

COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
HELD ON 10 JANUARY 2018

A meeting of the Newport Harbour Commissioners was held at the offices of ABP, Alexandra Docks, Newport, on Wednesday, 10th Day of January 2018, at 10:00am

PRESENT

Mr J.C Neale (in the Chair)
Messrs S.P Davison, M.C James, G Jug, A.R Speight, R Steed, and E.J Watts MBE DL.

APOLOGY

Captain R.M McDonald and Councillor J.A Guy have apologised for non-attendance.

IN ATTENDANCE

Captain R Lewis was in attendance.

APPOINTMENTS

The Chairman and the Commissioners congratulated Mr E.J Watts MBE DL on his recent appointments.

MINUTES

3421. It was resolved on a motion by Mr M.C James, seconded by Mr A.R Speight, that the minutes of the last meeting of the Commissioners, which took place on 13 December 2017, (a copy of which had been sent to every Commissioner), be taken as read, received and adopted..

DISCLOSURE OF PERSONAL AND PECUNIARY INTERESTS

3422. 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 3423(c) relating to Liberty Steel Newport Limited.

HARBOUR MASTER'S REPORT as prepared by ABP

3423. The Harbour Master's Report, as prepared by ABP, is attached.

The following further matters were noted:

a) Navigational Lights/ Trinity House

The two "green" lights at Orb Wharf had now been permanently discontinued. A Notice to Mariners has been produced and publicised as appropriate.

b) East Usk Lighthouse

The Chairman and Harbour Master are meeting Trinity House on 17 January 2018 to discuss future arrangements for 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.

e) Proposed dredging at Dallimores

Correspondence relating to the proposed dredging at Dallimores was noted. The work was acceptable but Dallimores will need to produce a bathymetric survey after the work is complete to ensure there was no deterioration in the regime of the River.

f) Pollution

A pollution incident had taken place at the south side of Newport Docks. Heating oil had leaked from a tenant's premises and entered a drain that led to the River. Albeit the tenant did not inform ABP for several hours after the incident, appropriate action was taken and there was positive feedback from the various statutory Agencies. Approximately 500/700 litres of oil was spilled and was dealt with by the polluter and the Tier 2 providers under the oversight of NRW.

g) Designated Person Audit

The PMSC Audit will take place on 18 January at ABP Cardiff. Mr A.R Speight and Mr R Steed will attend with the Chairman and the Harbour Master.

MATTERS ARISING FROM BOARD MINUTES

Minute 3164 NHC/ ABP Service Level Agreement

The Chairman reported that he had written to MCA confirming that the matters raised during their audit in 2016 had now been dealt with bar from the production of an updated SLA with ABP. The Commissioners await the clarification of ABP's position, particularly in relation to the notice period for pilotage services. It was noted that no decision would be made on the pilotage function/ CHA status without the matter being considered further at an NHC Board meeting.

Minute 3282 Proposed new M4 Motorway

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

The Welsh Government has now put forward a revised scheme for the M4 around Newport Docks. The new scheme seeks to mitigate the impact on the Docks but has not been approved by ABP. Should the revised scheme go forward the Commissioners would need to revisit their objection.

Minute 3392 – Wetlands 10th Anniversary

The Chairman and Mr M.C James have discussed the proposed celebrations with the Wetlands management. Mr A Hemmings, Chairman of the Advisory Body, has agreed to prepare a presentation on the East Usk Lighthouse.

Minute 3407 Old Debts/ ABP Charges

There remained one port user with long outstanding debts. A letter had been written to that stakeholder explaining that the Commissioner's terms of trade was strictly 30 days nett. This matter would be revisited if payment was not received shortly.

JOINT COMMITTEE ON CHANNEL DREDGING

3424. The last meeting of the Joint Committee had taken place immediately before this meeting. There had been no dredging in the last three months. Some dredging will be done in the next month to maintain the Channel in good condition.

MONTHLY ACCOUNTS

3425. The accounts for the current month were examined. It was agreed unanimously that the attached accounts amounting to £26,532.69 be paid.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

3426. The statement of the Commissioner's revenue was examined. They disclosed monthly bills of £14,487 compared to the budget of £18,000.00. Expenditure for the month totalled £22,325.56 compared to the budgeted figure £14,901 and £184,061 for the year to date compared to a budget of £191,840.00.

INVESTMENTS

3427. It was confirmed that the amounts at present invested were as follows:

Monmouthshire Building Society £76,047.08

Nat West	£38,879.81
Santander	£25,000.00

CASH FLOW OUTTURN – ACTUAL TO FORECAST – Q3

3428. The cash flow outturn for the 3 month period ended 31 December 2017 was examined. All questions raised thereon were answered satisfactorily.

CORRESPONDENCE

Environment Agency

3429. The Commissioners noted a letter received from Environment Agency dated 5 January relating to water abstraction licences. It was noted that the matter is not relevant to the Commissioners directly but it was agreed to send a copy of the letter to the stakeholders for their information.

Tidal Lagoon Power

3430. An email from Tidal Lagoon Power dated 20 December was noted.

Chairman: _____ Date: _____