

COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
HELD ON 9 NOVEMBER 2016

A meeting of the Newport Harbour Commissioners was held at the Mission to Seafarers, Alexandra Docks, Newport, on Wednesday, 9th Day of November 2016, 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 (*part of meeting*).

APOLOGIES

An apology was received from Mr S.P Davison.

IN ATTENDANCE

Captain M Chidlow (Harbour Master) was in attendance.

MINUTES

3295. It was resolved on a motion by Mr A.R Speight, seconded by Captain R.M McDonald, that the minutes of the last meeting of the Commissioners, which took place on 11 November 2016, (a copy of which had been sent to every Commissioner), be taken as read, received and adopted.

DISCLOSURE OF PERSONAL AND PECUNIARY INTERESTS

3296. Mr W.L Mitchell declared an interest in Agenda item 3297(b) 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

3297. The Harbour Master's Report, as prepared by ABP, is attached.

The following further matters were noted:

a) Leading Lights

The Harbour Master noted that the Leading Lights had malfunctioned and would require replacement. They had last been replaced approximately 6/7 years ago. A general discussion took place and it was agreed that the Lights required replacement as soon as possible. A 10-year guarantee for the lights and the wiring should be sought. After discussion it was agreed unanimously that the work should be undertaken in accordance with a quote for £7,320 plus VAT for the Lights and £1,363 for the labour. The Harbour Master thanked Liberty Steel for their assistance in this matter.

b) Trinity House Inspection

The rectification of the light on the Southern Distributor Road Bridge had still not been undertaken by the Council, although it appeared that some action is now in hand. The Harbour Master has agreed to advise the Council on the appropriate light to purchase.

c) East Usk Lighthouse

A "vandal-proof" padlock is to be fixed to the entrance to the Lighthouse by Trinity House.

It was noted that the work to alleviate flooding at the Lighthouse and the cleaning of excess algae was yet to be completed. It was noted that such work could be carried out at this time of the year. The Chairman agreed to look into this issue, including reviewing the Method Statement and finalising the price of the work.

d) Liberty Steel

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

e) Hydrographic Study

Liberty Steel had not asked to be enjoined in the hydrographic study of the river currently taking place. Therefore, the current restrictions on vessels over the agreed LOA parameter would remain in place.

The Chairman requested that the surveyor furnish the Commissioners with a short report detailing the findings. Commissioners could then consider what, if any, action should take place and whether a time period of 24 months between surveys remained appropriate.

At this point Councillor J Guy joined the meeting.

f) Bird Port

The Harbour Master reported that discussions concerning tugs as they related to Bird Port when several movements on the same tide took place were ongoing.

g) Balmoral/ Waverley

It was agreed that the wharf used by the Waverley would also be briefly surveyed as part of the river survey to ascertain the current condition and whether a more detailed survey would need to be provided by the Berth Operator.

h) Sand Dredger

It was noted that a sand dredger had recently struggled to berth at Dallimores, mainly due to siltation there. The Harbour Master would discuss this issue with the local management.

i) Towage Guidelines

Draft updated Towage Guidelines had been given to Commissioners for comment in advance of them being remitted for public consultation. Mr G Jug noted that the new guidelines were more specific than the previous document, and this was to be welcomed. The relevant parameters were now measured in LOA rather than the GT of a vessel. He questioned the proposed treatment of certain vessels. For example, a vessel of 90m LOA was to be treated the same as a vessel of 130m LOA for towage purposes which seemed incorrect, placing a high level of costs on a relatively small vessel. There also appeared an error in the table with respect of the parameters for Bow Thrusters. Further, the tables indicated different guidelines for Barry, Cardiff and Newport – was it correct to treat the enclosed docks at Newport in the same way as the River Usk? *[Post Note: It was later noted that the River Usk was included separately in the report]*. It was agreed that any Commissioner with comments on the draft new towage guidelines would furnish them to the Clerk by 14 November whereupon the Commissioner's comments would be remitted.

MATTER ARISING FROM BOARD MINUTES

Minute 3164 NHC/ ABP Service Level Agreement

This matter was deferred until the next meeting of the Board. The Chairman agreed to contact ABP requesting that the matter be prioritized.

Minute 3282 Proposed new M4 Motorway

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

The meeting considered the recent email from ABP concerning their proposed route and, in particular, the proposed height of the bridge over the River Usk. It was agreed that the Commissioners needed to consider the requirements of all its stakeholders (including, for example, Church Wharf and the Waverley/ Balmoral). It was agreed to confirm to ABP that it should go ahead with its consultation with Commissioners also discussing matters with its stakeholders thereafter.

Minute 3283 Tidal Lagoon Cardiff

It is understood that pre-lagoon work and modelling was now taking place. The Newport lagoon appeared now to be on the “back-burner”, but it was important to note that the Swansea and Cardiff lagoons alone could have a fundamental effect on the regime of the tides at Newport (together they could reduce the top of the tide by some 0.5/0.7m).

MATTER ARISING FROM ADVISORY BODY

Security at the Harbour of Newport

3298. The Advisory Body had expressed concern that, although there were security procedures at the enclosed dock, this was less evident at the River Berths, particularly in relation to entry into the UK from the sea. The meeting discussed this issue and it was noted that South East Wales is one security area with respect to Transec. Each individual facility was tasked to have its own security plan.

MONTHLY ACCOUNTS

3299. The accounts for the current month were examined. It was agreed unanimously that the attached accounts amounting to £3,843.03 be paid.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

3300. The statement of the Commissioner’s revenue was examined. They disclosed monthly bills of £13,064.37 compared to the budget of £14,810.00. Expenditure for the month totalled £3,346.61 compared to the budgeted figure of £15,975.00. Expenditure for the year to date totalled £109,883.09 compared to the budget for the year to date of £123,055.00.

INVESTMENTS

3301. It was confirmed that the amounts at present invested were as follows:

Monmouthshire Building Society	£75,490.52
Nat West	£3,878.36
Santander	£25,365.73

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Expenses

3302. The Chairman noted that Commissioners were entitled to claim expenses, especially when they attended meetings outside Newport on Commissioner business.

SARA

3303. It was agreed to request a report from SARA in similar vein to the comprehensive document that they remitted to the Commissioners in 2015.

Balmoral

3304. Councillor J.A Guy noted that the company that operates the Balmoral is seeking funds in the sum of £300,000 for works required on the vessel.

Chairman: _____

Date: _____