

COMMISSIONERS' MEETING **HELD ON 10 FEBRUARY 2016**

A meeting of the Newport Harbour Commissioners was held at The Civic Centre, Newport on Wednesday, 10th Day of February 2016, at 09:30am.

PRESENT

Mr C. P Crick (in the Chair)

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

APOLOGY

Mr G Jug apologised for non-attendance.

IN ATTENDANCE

Captain M Chidlow (Harbour Master) was in attendance.

MINUTES

3220. It was resolved on a motion by Mr W.L Mitchell, seconded by Councillor J.A Guy, that the minutes of the last meeting of the Commissioners, which took place on 13 January 2016, (a copy of which had been sent to every Commissioner), be taken as read, received and adopted.

DISCLOSURE OF PERSONAL AND PECUNIARY INTERESTS

3221. No such disclosures were recorded.

PROPOSED NEW M4

3222. Mr Lewis and Mr Greaves (Costain:Vinci) were welcomed to the meeting and they gave a presentation of the current position relating to the proposed construction of a new M4 to the south of Newport. They noted the following matters:

- a) The draft statutory orders will be published in the next few weeks. These will be remitted direct to the Commissioners in mid-March;
- b) External exhibitions to the general public will also occur in March;
- c) There will be a 6-week window to object and, assuming objections are received, a Public Enquiry will commence in September and is likely to take 3 months. A final decision will be made in mid-2017. If affirmative, work will commence early 2018 and take 3 ½ years to complete. The "Black Option" remained the only option available;
- d) The plans have not changed since the last presentation in relation to the route of the road. The anticipated heights of relevance are:
 - Over the River Usk 37m above mean high water
 - Over the Docks: 25.4m over Junction Cut
 - Over River Ebbw 8m above mean high water;
- e) Mr Lewis noted that all the comments made previously by Commissioners had been taken into account, but that no amendments had occurred. Both cost and technical issues had been considered in the decision to maintain the same proposed height;
- f) In response to a question from Mr S.P Davison, Mr Lewis agreed to revert to the Commissioners to confirm whether these heights would be implicitly stated in the Draft Order;
- g) It was confirmed that a road junction adjacent to the Docks Entrance remained part of the plan;
- h) Mr W.L Mitchell enquired whether an option to utilise a tunnel rather than a bridge had been explored. Mr Greaves confirmed that this had been considered and would arrange for a document detailing the reasons why the tunnel option was rejected to be circulated to all Commissioners;
- i) Mr W.L Mitchell added that it may be preferable for the Welsh Government to deal with the issues of the Commissioners in advance of any Public Enquiry.

The Chairman thanked Mr Greaves and Mr Lewis for their presentation, and they left the meeting.

3223. The Commissioner's position was discussed in detail, and the following was noted/ agreed:

- a) The height of the proposed bridge over the enclosed dock was low and ABP were not content to accept this;
- b) The height over the River Usk was of a lesser concern;
- c) The effect on the Commissioner's revenues required discussion as did the effect on other stakeholders who would be affected by any necessary increase in future dues;
- d) Any requirement for a CPO "under" the new road could also have implications.

3224. It was agreed to write to ABP (Matthew Kennerley) to discuss the proposed new M4, the effect on ABP and the position that they are taking in relation to the Welsh Government.

HARBOUR MASTER'S REPORT as prepared by ABP

3225. 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 liaised with NRW Estates and was awaiting approval of the drawings of the work required. It was noted that, for environmental reasons, the work could not be undertaken between March and July.

b) Bird Port issues

The Commissioners discussed the position with respect to Boat Men at Bird Port, and the correspondence produced by the agent and the pilot. It was agreed that this matter would be raised at the next Advisory Body meeting. The Secretary would contact the Chairman of the Advisory Body to progress this.

d) Liberty Steel issues

The correspondence sent to Liberty Steel was noted. No response had been received. It was agreed to write to Liberty, further to the letter sent last month, to ask which organisation is now undertaking mooring work at the berth. The Harbour Master explained the reasons why a request to Medi-Moor a vessel that intended to discharge a wind turbine had been declined.

e) Pilotage SLA

A draft SLA between NHC and ABP was in the process of being drafted, and would shortly be available for review.

f) Oil Spill Audit

An audit of arrangements for an oil spill in South Wales will take place on 1 June

g) Trinity House

The most recent audit report from Trinity House had been good with no exceptions noted.

MONTHLY ACCOUNTS

3226. The accounts for the current month were examined. It was agreed unanimously that the attached accounts amounting to £5,432.65 be paid.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

3227. The statement of the Commissioner's revenue was examined. They disclosed monthly bills of £17,034.54 compared to the budget of £12,900.00. Expenditure for the month totalled £4,638.01 and £123,418.39 for the year to date compared to the budgeted figures of £35,126.00 and £139,743.00.

INVESTMENTS

3228. It was confirmed that the amounts at present invested were as follows:

Monmouthshire Building Society	£74,628.52
Nat West	£3,877.17
Santander	£25,365.73

Chairman: _____ Date: _____