

JOINT COMMITTEE ON CHANNEL DREDGING, NEWPORT

Minutes of meeting held at ABP Offices, Newport, at 09:30hrs
Wednesday, 11 April 2018

Representing Associated British Ports

Captain R Lewis
T Batchelor
W Wye

Representing Newport Harbour Commissioners

J.C Neale
A.R Speight
S.P Davison

INTRODUCTION

Mr T Batchelor was introduced to the meeting. He has recently been appointed as Pilotage Manager and Deputy Harbour Master.

2083 - MINUTES

The minutes of the previous meeting, held on Wednesday, 10 January 2018, were accepted as a true record.

2084 - DISCLOSURE OF PERSONAL AND PECUNIARY INTERESTS

There were no disclosures of personal and pecuniary interests.

2085 – REPORT OF THE OPERATIONS MANAGER

Mr W Wye presented the report of the Operations Manager. He referred to the latest survey of the River which had taken place on 5 March 2018. The survey planned to take place last week (w/c 2 April 2018) had not taken place due to adverse weather conditions. There had been one dredging campaign since the last meeting which had taken place during the period 25 – 29 January.

The condition of the Dredged Channel had improved considerably, both immediately after the dredging work and also due to natural scouring thereafter. The amount of retained material in the channel had decreased substantially by approximately 11,700 cubic metres since the previous meeting to 17,200 cubic metres. It was noted that the position at the mouth of the River Ebbw remained unchanged with deposits being particularly hard to remove. It was agreed to utilise “Cherry Sand” when the vessel was next in the area. There was no present need otherwise for dredging in the channel.

The subject of over-dredging was considered. Mr W Wye noted that fifteen of the twenty five loads taken during the dredging campaign were worked using a single pipe which indicated that much work was undertaken near the river edge. This necessary work inevitably leads to over-dredging where excess material is removed in relation to the target.

2086– CIVIL PROJECTS

It was noted that the new Dock Gates were working well.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

2087 – CALCULATION OF THE CONTRIBUTION MADE BY THE COMMISSIONERS TO THE COST OF MAINTENANCE DREDGING

Mr J C Neale noted that the Harbour Master and himself had analysed the calculation of the Commissioner’s contribution to dredging costs. Initially these were set out in the 1906 Act, but had been amended in the 1916 and 1935 Act. After discussion the following was agreed unanimously:

1. The Bellmouth would be used as the delineation between dredging costs which the Commissioners would contribute to and those costs which fell to be paid by ABP alone. This approximates to the lines set down by the Acts of Parliament noted above, and the necessary statistics are already available.

2. The formula to calculate the contribution was as follows;

Amount payable is the lesser of:

- £500 plus (25% of total dues charged by the Commissioners in a calendar year less £3,500)
- AND**
- 50% of the total dredging costs of the area relating to the Commissioners (see Bellmouth note above)

3. The £500 fixed fee noted in the formula above would be charged annually within the total cost rather than quarterly as at present.

4. This formula would be set out in the Strategy, Management Plan to ensure consistency in the calculation in future years.

5. Previous calculations would not be revisited – this structure to calculate the contribution would commence from 1 January 2018

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of this Committee will take place on Wednesday, 11 July 2018, at 9.30hrs.

Date.....

Chairman.....