

COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
HELD ON 8 MARCH 2017

A meeting of the Newport Harbour Commissioners was held at the offices of ABP, Alexandra Docks, Newport, on Wednesday, 8th Day of March 2017, at 09:30am.

PRESENT

Mr J.C Neale (in the Chair)

Messrs G Jug, W.L Mitchell, A.R Speight, Captain R.M McDonald and Councillor J.A Guy.

APOLOGIES

An apology for non-attendance was received from Mr S.P Davison.

IN ATTENDANCE

Captain M Chidlow (Harbour Master) and Mr W Heaps (Designated Person) were in attendance.

MINUTES

3334. It was resolved on a motion by Captain R.M McDonald, seconded by Mr G Jug, that the minutes of the last meeting of the Commissioners, which took place on 8 February 2017, (a copy of which had been sent to every Commissioner), be taken as read, received and adopted.

DISCLOSURE OF PERSONAL AND PECUNIARY INTERESTS

3335. Mr W.L Mitchell declared an interest in Agenda item 3329(c) 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

3336. 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 had now been installed and were operational. It was agreed to write to Liberty Steel thanking them for their assistance in this matter.

The lights required on the SDR Bridge, for which Newport City Council are responsible, had also been installed. It was agreed to write to the Council thanking them for dealing with this matter but also 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 had now completed the work required at the Lighthouse. The Chairman had inspected the works and found them to be in good order. Work on the steps would be considered in the future and was not pressing. It was agreed to write to the Wetland management thanking them for their assistance.

c) Liberty Steel

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

Pilots had raised concerns over working arrangements for moorings at the Liberty Steel berth. The Chairman requested the Harbour Master to discuss this with Liberty, and to compare the working practices adopted to those published in the safety systems of the berth.

d) Bird Port & Pilotage

Bird Port had again raised the adequacy of pilotage arrangements, particularly when they required four pilots for “two in two out” arrangements on a single tide. It was noted that a meeting was awaited to discuss these issues. It was agreed that, as CHA, adequate pilotage must be provided. This required discussion with one option being for Bird Port to pay extra for the additional pilotage they require. Generally concerns over the safety of the “two in two out” arrangements were noted and the window of opportunity to perform all the manoeuvres required on one tide was considered. Redacted. The balance of commercial requirements with safety concerns was discussed at length.

Mr W.L Mitchell enquired whether part-time pilots were available to fill any gaps on the roster. The Harbour Master replied that there was a lot of training involved such that part time pilots would not be tenable. Where possible existing pilots were asked to work overtime. It was also noted that there were currently nine Class 1A pilots, the largest number for some time.

e) Oil Pollution

An incident of Oil Pollution had been noted close to Bird Port. NRW were content with the procedures adopted following the reporting of the spill, which was very small.

f) Dallimores

It was noted that Dallimores intended to undertake some dredging work on their wharf.

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

The Public Enquiry had now commenced although marine issues were yet to be discussed. It was agreed to inform Commissioners when the dates of the discussions relevant to the Board were to take place. Captain R.M McDonald agreed to represent the Commissioners if required.

Minute 3320(f) Hydrographic Survey of the River Usk

It was noted that the River remained in good condition and that siltation remained minimal. The results of the survey indicated that a detailed review once every 24 months remained adequate. The report afforded to the Commissioners should be refined in future years and the Commissioners will have input into the areas reported.

REPORT OF THE DESIGNATED PERSON

3337. Mr W Heaps was welcomed to the meeting.

Mr W Heaps presented the report of the Designated Person. He highlighted twelve areas that the Commissioners should consider (see detailed report). The key item highlighted was the requirement for a Marine Safety Plan, setting out in writing the key elements of how the Commissioners address safety in their jurisdiction.

Mr W Heaps referred to the MCA Health Check that took place in 2015. He was pleased to note the engagement of the Commissioners with their stakeholders following the Health Check. He also noted that it was good that Commissioners had been available for the audit in 2016 and that it would be helpful if this continued going forward.

The Chairman thanked the Designated Person for his detailed and constructive report. The Commissioners were also grateful for him agreeing to undertake training on the new version of the Port Marine Safety Code after this meeting. It was agreed that there would be a further discussion of the PMSC at the next meeting of the Commissioners.

MONTHLY ACCOUNTS

3338. The accounts for the current month were examined. It was agreed unanimously that the attached accounts amounting to £16,031.13 be. It was also agreed that the annual subscription to BPA be paid. It was also agreed to increase the levy for the Mission to Seafarers to £5/ vessel.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

3339. The statement of the Commissioner's revenue was examined. They disclosed monthly bills of £18,930.09 compared to the budget of £14,810.00. Expenditure for the month totalled £13,487.20 compared to the budgeted figure of £3,475.00. Expenditure for the year to date totalled £157,632.29 compared to the budget for the year to date of £157,290.

INVESTMENTS

3340. 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 FORECAST 17/18

3341. The draft cash flow forecast for the year ended 31 March 2018 was considered. It was agreed to consider further once the Channel Dredging liability was available.

CORRESPONDENCE

3342. The Port of Newport Master Plan (2015 – 2035) was noted.

Chairman: _____

Date: _____