

ADVISORY BODY TO THE NEWPORT HARBOUR COMMISSIONERS

18 April 2018

A meeting of the Advisory Body to the Newport Harbour Commissioners was held at The Mission to Seafarers, Alexandra Dock, Newport, on Wednesday, 18th day of April 2018, at 11:15 hrs.

PRESENT

Mr A Hemmings (in the Chair)

Ms A Kington (Tata Steel), Messrs M Beal (Liberty Steel), L. Davey (Bird Port), R Morgan (Natural Resource Wales), L Philpott (29th Newport Sea Scouts) and R Van Der Meer (Isca Boat Club).

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr J.C Neale (Chairman - Newport Harbour Commissioners).

Captain R Lewis (Harbour Master)

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Messrs N.E Challenger (Chartered Institute of Shipbrokers), C.W Dowds and A Jones (Tarmac).

The Chairman thanked the Mission to Seafarers for providing the venue for the meeting.

Ms A Kington (Tata Steel) and Mr L Philpott (29th Newport Sea Scouts) were welcomed to their first meeting of the Advisory Body.

MINUTES

172. It was agreed unanimously that the minutes of the last meeting of the Advisory Body, held on 16 October 2017, (a copy of which had been sent to every Member), be taken as read, received and adopted.

REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF NHC

173. The report of the Chairman of NHC had been circulated to all members. The Chairman of NHC expanded upon the following matters in particular:

- a) The Designated Person had undertaken his annual PMSC-compliance audit. The results of the audit were good with only minor observations to be dealt with. As a result, the Commissioners had reported full PMSC compliance on their triennial compliance statement.
- b) The financial position of the Commissioners remained satisfactory, and the level of Harbour Dues had been maintained at 6.5p/ GT.
- c) The Dredged Channel remained in a good condition. There had been a Dredging Campaign earlier in the year.
- d) The Commissioners had been advised that there was a requirement for a significant level of maintenance costs at the East Usk Lighthouse. In addition to the structure of the lighthouse work was required on the mechanisms and the light itself. As a result the Commissioners had discussed with Trinity House the various options concerning modernising the light to make it fully up-to-date. The pilots have informed Commissioners that the narrow sector light remains important for navigation whereas the wide-sector light was not important and not relied upon. A wider consultation had not yielded any responses with a contrary view. Subject to any further views being received, the Commissioners were considering modernising the light using LEDs and re-aligning the narrow sector light.
- e) A review of the current allowances used at Liberty Steel berth had now been undertaken and the existing entry parameters maintained.

- f) The position with regard to the update of the Service Legal Agreement with ABP, concerning Pilotage and the Provision of Harbour Master services, remained unchanged. MCA is aware of the situation and are content with the current position.
- g) The M4 relief road public enquiry had now been completed and a decision awaited. The Commissioners had withdrawn both their objections to the scheme because of assurances received from the Welsh Government. The agreement reached between Welsh Government and ABP ensured that the scheme would not precipitate a reduction of traffic into the Docks. Assurances that the Welsh Government understood fully the statutory powers of the Commissioners over the River had been received in writing.

HARBOUR MASTER'S REPORT

174. The Harbour Master's report on the period to 31 March 2018 had been circulated to all members. The Harbour Master expanded upon the following matters in particular:

- a) He confirmed that all lights within the Commissioner's jurisdiction were now in good working order other than for a small light at Dallimores.
- b) The number of pilots available in South East Wales was explained together with the new working agreements with pilots based in SW Wales. This working arrangement had now been in place for over 6 months and was working well. Fifteen of the seventeen pilots in South Wales could now work on the River Usk (eight of which were Class 1 to work there).
- c) There had been minor incidents at Bird Port and two "groundings" of vessels bound for the Docks but these had not been matters of material concern.
- d) There had been a pollution incident in January from the tenanted area of Newport Docks, and oil had also seeped into the River Usk. All those involved in the subsequent recovery had acted efficiently and speedily.

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN

175. It was agreed unanimously that Mr A Hemmings and Mr R Morgan (Natural Resource Wales) be re-elected as Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively for a further 3-year term, concluding in April 2021.

APPOINTMENT OF NEW MEMBERS

176. It was noted that Ms A. Kington (Tata Steel) and Mr L Philpott (29th Newport Sea Scouts) were now members of the Advisory Body to the Newport Harbour Commissioners.

125th ANNIVERSARY OF THE EAST USK LIGHTHOUSE

177. The Chairman noted that plans were in hand to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Wetlands Visitor Centre. This coincided with the 125th anniversary of the construction of the East Usk Lighthouse. The Chairman is carrying out a series of talks detailing the history of the Lighthouse and the relationship between the City and the sea. It is hoped that this will raise the profile of the Commissioners as well as Newport itself. Members were invited to inform the Chairman if they thought specific matters should be included in the talks. The proposed dates of the meetings at the Wetlands are:

- 22 June 2018 at 18:30
- 14 July at 18:30
- 19 September)
- 24 November) at 10.30
- 9 February 2019)

NEWPORT TRANSPORTER BRIDGE - UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE STATUS

178. The bid to obtain UNESCO World Heritage Status was noted, as was the potential for a £10m Heritage Lottery grant. It was agreed that this would be discussed at the next Board meeting of the Commissioners.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Natural Resource Wales

179. Mr R Morgan (NRW) noted that there was some work ongoing adjacent to the River Usk, as follows:

- Work at outfall at St Julian's Reen continues.
- Hansons berth – work largely complete.
- Flood alleviation work at Crindau Pill virtually completed.
- Limited work continues near Stephenson Street.

Sainsburys'

180. Mr R Van Der Meer enquired whether the demolition work at the old Sainsbury's site had affected the river. It was understood that this work was ongoing but no contact has been made with the Commissioners with respect to the works in progress.

Gloucester Harbour Trustees

181. Gloucester Harbour Trustees have given notice that they no longer wish to be a member of the Advisory Body. It was agreed to write to them thanking them for their previous services.

Next meeting:

The next meeting is planned for Wednesday 17 October 2018 at 11:15am at the Mission to Seafarers.

Chairman: _____ Date: _____