that it approves an increase to piers and harbours fees and charges of 8% to generate sufficient income to support the Council's marine infrastructure investments;
2. noted that this forms part of the ongoing stepped smoothing process that will continue into future years and that the purpose of this approach is to manage costs more evenly over time while building sufficient funds to meet both current sustainability requirements and future planned improvements; and
3. agreed that the asset management plan would move to a 5-year review cycle, reflecting the significant and complex projects being planned for and supporting long-term financial planning.

(Reference: Report by Executive Director with responsibility for Roads and Infrastructure, dated December 2025, submitted)

5. NOTICE OF MOTION UNDER STANDING ORDER 13

The following Notice of Motion Under Standing Order 13 was before the Committee for consideration –

The Harbour Board resolves and agrees as follows:

1. Council Officers are hereby instructed to prepare a report on the repairs to the Council's marine assets which have been required as a result of Storm Éowyn, which said report shall include:
 - (a) A summary of the repairs which have been completed to date;
 - (b) A summary of the repairs which may be required in due course;
 - (c) An up to date estimate of the costs which have been incurred to date;
 - (d) An up to date estimate of the costs which may be required in due course.
2. That the said report shall be provided for consideration by the Harbour Board at the next ordinary meeting of the Harbour Board (being the meeting of the Harbour Board which is scheduled to take place on 19 March 2026).

Moved by Councillor Andrew Vennard, seconded by Councillor Maurice Corry.

Amendment

The Harbour Board notes that damage caused to the Council's marine assets, which have been required as a result of Storm Éowyn, is ongoing and that resources dedicated to this will be reported to the Harbour Board.

Moved by Councillor Moreland, seconded by Councillor Armour.

As the meeting was being held on a hybrid basis, the vote required to be taken by calling the roll and members voted as follows –

Motion

Councillor Corry
Councillor Vennard

Amendment

Councillor Armour
Councillor Blair

Councillor Kain
Councillor McFadzean
Councillor Moreland

Decision

The Amendment was carried by 5 votes to 2 and the Harbour board resolved accordingly.

(Reference: Notice of Motion Under Standing Order 13, moved by Councillor Andrew Vennard, seconded by Councillor Maurice Corry, submitted; and Amendment by Councillor Moreland, seconded by Councillor Armour, tabled)

6. NOTICE OF MOTION UNDER STANDING ORDER 13

The following Notice of Motion Under Standing Order 13 was before the Committee for consideration –

The Harbour Board resolves and agrees as follows:

1. The Harbour Board agrees that it would be beneficial to hold an annual programme of Business days for the Harbour Board to further discuss, review, and raise queries in relation to Harbour Board matters with Council Officers;
2. The Harbour Board accordingly agrees that an annual programme of Business days for the Harbour Board shall be arranged; declaring that at least 4 such Business days shall be held each calendar year, with dates for the meetings for the 2026 calendar year to be proposed for approval at the next ordinary meeting of the Harbour Board which is scheduled to take place on 19 March 2026, and dates for the meetings for the 2027 calendar year to be proposed for approval at the ordinary meeting of the Harbour Board which is scheduled to take place on 10 September 2026.

Moved by Councillor Andrew Vennard, seconded by Councillor Maurice Corry.

Amendment

The Harbour Board agrees that the number of planned meetings is appropriate and notes that special meetings can be arranged if required.

Moved by Councillor Moreland, seconded by Councillor Armour.

As the meeting was being held on a hybrid basis, the vote required to be taken by calling the roll and members voted as follows –

Motion

Councillor Corry
Councillor Vennard

Amendment

Councillor Armour
Councillor Blair
Councillor Kain
Councillor McFadzean
Councillor Moreland

Decision

The Amendment was carried by 5 votes to 2 and the Harbour Board resolved accordingly.

(Reference: Notice of Motion Under Standing Order 13, moved by Councillor Andrew Vennard, seconded by Councillor Maurice Corry, submitted; and Amendment by Councillor Moreland, seconded by Councillor Armour, tabled)

7. NOTICE OF MOTION UNDER STANDING ORDER 13

The following Notice of Motion Under Standing Order 13 was before the Committee for consideration –

The Harbour Board resolves and agrees as follows:

1. That Council Officers are instructed to prepare a report on the portfolio of Piers and Harbours which are operated by the Council, for consideration by the Harbour Board in due course; declaring that the said report shall:
 - (a) State the relevant cost centres whose income and expenditure are included within the Piers and Harbours portfolio;
 - (b) State the relevant assets and facilities whose income and expenditure forms part of the relevant cost centres that are included within the Piers and Harbours portfolio, including any landward or adjacent assets and facilities such as toilets, car parks, and buildings whose income and expenditure forms part of the relevant cost centres that are included within the Piers and Harbours portfolio;
 - (c) State the relevant assets and facilities which are outwith the cost centres that comprise the Piers and Harbours portfolio which receive a contribution from Piers and Harbours income towards their expenditure;
 - (d) State the assets and facilities of the Piers and Harbours portfolio which are subject to a ring fencing requirement that their income is ring fenced for spending on Piers and Harbour assets and facilities, and to state the basis and details of any such ring fencing requirements;
 - (e) Set out options for how the annual income and expenditure of the Piers and Harbour assets and facilities which are not currently organised and constituted as Statutory Harbour Authorities could be reported to the Harbour Board in the future;
 - (f) Set out options for how the total annual income and expenditure of the whole Piers and Harbour portfolio could be reported to the Harbour Board in the future;
 - (g) Set out options for how the loan charges financing the Marine Asset Management Plan/Harbour Investment Programme could be reported to the Harbour Board in the future;
2. Further declaring that the said report shall be prepared and provided for consideration by the Harbour Board no later than the meeting of the Harbour Board which is scheduled to take place on 10 September 2026.

Moved by Councillor Andrew Vennard, seconded by Councillor Maurice Corry.

Amendment

The Harbour Board notes that there is financial reporting to the Harbour Board and this was increased in 2025 when it was agreed, that developing on best practice, an annual statement of income and expenditure for each of the Statutory Harbour Authorities will be provided to the Harbour Board upon completion of the audit of the annual accounts.

Moved by Councillor Moreland, seconded by Councillor Armour.

As the meeting was being held on a hybrid basis, the vote required to be taken by calling the roll and members voted as follows –

Motion

Councillor Corry
Councillor Vennard

Amendment

Councillor Armour
Councillor Blair
Councillor Kain
Councillor McFadzean
Councillor Moreland

Decision

The Amendment was carried by 5 votes to 2 and the Harbour Board resolved accordingly.

(Reference: Notice of Motion Under Standing Order 13, moved by Councillor Andrew Vennard, seconded by Councillor Maurice Corry, submitted; and Amendment by Councillor Moreland, seconded by Councillor Armour, tabled)

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