

CARDIFF BAY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 13th September, 2017 at Cardiff International White Water.

Present:

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| Mr. A. Parker (Chairman) | |
| Mrs. C. Dimond (Vice-Chairman) | Cardiff Flood Action Committee |
| Mrs. N. De Longhi | Natural Resources Wales |
| Mr. N. Ajax Lewis MBE | Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales |
| Commodore D.H. Cairncross | Cardiff Bay Yacht Club |
| Mr. C. Michael | RSPB |

Also present:

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| Mr. A. Vye-Parminter | Harbour Master, Cardiff Harbour Authority |
| Mr. P. Gough | Natural Resources Wales |
| Mrs. K. Bowen | Vale of Glamorgan Council (Democratic and Scrutiny Services Officer) |

(a) Apologies for Absence –

These were received from Councillor J. Bird (Vale of Glamorgan Council), Mr. S. Clarke (Chief Executive Officer, Canoe Wales), Mrs. S. Jones (Marina Manager), Mr. J. Maidment (Cardiff Harbour Authority), Councillor M. Michael (Cardiff Council), Mrs. S. Newbold (British Marine Federation and Wales Yachting Association),

(b) Minutes –

AGREED – T H A T the minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 21st June, 2017 be approved as a correct record.

(c) Matters Arising –

The Vice-Chairman referred to the report on ground water monitoring, in particular to the de-watering wells in Grangetown and requested that the item be agendaed for the March meeting of the Committee.

(d) Navigational Safety: Cardiff Harbour Authority –

Mr. A. Vye-Parminter referred to the following:

- Dredging of the Castle stop, its approaches and Taff Mead had been completed successfully to allow safe operations for hopefully another three to four years;
- Over the summer the Harbour Management team had worked with South Wales Police regarding speeding on the rivers. This had been successful as a deterrent and the Harbour Authority would be looking to continue this next season;
- Successful water based events were now complete with British Water skiing having taken place the previous week and ESS and the Harbour Festival over the Bank Holiday and British water skiing ;
- The team had featured on “Cardiff Bay lives” on BBC with positive exposure for the Harbour showing the work going on behind the scenes.

(e) Progress Report: Cardiff Harbour Authority –

Cardiff Bay Wetland Reserve had been awarded Green Flag status along with Cardiff Barrage and Flat Holm.

On Tuesday, 5th September, the Barrage Café was delivered to site. Works to secure the structure, electrically connect and furnish the café would continue with a fit out completion date of 12th October.

AGREED – T H A T the update reports be noted and congratulations extended to the officers for the good work being undertaken.

(f) Presentation from Mr. P. Gough, Principal Fisheries Advisor, Natural Resources Wales, on the State of the Fisheries in the Bay –

Mr. Gough provided the Committee with a slide presentation and referred to, in the first instance, the historical issues in and around the Taff. He advised Committee of the fish monitoring programme and the results being received, which were depicted in pictures to illustrate the monitoring undertaken. Public money had been invested to improve the fish supply in the River Taff and he could confirm that as far back as 1861 the Government had then been worried about the salmon population and at that time had appointed a Salmon Fisheries Commission. Industrialisation around the Taff had led to issues of water quality and, in particular, the people population and factories earlier in the century had caused a considerable number of issues for the water quality, with the presentation providing statistical information as a result. By 1919 the number of issues had been reduced and stricter water controls had been introduced and, in particular, the end of the industrious factories had taken place.

Following the Barrage proposals in the 1990s monitoring programmes were put in place and good returns are continually being received. To date a number of fish passes have been renewed and some established with monitoring identifying that the salmon use the fish passes well, although sea trout have more difficulty.

For monitoring purposes radio transmitters have also been fitted to the salmon and a number of lessons have been learned from the fish swimming up the Taff, to advise how the Barrage should operate. A fish counter system had also been developed as outlined by the Cardiff Barrage Act.

Good relationships continued to be maintained between Natural Resources Wales and Cardiff Harbour Authority, and good salmon stock continues to address sustainability in the Taff.

Some of the threats referred Mr Gough advised referred to the fact that it was not a perfect habitat, and as such affected the salmon numbers also high climate change with high temperatures actually affected the fish from spawning. Marine conditions were therefore profoundly important. A continuous problem with litter was also an issue, but considerable work was being undertaken to try to reduce the .

Following the presentation the Chairman took the opportunity to thank Mr. Gough for a thoroughly interesting and detailed account of the work being undertaken to ensure the increase in fish migration within the Taff.

(g) Update Report: Natural Resources Wales –

Ms. De Longhi advised that there were no issues or pollution incidents to report.

(h) Any Other Business –

It was suggested that the World Fish Migration Day hosted with Harbour events be encouraged to be held again in April 2018 and that publicity for the event be made as wide as possible.

The Chairman referred to a recent conference that he had attended on developing the Well-being Plan which included reference to encouraging young people to consider sustainable issues and, in particular, he felt that the work of Natural Resources Wales and the Cardiff Harbour Authority should be promoted. The Chairman agreed to forward the details of the Plan and the conference to the officers of Cardiff Harbour Authority and Natural Resources Wales.

(i) Date of Next Meeting –

The date of the next meeting was noted as Wednesday, 6th December, 2017 at 5.15 p.m. at Cardiff International White Water.

