

ADVISORY BODY TO THE NEWPORT HARBOUR COMMISSIONERS

16 October 2017

A meeting of the Advisory Body to the Newport Harbour Commissioners was held at The Mission to Seafarers, Alexandra Dock, Newport, on Monday, 16th day of October 2017, at 11:15 hrs.

PRESENT

Mr A Hemmings (in the Chair)

Messrs M Beale (Liberty Steel), L. Davey (Bird Port), C.W Dowds (W.E. Dowds (Shipping) Ltd), R Morgan (Natural Resource Wales), R Steed (Liberty Steel), R Van Der Meer (Isca Boat Club) and E Watts (Mission to Seafarers).

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr J.C Neale (Chairman - Newport Harbour Commissioners).
Captain R Lewis (Harbour Master)

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Messrs P Lyon (SMS Towage), A Jones (Tarmac) and Ms L Taylor (ASERA).

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

MINUTES

166. It was agreed unanimously that the minutes of the last meeting of the Advisory Body, held on 17 May 2017, (a copy of which had been sent to every Member), be taken as read, received and adopted.

REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF NHC

167. 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) Subject to ratification at the AGM, the Commissioners had re-elected Captain R.M McDonald for a further 3-year period. They had also elected three new Commissioners. The Chairman-NHC elaborated on the experience of the three new Commissioners and considered that they would all enhance the Board going forward.
- b) The financial position of the Commissioners remained adequate, and the level of Harbour Dues would be considered at the December Board meeting.
- c) The Dredged Channel remained in a good condition. The requirement for a Dredging campaign would be considered in December.
- d) The current Designated Person was now employed by a different organisation. The Commissioners were negotiating with the new employer to ascertain if he could remain the Commissioner's Designated Person at an appropriate price. Continuity in this area would be useful.
- e) A review of the current allowances used at Liberty Steel berth was currently being undertaken. Mr R Steed (Liberty Steel) noted that a Layerage Survey had recently been completed, and the results would be supplied to the Commissioners.

- f) The redrafting of the Service Level Agreement between ABP and NHC continued. The agreement for the provision of Harbour Master services was largely complete but consideration over pilotage services remained to be concluded. Several different options were currently being explored. MCA had noted that the Agreement must be robust, and therefore the notice period given by both parties (currently 12 months) was being discussed with a view to extending this. It was noted that the Port Marine Safety Code and MCA guidelines recommended that the requirements for pilotage and Harbour Master duties remained in one SLA document as they are to a large extent intertwined. It was noted that the current arrangements continued to work well and efficiently.
- g) The M4 relief road public enquiry continued, and it was currently anticipated that marine-based stakeholders would be heard in December 2017. The Commissioners overriding objection remained in place, and they had also objected to the CPO of certain rights over the dock and the river as this was at odds with the requirements of the Commissioners to act as a Statutory Harbour Authority and operate an Open Port. Mr C.W Dowds (W.E Dowds (Shipping) Limited enquired about the Objections currently in place. The Chairman – NHC noted the potential limitation on shipping in the Commissioner’s area of jurisdiction were the construction to go ahead.
- h) The Chairman – NHC noted that Commissioners are able to attend training on the MARNIS system on an annual basis. Advisory Body members will be invited to attend in 2018.

The Chairman thanked the Chairman of NHC for his detailed report and congratulated the new Commissioners on their appointment.

HARBOUR MASTER’S REPORT

168. The Harbour Master’s report on the period to 30 September 2017 had been circulated to all members. The Harbour Master expanded upon the following matters in particular:

- a) He confirmed that all lights within the Commissioner’s jurisdiction were now in good working order other than for some issues relating to the Leading Lights that were subject to ongoing discussion with AMP/ Sealite
- b) The number of pilots available in South East Wales was explained together with the new working agreements with pilots based in SW Wales. The number of pilots now available to work in Newport was therefore much increased.
- c) The new buoys purchased in early summer were now in place. Shackles on the East Usk Buoy would require replacement

The Chairman thanked the Harbour Master for his detailed report.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Welsh Award for Industry

169. Mr E Watts (Mission to Seafarers) informed members that the deadline for applications for the Welsh Award for Industry Grants was the end of the month.

Training Trip

170. Mr R Van Der Meer (Isca Boat Club) asked whether the recent training trip had been useful. The Chairman – NHC confirmed that the Commissioners had found it very useful. The size of the vessel was such that unfortunately only the Commissioners had been able to attend the training trip. The Chairman noted the benefits of previous training trips on larger vessels and requested the Commissioners to explore the possibility of such a trip being organised at a future date.

Membership of the Advisory Body

171. Following the last meeting of the Advisory Body, the Commissioners had considered whether further organisations should be invited to attend. Following this consideration, ASERA, Tata, W.E Dowds (Shipping) Ltd and Tarmac joined/ re-joined the Advisory Body. The meeting considered that ABP should also be asked if they wish to rejoin. It was agreed that a full list of current members would be furnished to members and that the website would be updated.

Next meeting:

The next meeting is planned for Wednesday 18 April 2018 at 11:15am at the Mission to Seafarers.

Chairman: _____ Date: _____