

COMMISSIONERS' MEETING **HELD ON 13 APRIL 2016**

A meeting of the Newport Harbour Commissioners was held at ABP Port Offices, Alexandra Docks, Newport on Wednesday, 13th Day of April 2016, at 10:00am.

PRESENT

Mr C. P Crick (in the Chair)

Messrs S.P Davison, G Jug, W.L Mitchell, J Neale, A.R Speight, Captain R.M McDonald and Councillor J.A Guy.

IN ATTENDANCE

Captain M Chidlow (Harbour Master) was in attendance.

MINUTES

3236. It was resolved on a motion by Councillor J.A Guy , seconded by Mr G Jug, that the minutes of the last meeting of the Commissioners, which took place on 9 March 2016, (a copy of which had been sent to every Commissioner), be taken as read, received and adopted.

DISCLOSURE OF PERSONAL AND PECUNIARY INTERESTS

3237. No such disclosures were recorded.

HARBOUR MASTER'S REPORT as prepared by ABP

3238. The Harbour Master's Report, as prepared by ABP, is attached.

The following further matters were noted:

a) East Usk Lighthouse

Mr W.L Mitchell had been informed by the Welsh Government that the proposed works at the East Usk Lighthouse (both inside the enclosed area and the steps immediately outside) can be done without further consents being required. The works would be undertaken in the autumn to adhere to the requirements of the RSPB. It was agreed that a meeting would be arranged to progress matters.

b) Disused lighthouse at Goldcliff

It was agreed that the Harbour Master would contact Trinity House to ascertain who owned the disused lighthouse building near Goldcliff which is now somewhat derelict.

c) Liberty Steel issues

There had been no issues at Liberty in the last month that required reporting. Working conditions were improving at the berth.

d) Bird Port

The Harbour Master referred to a recent grounding reported by a Captain of a vessel at Bird Port. It was agreed to write to Bird Port asking for photographic evidence of the condition of the dock – these pictures had been promised by the berth operators in the past.

e) Oil Spill Audit

Two further courses had taken place on 2 and 16 March. The full review scheduled for June had been cancelled.

f) River Bridge

Town Bridge remains in need of repair, and the Harbour Master had been consulted about the nature of the works required. The contractors wish to close the river to all traffic for approximately 12 months. The Commissioners consider this unacceptable, and that steps should be taken to ensure that one span of the bridge remains open at all times. The Harbour Master will discuss this matter further. Councillor J.A Guy agreed to raise this issue with the Assembly Member for the area.

g) Advisory Body meeting

The proposed Training Trip has been cancelled due to the boat operator selling the vessel. Notwithstanding the requirement to rearrange this training, it was agreed that the Commissioner's own training should go ahead in the summer. The Harbour Master would arrange this.

The Advisory Body meeting will go ahead at the Mission to Seafarers on 27 April.

MATTER ARISING FROM BOARD MINUTES

Minute 3164 NHC/ ABP Service Level Agreement

It was proposed that a meeting between ABP and NHC should be arranged to follow next month's Board meeting.

Minute 3235 ABP MARNIS

It was proposed that a meeting to review the ABP MARNIS system would be arranged to follow the June Board meeting.

Minute 3222 Proposed new M4

Mr G Jug expressed an interest in this matter.

Captain R.M McDonald and Mr J Neale had attended a meeting at ABP on 23 March to discuss the position of the two organisations with regard to the proposed new M4. ABP had put forward an alternative route that would conform to all relevant organisations but that would not affect the Port adversely. After detailed discussion, it was agreed unanimously (with Mr G Jug abstaining) to support the adoption of the proposed route for the M4 as set out by ABP. This position is taken to support a stakeholder and to reduce the negative effect on the local economy since a reduction in dues from ABP clients would necessarily increase dues to other stakeholders. It was agreed to write confirming these objections to the Welsh Government.

JOINT COMMITTEE ON CHANNEL DREDGING

3239. The Harbour Master reported that the Joint Committee on Channel Dredging had met immediately prior to this meeting. The Channel remained in a healthy condition – there had been a small dredging campaign during the month and it seemed that the philosophy of dredging “little and often” was working well. Civil projects within the enclosed dock were also noted.

MONTHLY ACCOUNTS

3240. The accounts for the current month were examined. It was agreed unanimously that the attached accounts amounting to £38,007.63 be paid.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

3241. The statement of the Commissioner's revenue was examined. They disclosed monthly bills of £15,658.57 compared to the budget of £12,900.00. Expenditure for the month totalled £31,857.19 compared to the budgeted figures of £22,735.00. Mr S.P Davison noted the variance in expenditure during the quarter – this was due to the timing of the Commissioner's contribution toward the dredging of the channel.

INVESTMENTS

3242. It was confirmed that the amounts at present invested were as follows:

Monmouthshire Building Society	£74,628.52
Nat West	£3,877.42
Santander	£25,000.00

CASH FLOW OUTTURN – ACTUAL TO FORECAST – Q4

3243. The cash flow outturn for the 12 month period ended 31 March 2016 was examined. All questions raised thereon were answered satisfactorily

Chairman: _____ Date: _____