

COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
HELD ON 14 MARCH 2018

A meeting of the Newport Harbour Commissioners was held at the offices of ABP, Alexandra Docks, Newport, on Wednesday, 14th Day of March 2018, at 09:30am

PRESENT

Mr G Jug (in the Chair)

Messrs S.P Davison, M.C James, A.R Speight, R Steed, E.J Watts MBE DL, Captain R.M McDonald and
Councillor J.A Guy

APOLOGY

Mr J.C Neale has apologised for non-attendance.

IN ATTENDANCE

Captain R Lewis was in attendance.

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

MINUTES

3442. 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 14 February 2018, (a copy of which had been sent to every Commissioner), be taken as read, received and adopted save that the word "compliance" be added to Minute 3433(d) at the appropriate place (4th line).

DISCLOSURE OF PERSONAL AND PECUNIARY INTERESTS

3443. Mr E.J Watts MBE DL declared an interest in Minute 3445 Mission to Seafarers by virtue of being the Chairman of that organisation.

HARBOUR MASTER'S REPORT as prepared by ABP

3444. The Harbour Master's Report, as prepared by ABP, is attached.

The following further matters were noted:

a) East Usk Lighthouse

Further to last month's Board meeting, a consultation paper noting options on the future of the East Usk Lighthouse had been sent to stakeholders. Responses had been requested by 31 March.

b) Aborted dock entrance

The Harbour Master noted that a vessel had to abort sailing into the enclosed dock as it touched the mud on the eastern side of the approach. The ship had been outside the markings denoting the dredged channel. It had then entered the dock on a later tide and had not been damaged. The Harbour Master explained the reasons that had contributed to the error (language barriers on board, the set-up of the Bridge that doesn't allow a pilot to view all navigational aids at the same time etc). Mr S.P Davison noted that such incidents had been rare in the past but there had now been two in quick succession. It was noted that the requirement to report matters had become much stricter in the past few years leading to more reportable events. It was also noted that Bridge Team Management Training events would be used to counter the issues noted above. MAIB had been informed of this matter, but had not replied with any requirements.

c) Safe Access to/ from vessels to land

The recent pilot fatality In Lisbon was noted with sadness as was the fatality of a pilot in London last year. Safe access was being accorded a high priority in the industry. With regard to local matters, the Commissioners support the pilot's judgment whether at any time it is safe to board or disembark from a vessel. Where there has been any issue arising at docking a vessel it will always be ensured that the matter has been rectified before departure. Also, the pilot cutter always obtains confirmation from the ship's Master that all is in order for safe access before the ship arrives. Where problems arise a pilot will report to ABP who will then report to MCA (the authority in this area). If the Commissioners become aware of specific issues they may also report direct to MCA. Where other third parties are involved, any problems should be reported to MCA also. It was understood that MCA were now becoming more proactive.

MATTERS ARISING FROM BOARD MINUTES

Minute 3164 NHC/ ABP Service Level Agreement

This matter was again deferred.

Minute 3282 Proposed new M4 Motorway

Captain R.M McDonald referred to the recent meeting at the M4 Public Enquiry (Mr M Bates) and to the subsequent exchange of letters. He considered that the meeting had been positive and that Welsh Government had understood the issues leading to the Commissioner's objection concerning the CPO. The Commissioners agreed unanimously that the draft letter received from Welsh Government was sufficient, when the final signed version was received, to allow the Commissioner's objection to the proposals to be removed.

MISSION TO SEAFARERS

Mr E J Watts MBE DL declared an interest in this matter.

3445. The meeting considered the current arrangements where they ask those paying Harbour Dues to pay a contribution toward the Mission and the Sailor's Society. It was agreed to discuss this further at the April Board meeting.

MONTHLY ACCOUNTS

3446. The accounts for the current month were examined. It was agreed unanimously that the attached accounts amounting to £18,870.81 be paid. It was also agreed that the 2017 dredging contribution of £56,576.85 be paid. It was agreed that £10,000 could be transferred from the Deposit to the Current account if required.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

3447. The statement of the Commissioner's revenue was examined. They disclosed monthly bills of £9,152.52 compared to the budget of £18,000.00. Income may have been affected by the planned replacement of the Dock Gates. Expenditure for the month totalled £15,881.33 compared to the budgeted figure £3,825 and £204,422.50 for the year to date compared to a budget of £199,590.00.

INVESTMENTS

3448. 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 FORECAST 18/19

3449. The draft cash flow forecast for the year ended 31 March 2019 was considered. The Secretary noted that the draft showed an anticipated break-even taking account of costs such as the modernisation of the East Usk Lighthouse, the hydrographic study of the “whole” river and the potential purchase of a buoy. It was agreed to formally adopt the budget in April, when the document is finalised. It was agreed to ask UKD for a quotation so that it can be considered in advance of the work being undertaken.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

3450. Training Trips

It was agreed that it would be useful for Commissioners to tour the enclosed docks. The Harbour Master agreed to drive the Commissioners on a tour of the docks immediately after the April meeting. It was also agreed to arrange another training trip aboard a vessel to see the berths, buoys, channel etc from the sea. The Secretary will report on this in April.

3451. Queens Award for Industry

Mr E.J Watts MBE DL noted that applications for the Queen’s Award for Industry were available and asked Commissioners if they were aware of any worthy candidates.

Chairman: _____ Date: _____