

ADVISORY BODY TO THE NEWPORT HARBOUR COMMISSIONERS
24 OCTOBER 2012

A meeting of the Advisory Body to the Newport Harbour Commissioners was held at the ABP Offices Alexandra Dock, Newport, on Wednesday, 24th day of October 2012, at 11.45 hours.

PRESENT

Mr N.E Challenger (Newport Shipbrokers) (in the Chair)
Messrs S Ferrier (Tarmac), A Hemmings (Atkins), R Morgan (Environmental Agency – Wales) and
R Van Der Meer (Isca Boat Club).

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from:

Mr P Lyon (SMS Towage), Miss G Otlet (Newport Unlimited) and Mrs N Newbold (Royal Yachting Association).

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr C.P Crick (Chairman of the Newport Harbour Commissioners) and Captain M Chidlow (ABP – Harbour Master) were in attendance.

MINUTES

105. It was agreed unanimously that the minutes of the last meeting of the Advisory Body, held on 28 March 2012, (a copy of which had been sent to every Commissioner), be taken as read, received and adopted.

REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF NHC

106. 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) Harbour Dues had been reviewed July 2012 and a decision had been made to retain the same level. This would again be reconsidered in December.
- b) It was noted that the contract to replace number 3 buoy was currently out to tender. It was further noted that the Commissioners had a legal responsibility to maintain the leading lights.
- c) The deep water channel remained in a good condition.
- d) There was a serious legal dispute on-going with a stakeholder. Commissioners were clear in the position that they had taken, but it was possible that the matter would be settled by Judicial Review. It was not possible to discuss this matter further at this meeting.
- e) The new Designated Person had made his first full report to the Commissioners. The Commissioners were pleased to note that the report was very positive.
- f) Some progress had now been made on the project to update the Byelaws, and substantive progress was expected to be confirmed by the Department of Ports shortly.
- g) It was expected that the Waverley's excursions would commence again from Newport in 2013. It was noted that it was considered by experts to be feasible to run an aqua bus service, but potentially it would be very expensive. The reasons for these costs were explained by the Harbour Master.
- h) The Chairman of NHC reported that he had attended a Ports Authority meeting recently Port users had been requested to report to the Welsh Government areas where welsh ports were put at a disadvantage or where bureaucracy/red tape could be reduced.
- i) The River inspection in July had been a great success. There had been many attendees, including six members of this Body.

The Chairman thanked the Chairman of NHC for a full and comprehensive report.

HARBOUR MASTER'S REPORT

107. The Harbour Master's report for the period to September 2012 had been circulated to all members.

The following points were noted:

- a. Work to repair the East Usk Lighthouse would be undertaken in November. This should remedy current drainage issues and clear the algae around the base of the lighthouse. In response to a question from the Chairman, the Harbour Master noted that the additional work was not as a result of the creation of the wetlands but rather due to the design of the lighthouse.
- b. The Harbour Master noted that, during the period, a pontoon had come loose from Dallimores Wharf and become a navigational hazard. In the end, the pontoon was captured and re-established at Dallimores berth.
- c. During the period there had been an issue with a small yacht sailing too close to a large vessel. This yacht had been visiting the area, the club had been informed and stated that the sailor had been made aware of the issue.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Advisory Body is scheduled to take place on Wednesday, 24 March 2013 at 11:45hrs.

Chairman: _____ Date: _____