

**ADVISORY BODY TO THE NEWPORT HARBOUR COMMISSIONERS**  
**27 APRIL 2016**

A meeting of the Advisory Body to the Newport Harbour Commissioners was held at The Mission to Seafarers, Alexandra Dock, Newport, on Wednesday, 27th day of April 2016, at 11:15 hrs.

**PRESENT**

Mr A Hemmings (in the Chair)

Mr E Watts (Mission to Seafarers).

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Mr C.P Crick (Chairman - Newport Harbour Commissioners).

Captain M Chidlow (Harbour Master)

**APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Messrs L. Davey (Bird Port), S Ferrier (Lafarge Tarmac), M Johnson (Gloucester Harbour Trustees) and R Morgan (Natural Resources Wales).

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

**MINUTES**

147. It was agreed unanimously that the minutes of the last meeting of the Advisory Body, held on 21 October 2015, (a copy of which had been sent to every Member), be taken as read, received and adopted.

**REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF NHC**

148. The report of the Chairman of NHC was tabled. The Chairman of NHC expanded upon the following matters in particular:

- a) Harbour dues had been increased from 5.5p/GT to 6.5p/GT to ensure that the Commissioners continued to budget prudently for costs and a small surplus for the purchase of capital assets.
- b) The Dredged Channel remained in a good condition. Other areas of the country had not fared so well and had to undertake a very high level of dredging.
- c) ABP continued to invest into Newport docks – replacement of lock gates was planned in 2017 and crane refurbishment had also taken place.
- d) NHC support the proposals put forward by ABP for a modification to the proposed Black Route. An objection had been sent to Welsh Government referring to this, and also the economic ramifications of building a motorway through the docks rather than around it. It was noted that NHC intended to be present at the likely Public Enquiry.
- e) The Service Level Agreement between ABP and NHC was in the process of update. Negotiations continued to go well.
- f) The working arrangements for towage were discussed at length. The negotiations with SMS Towage had enhanced the tug arrangements for everyone in South Wales.
- g) There had been much communication with the 2 river berths concerning their working arrangements, particularly since Liberty are now regularly stemming vessels to their berth. Many improvements have now been made, and it is understood that Liberty now have a licence to dredge. The initial restrictions at the berth and the subsequent restriction at a higher LOA were noted.
- h) Unfortunately the Training Day had been cancelled due to the impending sale of the vessel that was to be used. It was hoped that an alternative vessel could be found, possibly in September but more likely in 2017.
- i) The proposed works on the River Usk viaduct were noted, and those present were pleased to note that access along the River would now be possible whilst the necessary repairs were undertaken.

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

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

149. The Harbour Master's report on the period to March 2016 had been circulated to all members. The Harbour Master expanded upon the following matters in particular:

- a) He confirmed that Liberty's working arrangements at their berth had now improved and that ships to the length agreed were traversing to it.
- b) Siltation issues at Bird Port were being followed up to ensure safe navigation.
- c) There had been a high level of training on anti-pollution matters over the last 3 months.

The Chairman thanked the Harbour Master for his detailed report.

### **DEVOLVING POWERS OVER PORTS TO THE WELSH GOVERNMENT**

150. The Chairman reported that the draft Wales Bill had been released in October 2015, although its progress was now on hold. The draft bill indicated that it was the intention that powers would be devolved to the Welsh Government.

### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

#### **Tidal Lagoon**

151. It was noted that there was nothing substantive to report on this matter.

#### **Terrorism/ Refugees/ Asylum Seekers and other concerns for the Docks**

152. Mr E Watts (Mission to Seafarers) enquired whether there was any guidance as to how issues arising, relating to terrorism, refugees, asylum seekers and other concerns, should be addressed. It was agreed that this will be placed on the next Agenda for the Commissioner's Board meeting.

#### **Waterfront Conference**

153. The Chairman referred to a forthcoming Conference (28 June) where he would be presenting on the subject of Transport led developments in Wales – Welsh Ports and Airports".

#### **Next meeting:**

The next meeting is planned for Wednesday 19 October 2016 at 11:15am unless a Training Trip can be arranged in September 2016.

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