

ADVISORY BODY TO THE NEWPORT HARBOUR COMMISSIONERS

26th October 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, 26th day of October 2011, at 11.45 hours.

PRESENT

Mr N.E Challenger (Newport Shipbrokers) (in the Chair)
Messrs E Dorman (Gloucester Harbour Trustees), R Frowem (Newport City Council), A Hemmings (Atkins), R Lewis (ABP), W Mitchell, R Van Der Meer (Isca Boat Club) and Ms G Otlet (Newport Unlimited).

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from:

Messrs S Ferrier (Tarmac), Mrs S.L Newbold (RYA), R Morgan (Environment Agency - Wales) and Captain M Childlow (Harbour Master).

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr C.P Crick (Chairman of the Newport Harbour Commissioners) was in attendance.

MINUTES

96. It was agreed unanimously that the minutes of the last meeting of the Advisory Body held on 30 March 2011, (a copy of which had been sent to every member), be taken as read, received and adopted.

REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF NHC

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

- a) The Safety Management System and Strategy and Management Plan of the Commissioners are at present being subject to review. An updated version will be complete by 31 December.
- b) The proposed new byelaws have been remitted to the Department of Transport. They are currently undertaking a circulation of certain interested parties, and their comments will be received by November. Comment had been received from the Royal Yachting Association Legal Department which will be considered at the next Byelaw Sub-Committee Meeting.
- c) Newport Unlimited have arranged for a "clean-up" of the river which is likely to take place by the end of the year.
- d) The Commissioners had made representation in relation to the proposed cutbacks of the MCA.
- e) The Commissioners have contributed to the clean-up of the Dock Disaster Memorial in St Woolos Cemetery. Unfortunately there has been an attempted theft of the three plaques, and consideration was now being given to replacing them with cheaper plaques. The originals would then be held securely.
- f) Consideration was still being given about the prospect of a Port Stakeholders Forum being created.

The Chairman asked about proposals for the East Usk Lighthouse. The Chairman of NHC explained that young children (8-9 years old) at a local school had been undertaking a project to prepare an interpretation board for the East Usk Lighthouse. The Chairman also asked about the contributions to the Missions to Seafarers. It was noted that approximately £120-150 per month was contributed by the Commissioners.

HARBOUR MASTER'S REPORT

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

The following points were noted:

- a. No. 1 Buoy had now been replaced. The West Usk Buoy was being revisited to ascertain the level of repairs required. Trinity House had undertaken a full audit and were satisfied with the procedures and lights in place.
- b. There had been a close quarter passing (referred to in report). Neither vessel was to blame, other than for a lack of communication. A new protocol had thus been established for communication in the river.
- c. It was noted the oil pollution exercise had gone well – all equipment utilised was deemed to be effective and efficient.

Mr A Hemmings (Atkins) asked whether the close quarter passing had to be reported to any authority. Mr R Lewis noted that the protocol had been put in place. There was no requirement to report any further. Concern was expressed at the loss of VTS but Mr R Lewis explained that the same level of reporting still took place (to Newport Pier head rather than VTS). There was no requirement for a further level of control.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

99. Mr R Van de Meer (Isca Boat Club) enquired whether any further development had taken place at Crindau Pill. It was noted that the proposed link from the river to the canal/Marina was on hold. There is planning consent for building in the area but nothing has happened as yet

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Advisory Body is scheduled to take place on Wednesday, 28 March 2012 at 11:45hrs.

Chairman: _____ Date: _____