

COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
HELD ON 13 DECEMBER 2017

A meeting of the Newport Harbour Commissioners was held at the offices of W.E Dowds (Shipping) Limited, Alexandra Docks, Newport, on Wednesday, 13th Day of December 2017, at 11:00am

PRESENT

Mr J.C Neale (in the Chair)

Messrs M.C James, G Jug, A.R Speight, R Steed, E Watts, Captain R.M McDonald and Councillor J.A Guy.

APOLOGY

Mr S.P Davison has apologised for non-attendance.

IN ATTENDANCE

Captain R Lewis was in attendance.

WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed Mr E Watts to his first meeting as a Commissioner.

MINUTES

3411. It was resolved on a motion by Captain R.M McDonald, seconded by Councillor J.A Guy, that the minutes of the last meeting of the Commissioners, which took place on 8 November 2017, (a copy of which had been sent to every Commissioner), be taken as read, received and adopted..

DISCLOSURE OF PERSONAL AND PECUNIARY INTERESTS

3412. Mr J.C Neale declared an interest in Agenda item 3282 in relation to the proposed new M4. Mr R Steed declared an interest in Agenda Item 3406 (c) relating to Liberty Steel Newport Limited.

HARBOUR MASTER'S REPORT as prepared by ABP

3413. The Harbour Master's Report, as prepared by ABP, is attached.

The following further matters were noted:

a) Navigational Lights/ Trinity House

The navigational light at Dallimores is currently under repair. If the repair is unsuccessful a new light will be purchased. Trinity House had also noted that the light at Orb could now be discontinued. This was agreed and the appropriate Notice to Mariners would be produced, with a copy being remitted to UKHO.

b) East Usk Lighthouse

Following the Board discussions last month, the Harbour Master had made contact with Trinity House. A meeting on 17 January 2018 has been suggested to discuss the future of the East Usk Lighthouse.

c) Liberty Steel

Mr R Steed declared an interest and took no part in the discussion (see above)

The parameters currently in place at Liberty Steel detailing the vessels which can operate at the berth are being reviewed by the Chairman and the Harbour Master. Information from UKD has been received but further detail is awaited.

d) Bird Port

The Harbour Master noted that working arrangements at Bird Port were working well. The Commissioners awaited information from the consultant, and for a meeting to discuss matters with Bird Port senior management to take place.

The Clerk noted that pictures received from Bird Port showed the dock to be in a satisfactory state.

e) MCA Health Check

The Chairman noted that the recommendations noted by the MCA in 2016 had all been enacted bar for the production of a new SLA between NHC and ABP in relation to pilotage (which remained work in progress). He would write to MCA confirming this.

f) Proposed dredging at Dallimores

The proposed dredging at Dallimores is acceptable and will not cause any conservancy issues. Discussions with NRW continued at this stage. Dallimores will need to agree to a bathymetric survey following the work and to amend the current application prior to full consent.

MATTERS ARISING FROM BOARD MINUTES

Minute 3164 NHC/ ABP Service Level Agreement

This matter was deferred until the next Board meeting.

Minute 3282 Proposed new M4 Motorway

Mr J. C Neale declared an interest and took no part in the discussion (see above)

It was understood that the Enquiry will resume in February 2018. The Welsh Government is shortly to submit new evidence to the enquiry.

Minute 3392 – Wetlands 10th Anniversary

The Chairman had met RSPB to discuss the plans to celebrate both the 10th Anniversary of the Public Centre and the 125th Anniversary of the East Usk Lighthouse. There were many planned activities, and one possibility was to arrange for a presentation on the Lighthouse. Another option was a photographic competition with the Commissioners selecting the winner.

After discussion it was agreed that Mr M.C James would act as liaison with RSPB. Mr A Hemmings, Chairman of the Advisory Body, would be approached to ascertain whether he would be interested in preparing a presentation on the East Usk Lighthouse.

Minute 3398 Report of Designated Person

The proposed date for the audit work to be undertaken is 18 January 2018.

Minute 3407 Old Debts/ ABP Charges

It was noted that most of the old debts had now been received but there remained one port user with old debts outstanding. It was agreed to write to that stakeholder explaining that the Commissioner's terms of trade was strictly 30 days nett.

The increase in ABP's quarterly charges was based on RPI at August 2016. This was accepted.

Minute 3410 BPA Seminar

The notes taken by Mr R Steed at the recent BPA Seminar in London were discussed. BPA are planning to give more seminars on useful topics in 2018, hopefully in South Wales.

JOINT COMMITTEE ON CHANNEL DREDGING

3414. It was agreed unanimously that the Chairman, Mr S.P Davison and Mr A.R Speight be elected to be the NHC representatives on the Joint Committee on Channel Dredging for the calendar year 2018.

CONSIDERATION OF THE LEVEL OF HARBOUR DUES

3415. The Secretary noted a paper previously circulated entitled "Consideration of Harbour Dues commencing 1 January 2018" which detailed historical surplus/ deficits, level of reserves, forecasts etc. The recommendation for the level of dues to remain at 6.5p/ Gross Tonne was agreed unanimously.

ADVISORY BODY

3416. The Commissioners had been approached by Mr L Philpott, Group Scout Leader for the 29th Newport Sea Scout Group. He wished to become a member of the Advisory Body. After due consideration, it was agreed unanimously to invite Mr Philpott to join the Advisory Body.

MONTHLY ACCOUNTS

3417. The accounts for the current month were examined. It was agreed unanimously that the attached accounts amounting to £8,081.67 be paid.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

3418. The statement of the Commissioner's revenue was examined. They disclosed monthly bills of £19,345.23 compared to the budget of £18,000.00. Expenditure for the month totalled £6,860.14 compared to the budgeted figure £4,775 and £161,735.44 for the year to date compared to a budget of £163,080.00.

INVESTMENTS

3419. It was confirmed that the amounts at present invested were as follows:

Monmouthshire Building Society	£76,047.08
Nat West	£18,879.02
Santander	£25,000.00

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

3420. The Chairman had attended a Welsh Ports Meeting. Brexit strategy as it may affect Welsh ports was discussed and concerns were raised in relation to potential tariffs/ inspections etc

Chairman: _____ Date: _____