

**ADVISORY BODY TO THE NEWPORT HARBOUR COMMISSIONERS**  
**1 MAY 2013**

A meeting of the Advisory Body to the Newport Harbour Commissioners was held on board the vessel "Dame Shirley", moored in Alexandra Docks, Newport, on Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> day of May 2013, at 10.00 hrs.

**PRESENT**

Mr N.E Challenger (Newport Shipbrokers) (in the Chair)  
Messrs S Ferrier (Tarmac), A Hemmings (Atkins), M Johnson (Gloucester Harbour Trustees), P Lyon (SMS Towage), W Mitchell, R Morgan, (Natural Resources Wales), P O'Brien (Cargo Services (UK) Limited), and Ms G Otlet (Newport Unlimited).

**APOLOGIES**

An apology for absence was received from Mr R Steed (MIR Steel).

**IN ATTENDANCE**

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

**MINUTES**

108. It was agreed unanimously that the minutes of the last meeting of the Advisory Body, held on 24 October 2012, (a copy of which had been sent to every Member), be taken as read, received and adopted.

**REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF NHC**

109. 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 draft new Byelaws had been remitted to the Department for Transport. Certain legal issues had been raised and these were currently being dealt with by the sub-committee.
- b) It was noted that the M4 Relief Road Project was back on the political agenda, but that no firm commitment had been given. The Commissioners had not been formally approached on this matter.
- c) The Harbour Master and the Chairman of NHC had attended a Trinity House Open Day. It had been pleasing to note the expertise that is possessed by Trinity House in key areas, and it was clear that Commissioners were obtaining value for money from their contract with Trinity House.
- d) It had been agreed that an annual schedule detailing training undertaken by all Commissioners would be produced and published on the Commissioners website.
- e) The Designated Person had reported to Commissioners on issues raised from last year's audit. The next years audit would be undertaken in June. The results of the audit had been good.

110. Mr A Hemmings (Atkins) updated the body on the different options being mooted for the new M4 Relief Road. He referred to the current political arguments concerning transport and, in particular, noted that economic regeneration was a key objective in all such matters. Mr W Mitchell noted that the height of any new bridge would be vital in the future of navigation on the River Usk – this was a debate to be had in the future. The Harbour Master confirmed that all vessels traversing the River or entering the enclosed docks were logged so that definitive statistics were available when such discussions took place.

111. Mr M Johnson (Gloucester Harbour Trustees) referred to the proposed Byelaws and noted that in the Gloucester jurisdiction general directions were used to prohibit certain behaviours. He also noted the policy currently in place at Newport Harbour Commissioners to reduce reserves. He was uncertain whether such a policy would assist greatly with economic activity in Newport. Mr P O'Brien (Cargo

Services (UK)) stated that it was right for the Commissioners to be administered efficiently. It would not be possible though for a definitive correlation between increased activity and reduced Harbour Dues to be proved. Mr C.P Crick (Chairman – NHC) added that the level of Harbour Dues was due for further consideration shortly and an increase in the level of dues may be required.

The Chairman thanked the Chairman of NHC for a most comprehensive report.

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

112. The Harbour Master's report for the period to March 2013 had been circulated to all members.

The following points were noted:

- a) The West Usk Buoy has now been replaced, and the Number 5 buoy would also require replacing towards the end of calendar year 2013.
- b) He confirmed that four of the buoys had been moved during the period to reflect natural changes in the regime of the River. The table top exercise enacting an oil spill situation would be arranged later in the year. It was agreed that Mr M Johnson (Gloucester Harbour Trustees) would be invited to attend.
- c) The Big Splash Event was to take place between 31<sup>st</sup> May and 2 June this year.
- d) The meeting agreed that the introduction of SMS Towage as a tug supplier in the area had been well received and had been implemented very well. Mr P Lyons (SMS Towage) concurred and stated that it had largely been a team effort between ABP and SMS. He hoped that business would grow and that services available would encourage other customers to use the Docks and River Berths.

### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

#### **Natural Resource Wales**

113. Mr R Morgan (Natural Resource Wales) explained to the meeting about the merger between Environment Agency, Wales, The Countryside Council for Wales and Forestry Commission Wales. In particular, he noted the Marine Consent Unit at the Welsh Government had been closed and that the new Marine Licencing Team was based in NRW.

### **Thanks**

114. The Chairman thanked the owners of "Dame Shirley", the Harbour Master and the Clerk to the Commissioners for their assistance in arranging this meeting and the River Inspection.

### **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Advisory Body is scheduled to take place on Wednesday, 23 October 2013 at 11:45hrs.

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

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