

**ADVISORY BODY TO THE NEWPORT HARBOUR COMMISSIONERS**  
**19 OCTOBER 2016**

A meeting of the Advisory Body to the Newport Harbour Commissioners was held at The Mission to Seafarers, Alexandra Dock, Newport, on Wednesday, 19th day of October 2016, at 11:15 hrs.

**PRESENT**

Mr A Hemmings (in the Chair)  
Messrs M Beal (Liberty Steel), L. Davey (Bird Port), R Morgan (Natural Resource Wales), R Steed  
(Liberty Steel), R Van Der Meer and E Watts (Mission to Seafarers).

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Mr C.P Crick (Chairman - Newport Harbour Commissioners).  
Captain M Chidlow (Harbour Master)

**APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Messrs N.E Challenger (Institute of Chartered Shipbrokers) and M Johnson (Gloucester Harbour Trustees).

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

**MINUTES**

154. It was agreed unanimously that the minutes of the last meeting of the Advisory Body, held on 27 April 2016, (a copy of which had been sent to every Member), be taken as read, received and adopted.

**MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

**Minute 148(g) - River Berth**

It was noted that Liberty Steel did not in fact have a licence to dredge.

**Minute 152 - Terrorism/ Refugees/ Asylum Seekers and other concerns for the Docks**

Mr E Watts (Mission to Seafarers) noted that police now have a presence on the docks. They have performed training exercises and there are plans for further sessions in the future with the Border Force. The Chairman asked that Border Force be made aware of access by sea to harbours and wharves on the River Usk in Newport.

**Minute 153 – Waterfront Conference**

The Chairman noted that this conference would likely become an annual event with discussions concerning both transport generally and Welsh Ports in particular. If any member required further information they should contact him.

**REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF NHC**

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

- a) The Commissioners continued to work very well as did the Advisory Body which was in a position to judge performance.
- b) The Dredged Channel remained in a good condition.
- c) The redrafting of the Service Level Agreement between ABP and NHC had been delayed, primarily because of the workload in dealing with the proposed new M4.
- d) NHC have continued to support ABP with regard to the route of the proposed new M4. The 2 key questions remain: Do we need a new road? And, if so, what route does it take? There seems a compelling and powerful argument to say that the road should not be built through the Docks. Mr

C.P Crick (Chairman – Newport Harbour Commissioners) added that the ABP proposed route complied with all motorway parameters. Mr R Steed noted that the Port Security Committee should have been a statutory consultee but had not been so consulted. This was the subject of urgent consultation. Mr E Watts asked whether ABP had talked to other consultees. The Harbour Master replied that such consultation had been extensive.

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

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

156. The Harbour Master's report on the period to September 2016 had been circulated to all members. The Harbour Master expanded upon the following matters in particular:

- a) He confirmed that following the comments made by the auditor all lights had now been rectified other than those on the Southern Distributor Bridge (the responsibility of Newport City Council)
- b) Vandal-proof locks are now being used at the East Usk Lighthouse as a result of recent problems.
- c) Procedures at Liberty Steel were much improved, and the MCA Health Check auditor has been informed. There have been no recent issues at Bird Port.
- d) It was noted that a new PMSC would be issued shortly.
- e) Commissioners had received further training on the MARNIS system in June.
- f) The Training Trip was discussed. It was agreed that options for this should be considered at the next meeting of the Advisory Body. Any thoughts in advance could be given to the Clerk.
- g) The forthcoming hydrographic study of the River was noted. The Harbour Master confirmed that river berths could be included if requested. This would assist in minimising navigational risks.
- h) The new towage agreement with SMS was noted.

The Chairman thanked the Harbour Master for his detailed report.

### **DEVOLVING POWERS OVER PORTS TO THE WELSH GOVERNMENT**

157. The Chairman had attended a recent key note seminar. He noted that Ports and Harbours were an important element of the forthcoming bill. There were different political views whether matters relating to Ports and Harbours should be devolved. It was agreed that this would be added to the Agenda for the next meeting. It was also agreed that the Commissioners would be asked to discuss this and in particular whether they should meet the Welsh Government formally.

### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

#### **Tidal Lagoon**

158. The Harbour Master noted a recent meeting to discuss the proposals further. The Swansea and Cardiff lagoons appeared more likely to progress than those at Newport and Bridgwater

#### **Rail electrification**

159. Mr R Morgan (Natural Resource Wales) noted that, as part of the rail electrification project, there was to be much work undertaken on the rail bridge. This would include removal of approximately 200 tonnes of wood by barge.

On the occasion of Mr C.P Crick's final meeting, the Chairman thanked him for all his work over many years and the efficient and diligent way in which he had carried out his duties.

#### **Next meeting:**

The next meeting is planned for Wednesday 17 May 2017 at 11:15am at the Mission to Seafarers.

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

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