

**Minutes of a Meeting of the NEW QUAY Harbour Users Consultative Committee held remotely via video-conference on Thursday, 28 May 2026**

**Representing Ceredigion County Council:** Councillor Shelly Childs (Chairman)  
Elizabeth Evans

**Officers in Attendance:** Ellie Waters, Robyn Beresford, Dana Jones

**Harbour Users:** Chris Seal, Mike Masters and Kevin Sandover

(6.30pm – 7:15pm)

1. **Apologies**

Councillor Matthew Vaux and Owen Morgan apologised for their inability to attend the meeting.

2. **Minutes of the Meeting held on 30 October 2025**

It was AGREED to confirm the minutes of the meeting held on the 30 October 2025.

3. **Harbour Services Update**

Ellie Walters introduced herself as the newly appointed Corporate Manager for Sustainability and Transport.

In relation to staffing, she reported that one seasonal assistant was returning and a second due to commence in June subject to checks.

The Committee noted that the Port Marine Safety Code audit had been completed and found the service to be substantially compliant, with one outstanding non-conformity relating to oil spill response, which was being addressed through policy development and training by officers and Cabinet Members were also undergoing Duty Holder Training.

4. **Redacted Mooring Waiting List**

The Committee raised concerns regarding rising costs, including increases in mooring fees and crane lift charges, and the impact on harbour usage. It was reported that these increases had contributed to a reduction in small sailing boats and a shift towards dinghies and casual water users. It was reported that the moorings were half-empty late May in contrast to previous years; with the harbour now among the most expensive on the west coast which was discouraging owners to moor in New Quay, similarly in Aberaeron.

Members were informed that the leisure waiting list stood at 20, while there were no commercial waiting lists.

It was reported by harbour users that the Cardigan Bay Watersports centre was facing financial challenges due to the reduction in hiring equipment as users were now purchasing paddleboards and kayaks together with general lack of

interest in sailing. Consideration had been given to engaging with local schools to increase participation through targeted taster session and school outreach (twice-monthly push per school suggested) to capture pupils and convert to ongoing sailing/dinghy participation. However, there would possibly be issues with health & safety, lack of school minibuses and insurance hurdles with the proposal. It was suggested that offering sessions at the end of the summer was an option.

**5. General Maintenance and Cleanliness**

Routine works had been completed to include kayak rack weeding; removal of lamp post from beach; regular scrubbing of slipway and Pen polion steps to reduce slip risk. The repairs and procurement to repair Pen polion railings and jet washing of the slipways were near award, new signage was also being prepared for commercial vessel operations and tidal cut toff warnings. Two skips had been filled with removal of items on the pier following a request from New Quay Town Council.

It was reported that dredging works had commenced on 16 March

**6. Issues raised by Harbour Users**

An update on the position with Aberaeron Harbour was requested in relation to the sediment build-up.

Dredging was done of the harbour entrance at Aberaeron in April and interim works to the South Groyne had been undertaken to reduce sediment movement. A longer-term engineered solution was being developed, which would require a marine licence and public consultation It was reported that consultation with Natural Resources Wales would be necessary to progress long-term solutions.

It was reported that there were occasionally operational constraints to the fairway as it was being compromised by commercial boats moored in working harbour.

Following the dredging at New Quay, large stones had been deposited in unusual locations, it was reported that the Harbour Manager and Assistant Harbourmaster were addressing the issue.

A harbour user commended Robyn Beresford for her hard work and positive attitude in the management of New Quay Harbour.

Best wishes were extended to Winston Evans following his recent fall.