

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

**30 March 2011**

A meeting of the Advisory Body to the Newport Harbour Commissioners was held at the A.B.P Offices Alexandra Dock, Newport, on Wednesday, 30<sup>th</sup> day of March 2011, at 14.30 hours.

## **PRESENT**

Mr N.E Challenger (Newport Shipbrokers)  
Messrs E Dorman (Gloucester Harbour Trustees), A Hemmings (Atkins), R Morgan (Environment Agency –Wales), P O'Brien (Cargo Services UK – Birdport), R Van Der Meer (Isca Boat Club) and Mrs S L Newbold (RYA).

## **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from:  
Messrs S Ferrier (Tarmac) and J Neale (UK Dredging).

## **IN ATTENDANCE**

Mr C P Crick (Chairman of the Newport Harbour Commissioners) and Captain M Chidlow (ABP – Harbour Master) were in attendance. Mrs J Lloyd (Clerk to the Commissioners) was also in attendance.

## **MINUTES**

88. It was agreed unanimously that the minutes of the last meeting of the Advisory Body held on 27 October 2010, (a copy of which had been sent to every member), be taken as read, received and adopted.

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

89. 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 Commissioners had issued a press release opposing the back-dating of rates on port based businesses. Unfortunately, the release and the correspondence remitted to the Welsh Assembly had as yet not produced the desired result. The Chairman noted that the shipbrokers had also lobbied WAG on this matter.
- b) The progress made on the production of new byelaws was noted. An up-to-date draft had been circulated to members of the Advisory Body in advance of this meeting. There were no further comments made on the draft byelaws, and it was agreed that the solicitor should now be instructed to move to the next stage – remitting the document to the Department of Ports.
- c) It was noted that the Commissioners were being promoted through work at the East Usk Lighthouse in conjunction with a local primary school. Members of the Advisory Body were invited to furnish the Commissioners with any further ideas to promote the work of the Commissioners.
- d) It was noted that Mrs R Smith had retired as Clerk to the Commissioners and had been replaced by Mrs J Lloyd.
- e) There had been concern since the last meeting of the Advisory Body about the availability of tugs in South East Wales. The Harbour Master had attended several meetings, and progress had been made.
- f) The Chairman referred to the coast guard service, and to the proposals to reduce the services. In particular, there was concern that the Swansea coastguard would not be a 24/7 service in the future.
- g) The Balmoral had not visited Newport during 2010, primarily due to the timing of the tides. However plans are afoot for services to resume in 2011.
- h) The Chairman reported that the River Usk Management Group had not met for some 9 months, and therefore there was no further progress to report to this body.

90. The Chairman thanked the Chairman of NHC for his report, which was most complete. The body noted the repairs being undertaken on the memorial to the Newport Port Disaster of 1909, and the funding required to restore it. This was agreed unanimously.

91. Mr A Hemmings (Atkins) referred to the proposals concerning the Coast Guard Services, and noted that the consultation period had now been extended. He urged consultees to make their wishes known to the government within the consultation period. Mrs S Newbold (RVA) had attended a public meeting in Swansea. However, it had not been clear what progress was being made nor who was taking the lead in negotiations.

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

92. The Harbour Master's report for the period to February 2011 had been circulated to all members.

The following points were noted:

- a. The leading lights at MIR Steel had become dim with age. It had been agreed to renew these lights.
- b. The current contract with Trinity House for buoy maintenance had now expired. Negotiations were taking place to renew the contract, but other quotes were also being obtained.
- c. He noted that there had been concerns about the dredged channel during the period, but recent surveys have shown that the channel had been restored without requirement for dredging.
- d. As noted by the Chairman, there had been much concern about the proposals from Svitzer to have one tug only on station in South East Wales. It has now been agreed to retain the second tug, and also to supply a third smaller tug, available as and when required. Mr E Dorman (Gloucester Harbour Trustees) stated that Gloucester Port were now dealing with larger vessels. They had reviewed their tug arrangements with Svitzer – this may assist South East Wales. Captain M Chidlow agreed to discuss this with Gloucester.

The Chairman thanked the Harbour Master for his detailed report.

93. Mr R Morgan (Environment Agency – Wales) noted that there had been an oil spill response training exercise in South West Wales. He asked whether similar arrangements would be made in South East Wales. He also referred to a new standing environment group to be set up for the Bristol Channel. This would cover the area from Ogmore to Gloucester and to Lynmouth. It was agreed that a multi organisation exercise should be considered.

### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

94. Mrs N Newbold (RYA) enquired about the Riverside Newport Flood Scheme which was to be undertaken by the Environment Agency. Mr R Morgan (Environment Agency – Wales) noted that they wished to undertake work opposite Newport Castle upstream of the Town Bridge. The work, which would take several months, would constitute rebuilding a flood wall and repositioning the bank. A jack up pontoon would be required for the work. Clearly, this work would require the consent of Newport Harbour Commissioners. Mr R Morgan also noted that 1,700 cubic metres of mud would also be needed for the exercise.

95. Mr A Hemmings (Atkins) referred to the proposals at Crindau Pill. He attended a meeting with Newport Unlimited, and it appears that there is now a possibility that the scheme may be back on the drawing board. It was agreed that the Commissioners would consider asking British Waterways Board to make a presentation to them, and this would be discussed at the next Board Meeting.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Advisory Body is scheduled to take place on Wednesday, 26 October 2011 at a new time of 11:45hrs.

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