

**ADVISORY BODY TO THE NEWPORT HARBOUR COMMISSIONERS**  
**21 OCTOBER 2015**

A meeting of the Advisory Body to the Newport Harbour Commissioners was held at The Mission to Seafarers, Alexandra Dock, Newport, on Wednesday, 21st day of October 2015, at 11:15 hrs.

**PRESENT**

Mr A Hemmings (in the Chair)

Messrs L Davey (Cargo Services (UK), M Johnson (Gloucester Harbour Trustees) and R Morgan (Natural Resource Wales).

**APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Messrs N Challenger (Chartered Shipbrokers), S Ferrier (Lafarge Tarmac), P Lyons (SMS Towage), R Steed (MIR Steel) and Mr E Watts (Mission to Seafarers). Captain M Chidlow also apologised for non-attendance.

**IN ATTENDANCE**

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

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

**WELCOME**

Mr L Davey was welcomed to his first meeting.

**MINUTES**

143. It was agreed unanimously that the minutes of the last meeting of the Advisory Body, held on 13 May 2015, (a copy of which had been sent to every Member), be taken as read, received and adopted.

**REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF NHC**

144. 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 MCA had conducted a health-check of the Commissioner's compliance with the PMSC in July. A good report had been received although some issues had been noted, all of which the Commissioners intended to act upon. The key contention noted occurred during the Inspector's trip on a pilot cutter, where we witnessed work being undertaken at a berth in the River Usk.
  
- b) It was noted that discussions concerning the Service Level Agreement with ABP concerning Pilotage were shortly to commence.
- c) The Commissioners had been present at meetings concerning the proposed Tidal Lagoons in Newport, Cardiff and Swansea. It had been agreed that the proposals for Cardiff and Newport should be reviewed together, not in isolation. It was further noted that the Newport lagoon was now expected to be considerably smaller than in the original plans.
- d) The Commissioners had met recently with the Welsh Government and Arup to discuss the plans for the proposed new M4 to the south of Newport. A map of the proposed route was tabled for review. It was noted that the Government continues to favour the "Black Route" which would cut through Newport Docks. It was anticipated that draft Orders would be published in March 2016 with the public enquiry occurring in Autumn 2016.

- e) The date of the next training day was confirmed as 27 April 2016, the same day as the next meeting of the Advisory Body.
- f) The byelaws of the Newport Harbour Commissioners have now been enacted.

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

The Chairman noted that the Merchant Navy Reserve Board (MNRB) had recently arranged a breakfast meeting to publicise its work to local businesses. It was expected that a further event would be held in the future. The Chairman also reported on a recent visit to Liberty Steel. He noted plans for Uskmouth Power Station (now trading as SIMEC) which will bring additional shipping traffic to the River Usk.

Mr R Morgan (Natural Resource Wales) confirmed that the planning application for work at Crindau Pill was going ahead, and that tenders for the work would be sought by the end of the calendar year.

Mr M Johnson (Gloucester Harbour Trustees) noted that the MCA were apparently highlighting Boards who were not completing and publicising their 3-year compliance with PMSC.

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

145. The Harbour Master's report on the period to September 2015 had been circulated to all members. In the absence of the Harbour Master, the Chairman of NHC noted the following in particular:

- a) A buoy had been replaced in the summer. It had been fitted with a DGPS system so that the Commissioners could know of any collision and, more importantly, which vessel had occasioned any damage.
- b) Trinity House continued to give an excellent service in relation to buoys and other navigational aids.
- c) The Pilotage service continued to work well

The Chairman thanked the Chairman of NHC for his report.

There was a general discussion about the past problems in dealing with the requirements of the Balmoral. It was agreed to contact the Harbour Master to ascertain whether the vessel could use a commercial berth on the river.

### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

#### **Devolving powers over ports to the Welsh Government**

146. Mr M Johnson (Gloucester Harbour Trustees) asked whether powers over ports were to be devolved to the Welsh Government and, if so, what effect this would have. The Chairman confirmed that this remained unclear but that the Welsh Bill would be published shortly. This matter would be placed on the Agenda of the next NHC Board meeting and the next Advisory Body meeting.

#### **Next meeting:**

The next meeting is planned for Wednesday 27 April 2016 at a time to be advised.

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