

**COMMISSIONERS' MEETING**  
**HELD ON 8 FEBRUARY 2017**

A meeting of the Newport Harbour Commissioners was held at The Mission to Seafarers, Alexandra Docks, Newport, on Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> Day of February 2017, at 09:30am.

**PRESENT**

Mr G Jug (in the Chair)  
Messrs S.P Davison, W.L Mitchell  
and Captain R.M McDonald.

**APOLOGIES**

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Messrs J.C Neale, A.R Speight and Councillor J.A Guy.

In the absence of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman took the Chair.

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Captain M Chidlow (Harbour Master) was in attendance.

*The meeting was held inquorate, but decisions made were subsequently ratified by the Commissioners absent from this meeting.*

**MINUTES**

3327. It was resolved on a motion by Mr S.P Davison, seconded by Captain R.M McDonald, that the minutes of the last meeting of the Commissioners, which took place on 11 January 2017, (a copy of which had been sent to every Commissioner), be taken as read, received and adopted.

**DISCLOSURE OF PERSONAL AND PECUNIARY INTERESTS**

3328. Mr W.L Mitchell declared an interest in Agenda item 3320(e) by virtue of his membership of the Board of Monmouthshire, Brecon & Abergavenny Canals Trust.

**HARBOUR MASTER'S REPORT as prepared by ABP**

3329. The Harbour Master's Report, as prepared by ABP, is attached.

The following further matters were noted:

**a) Leading Lights and SDR Lighting**

The new Leading Lights will be installed in the next 2 weeks. The lights required on the SDR Bridge, for which Newport City Council are responsible, had, it was understood, now been ordered. Once in place, it was agreed to write to the Council stating the statutory importance of these lights and the requirement for any future similar works to be undertaken on a timely basis.

**b) East Usk Lighthouse**

The contractor was currently undertaking the work schedule agreed at the Lighthouse. New keys were being cut for the lock, and a master set of keys would be held by the Clerk.

**c) Channel Buoys**

The Harbour Master reported that replacement No2 and No3 buoys had now been ordered and should be delivered in June/ July.

**d) Liberty Steel**

*Mr W.L Mitchell declared an interest and took no part in the discussion (see above).*

The Harbour Master noted that the current restriction of vessels over 165m attending Liberty's berth remained in place. The Wind Turbine discussed at previous meetings had now been delivered to the berth in a conventional manner.

**e) Bird Port & Pilotage**

The high levels of activity at Bird Port were noted. A general discussion concerning the planning of Pilotage activities took place. Captain R.M McDonald noted that pilots could be transported via a small launch if logistics dictated. The Harbour Master considered the current level of Pilotage provision was more than adequate and had in the past dealt with larger volumes of shipping than is occurring today. The Argus article relating to the expansion at Bird Port was noted.

The Harbour Master further noted that the Chairman had met Captain R Lewis to discuss various navigational issues pertaining to Bird Port, and that a meeting with their management was being arranged.

**f) Hydrographic Study of River Usk**

The detailed Hydrographic Study, previously circulated to all Commissioners, and the report from the Chairman thereon, were noted. It was agreed that the report would be considered further at the next Board meeting.

**g) Dredging**

The Harbour Master noted that dredging at the Bell Mouth and the extremities of the main channel had taken place recently

**MATTERS ARISING FROM BOARD MINUTES**

**Minute 3164 NHC/ ABP Service Level Agreement**

This matter was deferred to the next Board meeting.

**Minute 3282 Proposed new M4 Motorway**

It was noted that the Orb Wharf could not currently be operated for safety reasons and there were no plans to use the wharf for commercial reasons. Mr W.L Mitchell noted that the wharf could be brought up to specification in the future.

The forthcoming Public Enquiry was noted and a detailed discussion took place. It was agreed:

- To write to the Programme Officer seeking clarification of the date that marine matters were to be considered and asking whether the Commissioner's presence would be requested;
- That a Commissioner(s) without a Conflict of Interest should attend on the relevant day. A prior briefing with the Harbour Master would be desirable.

It was noted that amendments could be made to accommodate other interested parties and the Commissioners needed to be in a position to respond.

### **MONTHLY ACCOUNTS**

3330. The accounts for the current month were examined. It was agreed unanimously that the attached accounts amounting to £11,031.05 be paid bar for the annual subscription to BPA that would be re-considered at the next meeting. In addition it was agreed to pay sundry expenses of £54.90

### **INCOME AND EXPENDITURE**

3331. The statement of the Commissioner's revenue was examined. They disclosed monthly bills of £18,186.49 compared to the budget of £14,810.00. Expenditure for the month totalled £9,311.65 compared to the budgeted figure of £15,375.00. Expenditure for the year to date totalled £144,145.09 compared to the budget for the year to date of £153,815.00.

### **INVESTMENTS**

3332. It was confirmed that the amounts at present invested were as follows:

Monmouthshire Building Society	£75,490.52
Nat West	£3,878.74
Santander	£25,365.73

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

3333. A letter from Country Access Management Ltd dated 1 February was noted. The Commissioners had no comment to make on the plans for a proposed public path save for the usual provisos.

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