

COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
HELD ON 14 JUNE 2017

A meeting of the Newport Harbour Commissioners was held at the offices of ABP, Alexandra Docks, Newport, on Wednesday, 14th Day of June 2017, at 09:30am.

PRESENT

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

APOLOGIES

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Mr G Jug, Captain R.M McDonald and Councillor J.A Guy.

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

MINUTES

3362. It was resolved on a motion by Mr S.P Davison, seconded by Mr W.L Mitchell, that the minutes of the last meeting of the Commissioners, which took place on 10 May 2017, (a copy of which had been sent to every Commissioner), be taken as read, received and adopted.

DISCLOSURE OF PERSONAL AND PECUNIARY INTERESTS

3363. Mr W.L Mitchell declared an interest in Agenda item 3366(d) 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.

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

3364. Mrs M Lock (Auditor) was welcomed to the meeting.

3365. Mrs M Lock presented the annual financial statements of the Commissioners for the year ended 31 March 2017. Several questions were raised relating to the audit of the accounts, all of which were answered satisfactorily. After due consideration, it was agreed unanimously that the annual accounts of the Commissioners for the year ended 31 March 2017 be passed and approved.

HARBOUR MASTER'S REPORT as prepared by ABP

3366. The Harbour Master's Report, as prepared by ABP, is attached.

The following further matters were noted:

a) New Leading Lights

There had been an issue with the electricity supply to the new lights which had led to them being extinguished. Remedial work was now complete.

b) Bird Port

A meeting with Bird Port was still awaited to discuss pilotage and safety issues. The Risk Assessment / SOP and associated flowcharts sent to Bird Port were now fully operational.

There was a detailed discussion on compliance with best practice, and the powers of the Harbour Master were explained. The Chairman noted that it was important to ensure compliance with the Port Marine Safety Code and that the Harbour Master would be asked to make a list of specific issues that caused concern. It was noted that Bird Port had taken heed of many matters previously raised by the Harbour Master/ Pilots/ NHC. Nonetheless, a meeting to discuss these matters was now long overdue and required to be arranged urgently.

c) Pilotage

The meeting discussed correspondence from Cargo Services relating to piloting provision together with the responses from Captain R Lewis. The volume of traffic to and from Bird Port was noted as was the large amount of cancelled bookings for pilots which caused administrative difficulties. The Chairman agreed to discuss the matter with Captain R Lewis with a view to considering the historical number of pilots and pilot movements compared to today's position.

d) Liberty Steel

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

A new survey of the berth had been undertaken on 26 May by Titan. This would require further consideration when other analyses requested were received. Liberty were also undertaking a Layerage Survey on 26 June and it was agreed that a meeting to discuss all the new information should take place thereafter.

MATTERS ARISING FROM BOARD MINUTES

Minute 3164 NHC/ ABP Service Level Agreement

A first draft of the Service Level Agreement had been circulated, but this did not include the proposed terms for pilotage provisions. A further draft would be remitted in due course.

Minute 3282 Proposed new M4 Motorway

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

a) Public Enquiry

It was agreed to continue to maintain a watching brief.

b) Proposed safety allowance on Bridge

The ongoing issue of the height of the bridge over the river and dock and, in particular, the safety buffer was discussed. The Chairman noted the position as it stood in other areas (e.g. River Orwell). He also referenced the contents of the PIANC guidelines (where the relevant safety allowance was defined as 5% of the air draft of a vessel or 2 metres whichever is the greater). The Commissioners concluded that that they would expect the final decision to be in line with industry best practice which was understood to be enshrined in the PIANC guidelines as referred to above.

c) Proposed Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO)

The Commissioners considered the proposed CPO of land adjacent to the River Usk and the Dock, and also covering the waters themselves. It was agreed to formally object to the proposals as they have the potential to stop the Commissioners from undertaking their statutory duties and assuring an open sea. They would also seriously disadvantage the Commissioners financially.

ADVISORY BODY

3367. The membership of the Advisory Body was considered. It was agreed to ask the Advisory Body Chairman for his comments and for the full current list to be considered at the next Board meeting.

3368. An invitation to attend the meetings of the Merchant Navy Welfare Board was given to all Commissioners.

MONTHLY ACCOUNTS

3369. The accounts for the current month were examined. It was agreed unanimously that the attached accounts amounting to £15,610.22 be paid.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

3370. The statement of the Commissioner's revenue was examined. They disclosed monthly bills of £15,184.65 compared to the budget of £18,000.00. Expenditure for the month totalled £15,103.71 compared to the budgeted figure £16,075 and £84,880.07 for the year to date compared to a budget of £85,850.

INVESTMENTS

3371. It was confirmed that the amounts at present invested were as follows:

Monmouthshire Building Society	£76,047.08
Nat West	£3,878.83
Santander	£25,000.00

Chairman: _____ Date: _____