

FISHERIES WORKING GROUP

**FRASERBURGH COMMUNITY AND SPORTS CENTRE, MACONOCHIE PLACE,
FRASERBURGH**

FRIDAY, 23 SEPTEMBER, 2016

Present: Councillors C C Buchan (Chair); R Cassie (substitute for Councillor S Smith); A Gardiner; J Ingram; and M Roy.

Apologies: Councillors A S Buchan, P K Johnston, and S W Smith.

Officers: Derek McDonald, Industry Support Executive (Rural and Maritime); Jamie Wilkinson, European Programmes Co-ordinator; Tom Boyle, Harbourmaster, Fraserburgh Harbour; Michael Bates, SSA Development Officer; and Naomi Waite, Assistant Committee Officer.

1. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

The Chair asked members if they had any interests to declare in terms of the Councillors' Code of Conduct. No interests were intimated.

2. PUBLIC SECTOR EQUALITY DUTY

In making decisions on the undernoted items of business, the Working Group **agreed**, in terms of Section 149 of the Equality Act, 2010:-

- (1) to have due regard to the need to:-
 - (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
 - (b) advance equality of opportunity between those who share a protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and
 - (c) foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
- (2) where an Equality Impact Assessment was provided, to consider its contents and take those into account when reaching their decision.

3. MINUTE OF MEETING OF 17 JUNE 2016

The Minute of Meeting of 17 June, 2016, had been circulated and was **noted** as a correct record.

4. MATTERS ARISING

No items were raised.

5. INTRODUCTION TO TOM BOYLE, NEW HARBOURMASTER AT FRASERBURGH HARBOUR

Tom Boyle, Harbourmaster, Fraserburgh Harbour, provided the committee with an overview of the changes in the fishing industry in Fraserburgh. Mr Boyle made particular reference to the reduction in fishing in the town and the loss of many skilled workmen due to the closure of businesses. However, it was anticipated that the development of offshore windfarms in the North East coast could utilise the skills and knowledge of local fishermen.

Mr Boyle informed the Committee that an Electronic Auction would replace the current system and major improvements were predicted due to the many advantages for both suppliers and buyers. Members noted the advantages as detailed by Mr Boyle; for example setting a price for the catch, the ability to record stocks as well as the species of fish available prior to landing the catch. It was noted that funding was available from the Scottish Government for IT equipment on-board fishing boats to cope with the new system. Mr Boyle also commented that Peterhead Harbour would have the same rules and regulations as Fraserburgh Harbour in order to encourage equal trade at both locations.

Finally members noted that a Working Group had been organised to discuss the implementation and transitional period. Thereafter, the Chair thanked Mr Boyle for his informative introduction.

6. UPDATE ON NE SCOTLAND FISHERIES LOCAL ACTION GROUP (EMFF) BY JAMIE WILKINSON, EUROPEAN PROGRAMMES COORDINATOR, ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL

The European Programmes Co-ordinator gave an update to the Group on the work of the North East Scotland Fisheries Local Action Group (NESFLAG) which had been launched at the end of March. Jamie Wilkinson detailed that NESFLAG was responsible for dealing with applications for Community Led Local Development Funds as part of the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund. Aberdeenshire Council was the managing agency for NESFLAG and the programme. The Group noted that 2 applications were received at the end of the last round and requested an update on the success of those at the next meeting.

Mr Wilkinson indicated that, since the Brexit vote, there was uncertainty whether funding would be confirmed after March 2018, however he reassured members that NESFLAG would continue to be open for applications until further notice. The Group noted that a series of workshops in the main coastal communities would be arranged to encourage ideas and raise awareness, in the hope that applications would be received from businesses, other public sector organisations and the community.

Thereafter, the Group requested that the web link for the NESFLAG website would be circulated to members and **noted** the update.

7. UPDATE ON SCOTTISH SEAFOOD ASSOCIATION ACTIVITY BY MICHAEL BATES, SSA DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

Michael Bates, SSA Development Officer, provided the Group with an overview on the issues facing the fishing industry, specifically in relation to the loss of skills in fish filleting. The Group noted that the Scottish Seafood Association have provided demonstrations of fish filleting to a variety of audiences; from young school children, hospitality trainees at NESCOL, and the Job Centre. Mr Bates highlighted the importance of these sessions as they teach the basic knife skills of fish filleting and also help to gain the interest of people who may not have considered the profession before.

The Group noted the importance of these training sessions as it would enable people to gain the initial skills that could allow them the opportunity to obtain employment within the fishing industry.

Thereafter, the Chair thanked Mr Bates for his informative update.

8. BULLETIN REPORT ON SEAFOOD CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE PROJECT

There had been circulated a report dated 23 September, 2016, by the Head of Economic Development which provided members with an update on the Blue Careers project. The report

also highlighted the impact that the EU referendum result could have on the lodged application. Derek McDonald stated that despite the verdict not being available until late October 2016, partners have decided to explore alternative funding options. As a result, the project group agreed to submit a smaller and more focused proposal to the Coastal Communities Fund (CCF). Initially, an Expression of Interest was submitted which focused on the creation of a Fraserburgh based Centre of Excellence for the seafood industry. Members noted that a decision on whether the initial application would be progressed is expected in November 2016.

During discussion, members highlighted the importance of creating a Centre of Excellence for the fishing industry in the North East as this would help to encourage enterprise into the area and also encourage public agencies to establish a main base in the North East rather than in the Central Belt.

After consideration, the Working Group **agreed** to note the contents of the report.

9. BULLETIN REPORT ON TRAINING FOR NEW ENTRANTS TO FISHING

There had been circulated a report dated 23 September, 2016, by the Head of Economic Development which provided members with an update on the Training for Young Fishermen project. The report detailed that the project launched in January 2015 and the purpose was to provide local school leavers with a career interest in the fishing industry with a structured introduction to the industry.

The Group noted that in early 2016 a consortium led by Seafish and Scottish Fisherman's Federation as well as fishing industry training organisations and educational establishments had lodged a bid to secure European Maritime and Fisheries Funds for a Fisherman's Voluntary Safety Training project. This would provide new and experienced fishermen with the knowledge and skills to cope with the daily exposure to risks and danger in the fishing industry.

After consideration, it was **agreed**:

- (1) to note the information provided, and
- (2) to invite a representative from the project to a future meeting to talk the Group.

10. VERBAL UPDATE ON FISHERIES/BREXIT

Derek McDonald provided the Group with a verbal update on the impact of the Brexit vote on the fishing industry in the North East of Scotland. Members noted that the referendum result had generated considerable levels of uncertainty surrounding UK-EU relations and that there were a variety of possible scenarios and implications for the UK seafood industry.

After consideration, the Working Group agreed to invite a Brexit representative to a future meeting.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was **noted** that the next meeting of the Group was scheduled to take place on Friday, 17 February, 2017.

