

COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
HELD ON 11 JANUARY 2017

A meeting of the Newport Harbour Commissioners was held at the offices of ABP, Alexandra Docks, Newport, on Wednesday, 11th Day of January 2017, at 10:00am.

PRESENT

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

APOLOGY

An apology for non-attendance was received from Councillor J.A Guy.

IN ATTENDANCE

Captain M Chidlow (Harbour Master) was in attendance.

MINUTES

3318. It was resolved on a motion by Mr S.P Davison, seconded by Mr A.R Speight, that the minutes of the last meeting of the Commissioners, which took place on 14 December 2016, (a copy of which had been sent to every Commissioner), be taken as read, received and adopted.

DISCLOSURE OF PERSONAL AND PECUNIARY INTERESTS

3319. 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. Mr J.C Neale declared an interest in Agenda item 3282 in relation to the proposed new M4.

HARBOUR MASTER'S REPORT as prepared by ABP

3320. 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 delivered shortly, and will then be immediately installed. The lights required on the SDR Bridge, for which the Council are responsible, have still not been repaired. The slow progress on this matter is now a matter of great concern, and it was agreed that the Harbour Master would make further enquiries as to whether the lights had been received/ steps had been taken to place them on the Bridge. If progress had still not been made at the next meeting further steps would be considered to ensure a swift completion of the job.

b) Trinity House Inspection

Trinity House had undertaken an audit of the lighthouse on 7 December 2016, and their detailed report is expected shortly.

c) East Usk Lighthouse

It was noted that the Sector Light was currently not working. Trinity House has been requested to undertake a repair.

The Chairman had attempted to finalise work arrangements with the contractor selected for the work required to both alleviate flooding at the Lighthouse and clean excess algae. However he had been unable to contact them. It was agreed that, as the work was no longer of a specialist nature, a general builder would be instructed if the original contractor remained uncontactable.

d) Channel Buoys

The Harbour Master reported that No1 buoy had now been re-painted. No2 and No3 buoy will need replacing, and it was agreed to order the two buoys together to facilitate a discount on price as well as allowing both buoys to be placed in situ when Trinity House carried out the 2017 annual inspection.

e) 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 pending a hydrographic survey being undertaken by the berth operator. A decision was made recently to allow a vessel of 165.5m to dock at Liberty, but this was on the basis that any additional risk was alleviated by the use of three rather than two tugs which would remain fast until docking was completed. In addition, the vessel had to be docked starboard-side. The concept of dealing with matters in this way (i.e. by assessing risk and compensating controls) was agreed by the Commissioners and Mr G Jug noted that a detailed Pilot's report following the docking of this specific vessel would assist going forward.

f) Hydrographic Study of River Usk

It was agreed that a report on the hydrographic study, which had been recently received, would be considered at the next Board meeting.

g) Designated Person's Audit

The Designated Person's Report had been received recently and circulated to Commissioners. It was noted that Mr W Heaps would attend the March Board meeting to present his report and give training on the PMSC.

It was also agreed that the Harbour Master/ Secretary would present a report (provisionally set for the June Board meeting) detailing progress made on matters raised in the DP report. The outstanding matter that was raised in previous years' reports concerning licensing for dredging activities was discussed, and it was agreed to consider this further with the Designated Person in March.

h) Church Street Wharf

A limited review of Church Street Wharf had been undertaken when the River's hydrographic study had taken place. Based on this information, the Harbour Master would not be prepared to let the Balmoral or Waverley dock there unless remedial work took place at the wharf. It was agreed that the Harbour Master would inform the owners of these vessels.

At this point Mr G Jug left the meeting.

MATTERS ARISING FROM BOARD MINUTES

Minute 3164 NHC/ ABP Service Level Agreement

The Chairman had discussed this matter with Captain R Lewis and it was hoped that a meeting to consider a draft Agreement could take place in late January/ early February.

Minute 3282 Proposed new M4 Motorway

Mr J. C Neale declared an interest (see above).

Correspondence relating to the forthcoming Public Enquiry was noted. Emails received from the owners of the Balmoral and Waverley were also noted. It was agreed to write to ABP in relation to their proposals for a new route for the proposed M4, which would materially avoid the enclosed docks, as follows:

- In principal the Commissioners support the proposed “ABP” route as this would have a lower impact on marine traffic in the area;
- It was important that the proposed route provides an adequate air draft for all River traffic and potential future River traffic;
- The pillars for the River Bridge should not be in the River;
- There is no increase in navigational risks as they pertain to safety (for example, adequate space to manoeuvre where vessels may need to abort or turn around).

Mr W.L Mitchell referred to potential future operations at Orb Wharf. It was agreed to review and to ascertain whether Orb Wharf had been permanently decommissioned.

At this point Mr W.L Mitchell left the meeting.

Minute 3297(f) Bird Port

REDACTED

It was agreed that a formal procedure would be adopted to ensure adequate space availability at berths/ports in advance of the vessel’s approach, although the responsibility remained with the Port Operator to ensure safe navigation. Captain R Lewis is currently working on the procedure and is liaising with Bird Port to ensure this situation is not repeated.

Minute 3303 SARA

The documents received from SARA were noted.

Minute 3315 ASERA

The Chairman noted that he had completed detailed questionnaires relating to the activities of the Commissioners. He added that there were two areas, Port Waste Management and Ballast Water Convention, which would require review in due course.

JOINT COMMITTEE ON CHANNEL DREDGING

3321. The Harbour Master referred to the Joint Committee meeting that had taken place immediately before this meeting. The Channel remained in a good condition but selected dredging close to No5 and the West Usk buoys would be undertaken in February. The dock outer gates will be replaced this year. The written report on the recent hydrographic study of the River Usk had just been received and would be placed on the Agenda for the next meeting.

At this point Captain R.M McDonald left the meeting.

MONTHLY ACCOUNTS

3322. The accounts for the current month were examined. It was agreed unanimously that the attached accounts amounting to £19,788.87 be paid. In addition it was agreed to pay two additional invoices to Trinity House in the sum of £6,319.12 (Annual Maintenance Agreement and light repairs).

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

3323. The statement of the Commissioner’s revenue was examined. They disclosed monthly bills of £19,957.85 compared to the budget of £11,000.00. Expenditure for the month totalled £16,661.85 compared to the budgeted figure of £10,169.00. Expenditure for the year to date totalled £134,833.44 compared to the budget for the year to date of £138,440.00.

3324. 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

CASH FLOW OUTTURN – ACTUAL TO FORECAST – Q3

3325. The cash flow outturn for the 9 month period ended 31 December 2016 was examined. All questions raised thereon were answered satisfactorily.

CORRESPONDENCE

Hydrographic Studies

3326. A letter relating to proposed increases in costs for future hydrographic studies was noted.

Chairman: _____ Date: _____