

ADVISORY BODY TO THE NEWPORT HARBOUR COMMISSIONERS

13 March 2019

A meeting of the Advisory Body to the Newport Harbour Commissioners was held at The Mission to Seafarers, Alexandra Dock, Newport, on Wednesday, 13th day of March 2019, at 11:15 hrs.

PRESENT

Mr A Hemmings (in the Chair)

Messrs M Beale (Liberty Steel), N.E Challenger (Institute of Chartered Shipbrokers), L Davey (Simec Ports UK Ltd), R Morgan (Natural Resources Wales), R Van Der Meer (Isca Boat Club) and Ms A Kington (Tata Steel)

IN ATTENDANCE

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

Mr T Batchelor (Deputy Harbour Master)

Mrs J Lloyd (Clerk – Newport Harbour Commissioners)

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Messrs C.W Dowds and A Jones (Tarmac).

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

MINUTES

187. It was agreed unanimously that the minutes of the last meeting of the Advisory Body, held on 17 October 2018, (a copy of which had been sent to every Member), be taken as read, received and adopted.

REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF NHC

188. The report of the Chairman of NHC had been circulated to all members. Mr J.C Neale (Chairman - Newport Harbour Commissioners) referred to the following matters in particular:

- a) The financial position of the Commissioners had been subject to a detailed review. Primarily as a result of a decline in shipping levels in 2018 the level of Harbour Dues had been increased to 7.5p/ GT with effect from 1 January. The budget for 2019/20 indicated that this level should be maintained.
- b) The Designated Person had now completed the Port Marine Safety Code audit and presented his findings to the Board in February. The results of the audit were very good. The Chairman explained that it was a requirement for an external Designated Person to undertake an audit on a triennial basis but that the Commissioners preferred to employ him on an annual basis.
- c) The full survey of the River up to City Bridge (undertaken on a biennial basis) had been completed. The results indicated that the River remained stable, but continued monitoring will take place. A biennial gap between surveys remains appropriate.
- d) The East Usk Lighthouse has now been successfully modernised with a new port entry light. The wider section beam has been discontinued. All relevant information has been given to the Pilots.
- e) Two Commissioners attended a PMSC training seminar in Exeter. It was hoped that a similar training session could be arranged to take place in Newport with a place for a representative from the Advisory Body.
- f) The Chairman noted the latest news on the proposed M4, including the possibility of a re-design of the bridge crossing the River Usk. A cantilever design was being mooted, which would materially reduce the gap between the two pillars. The Welsh Government had agreed to keep Commissioners fully informed. Technically, if this change was made there could be another public enquiry although discussions would be limited solely to the one issue.
- g) There was a general discussion concerning energy production in Wales, but the proposed tidal lagoon has not moved forward since the last meeting.

The Chairman thanked the Chair of the Harbour Commissioners for his report.

HARBOUR MASTER'S REPORT

189. The Harbour Master's report on the period to 28 February 2019 had been circulated to all members. Mr T Batchelor (Deputy Harbour Master) expanded upon the following matters in particular:

- a) The Harbour Master confirmed that all lights & buoys within the Commissioner's jurisdiction were now in good working order.
- b) The new berth and mooring guidelines designed for Liberty Steel berth had now been implemented.
- c) The new air drafts protocols were now in place at Bird Port.
- d) Following the collision adjacent to the entrance to the enclosed docks there has been a revision to Pilotage Directions for smaller vessels where their Master/ Mate had not visited Newport in the previous 12 months in the same or a similar vessel. There had been general support for this amendment (which affects approximately 10 vessels pa)
- e) Pilotage numbers were discussed. The position relating to apprentices were noted and also that no pilot retirements were anticipated in the next 18 months.

The Chairman thanked the Harbour Master for his report.

Next meeting:

The next meeting is planned for Wednesday 9 October 2019 at 12:00 noon at a venue to be agreed.

Chairman: _____ Date: _____