

COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
HELD ON 11 JULY 2018

A meeting of the Newport Harbour Commissioners was held at the offices of ABP, Alexandra Docks, Newport, on Wednesday, 11th Day of July 2018, at 09:30am

PRESENT

Mr J.C Neale (in the Chair)

Messrs S.P Davison, M.C James, A.R Speight, R Steed, Captain R.M McDonald and Councillor J.A Guy.

APOLOGIES

Messrs G Jug and E.J Watts MBE DL have apologised for non-attendance.

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr T Batchelor was in attendance.

MINUTES

3484. It was resolved on a motion by Mr S.P Davison, seconded by Mr A.R Speight, that the minutes of the last meeting of the Commissioners, which took place on 13 June 2018, (a copy of which had been sent to every Commissioner), be taken as read, received and adopted.

DISCLOSURE OF PERSONAL AND PECUNIARY INTERESTS

3485. Mr R Steed declared an interest in matters pertinent to Liberty Steel Newport Limited and Bird Port Limited.

HARBOUR MASTER'S REPORT as prepared by ABP

3486. The Harbour Master's Report, as prepared by ABP, is attached.

The following further matters were noted:

a) Navigational Light at Dallimores

Commissioners had been informed that the navigational light was now operational.

b) Pilotage Arrangements

Mr T Batchelor noted that a new pilot had now been authorised to operate on the River Usk. Further, an apprentice had recently transferred to South Wales and will be authorised to operate in the River Usk from March 2019.

c) ABP Audit

An external audit on ABP's compliance with the Port Marine Safety Code had just been completed and had gone well.

d) Port Emergency Plan

The Port Emergency Plan was the subject of a major re-write. A copy of the most recent draft, redacted for private information, would be sent to Commissioners in due course.

MATTERS ARISING FROM BOARD MINUTES

Minute 3423 – East Usk Lighthouse

The Chairman noted that three quotations had now been received to undertake the agreed modernisation of the East Usk Lighthouse. He explained the three quotations in detail, both from a costing perspective and the relevant technical details of the Port Entry Light. It was noted that this light was used by both ABP and MOD and was generally well-liked within the industry. The Harbour Master recommended the purchase of this equipment. The proposed light also gave a day light which is an improvement on the current position.

After discussion it was agreed to accept the quotation from Sealite, in the sum of £9,807, subject to the Chairman checking various issues with them. The quotation covered both the cost of the Port Entry Light and the installation.

Minute 3450 – Training trip

The training trip for Commissioners was confirmed for 20 July. Attendees should meet at 10:30am at ABP Newport.

Minute 3470 – NHC Website

Mr A.R Speight noted the statistics now available to monitor the traffic on the website. It was good to view the number of visits, although it was noted that several factors could affect the data. Mr A.R Speight also noted that the search facility now available through Google was working well.

Minute 3483 – NHC Furniture

This matter was deferred until the next Board meeting.

JOINT COMMITTEE ON CHANNEL DREDGING

3487. Mr T Batchelor reported that a meeting of the Joint Committee on Channel Dredging had taken place immediately before this meeting. The last survey had shown some deterioration in the Channel but a dredging campaign had followed and it was anticipated that the Channel would now show an improvement. Overall the Channel remained in a good condition.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSIONERS

3488. The Secretary noted that the annual advertisement for new Commissioners would be placed in the Argus in August. There are four current Commissioners whose period of appointment will cease on 31 October 2018 but all are able to re-apply if they desire. At the September Board meeting all applications can be reviewed and, if necessary, an Appointments Panel can be convened.

MONTHLY ACCOUNTS

3489. The accounts for the current month were examined. It was agreed unanimously that the attached accounts amounting to £22,001.02 be paid.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

3490. The statement of the Commissioner's revenue was examined. They disclosed monthly bills of £20,938.12 compared to the budget of £18,000.00. Expenditure for the month totalled £18,555.83 compared to the budgeted figure of £19,405. The year to date costs amount to £41,548.43 compared to the budget of £61,813.

INVESTMENTS

3491. It was confirmed that the amounts at present invested were as follows:

Monmouthshire Building Society	£76,161.15
Nat West	£28,888.22
Santander	£25,000.00

CASH FLOW OUTTURN – ACTUAL TO FORECAST – Q1

3492. The cash flow outturn for the 3 month period ended 30 June 2018 was examined. All questions raised thereon were answered satisfactorily.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

August meeting

3493. It was agreed that the Board would not meet in August, emergencies excepted.

Tidal Lagoon

3494. It was noted that it appeared unlikely that the proposal to construct a tidal lagoon in Swansea would go ahead.

Dredging at Hanson's wharf

3495. It is understood that maintenance dredging is likely to take place at Hanson's wharf later this month. The Commissioners had supported this work, as it assisted navigation, subject to certain conditions being met.

Liberty Steel

3496. The Chairman noted that he had met Liberty Steel recently to discuss the proposal to dredge at either end of the berth. Mr R Steed added that the company believed that this work would allow vessels up to 170m to dock – at present the LOA limit is 165m.

Bi-Annual survey of the River Usk

3497. The Chairman noted that the bi-annual survey of the River Usk was due to take place in the autumn. The Deeps survey is being undertaken by ABP and so this will be excluded from the Commissioner's survey. The Chairman agreed to produce a tender document for the work so that three suppliers could be approached. A draft will be sent to Commissioners for comment in due course.

Chairman: _____

Date: _____