

# **ADVISORY BODY TO THE NEWPORT HARBOUR COMMISSIONERS**

**17 MAY 2017**

A meeting of the Advisory Body to the Newport Harbour Commissioners was held at The Mission to Seafarers, Alexandra Dock, Newport, on Wednesday, 17th day of May 2017, at 11:15 hrs.

## **PRESENT**

Mr A Hemmings (in the Chair)

Messrs L. Davey (Bird Port), R Morgan (Natural Resource Wales), D Walsh (Cargo Services (UK) and E Watts (Mission to Seafarers).

## **IN ATTENDANCE**

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

Captain M Chidlow (Harbour Master)

## **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Messrs M Beale (Liberty Steel), P Lyon (SMS Towage), N.E Challenger (Institute of Chartered Shipbrokers), M Johnson (Gloucester Harbour Trustees) and Mr R Steed (Liberty Steel).

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

The Chairman welcomed Mr J.C Neale to his first meeting of the Advisory Body as Chairman of NHC.

## **MINUTES**

160. It was agreed unanimously that the minutes of the last meeting of the Advisory Body, held on 19 October 2016, (a copy of which had been sent to every Member), be taken as read, received and adopted.

## **MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

### **Minute 158 - Tidal Lagoon**

The Chairman of NHC noted that the construction of a Lagoon adjacent to Newport Harbour would not occur in the short or medium term.

### **Minute 152 - Terrorism/ Refugees/ Asylum Seekers and other concerns for the Docks/ River**

Mr E Watts (Mission to Seafarers) noted that the border force was now considering risks in the River as well as the docks. The Harbour Master noted that exercises now took place in the docks (the last one focussing on Anti-Slavery). Although resources available for this work were limited, the Chairman noted a commendable level of awareness of the pertinent issues in Newport. Mr E Watts (Mission to Seafarers) invited representatives from the Harbour Commissioners to Merchant Navy Welfare Board meetings where such issues were often aired.

### **Minute 153 – Waterfront Conference**

The Chairman noted that a second Waterfront conference was to take place on 14 June. He would attend and report back to this Body with any relevant information.

## **REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF NHC**

161. The report of the Chairman of NHC had been circulated. The Chairman of NHC expanded upon the following matters in particular:

- a) The Designated Person had completed a full audit last October. Several minor items had been noted, and the Commissioners were working to deal with these. There was however no material matters of concern. The DP had also given the Commissioner's training on the updated PMSC. It was noted that the PMSC now applies to non-statutory bodies.
- b) The Dredged Channel remained in a good condition. A volumetric comparison had shown that a full survey once every two years remained appropriate.
- c) New Towage Guidelines had been approved. These treated the River Usk as a specific area with regulations specific to the area. Issues surrounding "multiple-movements" now had guidelines enshrined in a working flowchart. Mr L Davey (Bird Port) expressed concern about the new guidelines, noting the increased shipping throughput but stating that there were no new safety issues ensuing from this. Mr J.C Neale (Chairman – NHC) explained that a lot of research had gone into preparing the new guidelines. Risk assessments and the concerns of the pilots had been taken into account. There had been delays in achieving a meeting between all the interested parties but that such a meeting would still be very useful. It was agreed that a meeting would be scheduled to take place in the next 4 weeks. Other marine issues could also be discussed at that meeting.
- d) The meeting also discussed the continuing limitations to LOA pertaining to the Liberty berth. A hydrographic study was required to consider this matter further, and concerns were expressed that decisions were being made using old data. It was also noted that Liberty will plan to shorten insurance lines in the future which would improve safety.
- e) The redrafting of the Service Level Agreement between ABP and NHC had been delayed, primarily because of the workload in ABP in dealing with the proposed new M4.

The Chairman thanked the Chairman of NHC for his detailed report.

### **HARBOUR MASTER'S REPORT**

162. The Harbour Master's report on the period to March 2017 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.
- b) Two buoys would be replaced in June/ July with new elastomer buoys. This was included in the Commissioner's 17/18 budget.
- c) The increasing number of pilots available in South East Wales was explained. The Chairman noted that the training and succession planning for pilots was to be commended.

The Chairman thanked the Harbour Master for his detailed report.

### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

#### **Crindau Flood Alleviation Scheme**

163. Mr R Morgan (Natural Resource Wales) noted that work was underway at Crindau, but that no in-river works are due.

#### **Works on M4 Road Bridge**

164. The Harbour Master noted that work on the M4 Road Bridge continued. The river had remained open for river users, and Costains had been most helpful in this regard.

**Merchant Navy Reserve Board**

165. Mr E Watts (Mission to Seafarers) stated that MNRB were hosting an event at the Senedd on 19 September which aimed to promote shipping. All members of the Advisory Body were invited and it may be possible to display at the event if desired.

It was agreed to request the Commissioners to consider the constituents of the Advisory Body prior to the next meeting.

**Next meeting:**

The next meeting is planned for Monday 16 October 2017 at 11:15am at the Mission to Seafarers.

Chairman: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_