

ADVISORY BODY TO THE NEWPORT HARBOUR COMMISSIONERS
23 OCTOBER 2013

A meeting of the Advisory Body to the Newport Harbour Commissioners was held at ABP Port Offices, Alexandra Dock, Newport, on Wednesday, 23rd day of October 2013, at 11:45 hrs.

PRESENT

Mr N.E Challenger (Newport Shipbrokers) (in the Chair at commencement of meeting)
Messrs A Hemmings (Atkins), W Mitchell, R Morgan (Natural Resource Wales), R Steed (MIR Steel)
R Van-Der-Meer (Isca Boat Club), E Watts (Mission to Seafarers) and Ms G Otlet (Newport Unlimited).

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Messrs S Ferrier (TMD) and P Lyon (SMS Towage).

IN ATTENDANCE

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

MINUTES

115. It was agreed unanimously that the minutes of the last meeting of the Advisory Body, held on 1 May 2013, (a copy of which had been sent to every Member), be taken as read, received and adopted.

APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

116. Mr N E Challenger (Newport Shipbrokers) stated that, after 3 years, he had decided to step down as Chairman.

After due consideration, it was proposed by Mr N. E Challenger (Newport Shipbrokers), seconded by Mr W Mitchell, and approved unanimously that Mr A Hemmings (Atkins) be appointed as Chairman of the Advisory Body.

Mr A Hemmings took the Chair.

Mr A Hemmings (Atkins) thanked the members for his appointment. On behalf of the Advisory Body, he expressed his gratitude to the outgoing Chairman for the work he had undertaken over the previous three years as Chairman and, prior to that, as a member of the Body.

APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN

117. It was agreed that the election of a Vice Chairman would take place at the next meeting of the Advisory Body. Should anyone wish to stand to be Vice Chairman, they should inform the Clerk to the Commissioners.

REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF NHC

118. 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) There had been a build-up of sediment in the dredged channel in October, but, following a recent dredging campaign, the channel was again in a good condition.
- b) A stakeholder had made a complaint to the Department for Transport in respect of certain matters relating to the running of the Commissioners. All aspects of this complaint had been resolved in the Commissioner's favour.
- c) The Designated Person had recently completed his annual audit. Other than for a few minor issues, the Commissioners had again been given a clean bill of health.

- d) The Welsh Government's proposals for the new M4 were currently out for consultation. The Commissioners had met representatives of Welsh Government and ARUP in June. A meeting with ABP had also taken place so that joint concerns could be considered. A response to the consultation will be sent in November. It was noted that the consultation documents sent out by Welsh Government were vague – they did not include the height of the road or include a detailed map of the route.
- e) The Bishop of Monmouth has blessed the new plaques on the Dock Disaster memorial in St. Woolos Cemetery.
- f) The previous meeting of the Advisory Body had taken place in conjunction with a River Trip for training purposes. The Commissioners had reviewed the day and considered that it had been very worthwhile. It is likely that a similar arrangement will occur in 2014.

119. The Chairman of the Advisory Body referred to the private moorings on the River Usk. The Chairman of NHC stated that the ownership of these moorings was difficult to ascertain. It was thought that CCW/Residual Lands may own much of the land. Mr R Steed (MIR Steel) asked whether it was in order to remove a small wooden structure close to their berth. It was agreed that it would be appropriate for MIR Steel to write to the Commissioners concerning this matter. Mr R Morgan (Natural Resource Wales) added that MIR Steel should also inform the Marine Licence Section (NRW). Ms G Otlet (Newport Unlimited) referred to the River Usk Management Group. The Chairman of NHC noted that this group never met but it could serve a useful purpose.

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

HARBOUR MASTER'S REPORT

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

The following points were noted:

- a) Trinity House had undertaken their navigational aid audit on 7 May. The results of the audit were satisfactory.
- b) During the period two buoys had been replaced together with the relevant lanterns. All other buoys had been checked and were fit for purpose.
- c) The number of pilots available (Class 1a) had increased during the period.
- d) The Oil Spill Table Top exercise was due to take place on Wednesday 20 November.
- e) It was generally agreed that the service given by SMS Towage continued to be very good

The Chairman thanked the Harbour Master for a helpful and detailed report.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Flood Abatement

121. Mr R Morgan (Natural Resource Wales) informed the meeting that a new flood abatement scheme near Crindau Pill would be constructed, commencing in 2014. This was a major project and would take several years. There may be piling at the top of the bank, but NRW would inform NHC of any marine matters that may affect them. Mr W Mitchell noted that the Council and Newport Unlimited should also be kept informed of developments.

2014 – Centenary Year

122. It was noted that 2014 was the one-hundredth anniversary of the commencement of the First World War and the opening of the South Lock at Newport docks on 14 July 1914. It was agreed that this would be placed on the Agenda of the next meeting of the Commissioners.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Advisory Body is scheduled to take place in May 2014 (exact date to be agreed pending review of Tide Times).

Chairman: _____ Date: _____