

CARDIFF BAY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of Annual Meeting held on 6th November, 2019.

Present: Mr. A. Parker (Member in a personal capacity), Councillor L. Burnett (Vale of Glamorgan Council), Mr. C. Michael (RSPB), Captain R. Lewis (Harbour Master), W. Boland (Cardiff Bay Yacht Club), Mr. N. Ajax-Lewis (Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales), Mr. H. Kelsall (Assistant Marina Manager), Mr. S. Ellery and T. Gifford (Deputy Harbour Master) and Mrs. K. Bowen (Principal Democratic and Scrutiny Services Officer).

Also present: Mr. A. Ernest (Penarth Tourism and Visitor Association).

(a) Apologies for Absence –

These were received from Mrs. C. Dimond (Cardiff Flood Action Committee), Mr. J. Maidment (Cardiff Harbour Authority), Councillor C. Wild (Cardiff Council), Mr. A. Vye-Parminter (Cardiff Harbour Authority), Mrs. N. DeLongi (Natural Resources Wales), Councillor M. Michael (Cardiff Council), Mr. C. Pain (Cardiff Bay Yacht Club) and Councillor N. Humphries (Penarth Town Council).

(b) Appointment of Chairman –

Mr. A. Parker was appointed Chairman for the current municipal year.

(c) Appointment of Vice-Chairman –

Mrs. C. Dimond was appointed Vice-Chairman for the current municipal year.

(d) Timetable of Meetings –

The report proposed future meetings for the Committee, it being noted that in 2018 the Committee had agreed that for two out of the four meetings agendas and reports would be forwarded to all Members of the Committee via e-mail with comments on the documents being collated and disseminated by the Clerk. However, during the discussion it was agreed that the 18th December, 2019 suggested meeting date be moved to a date in January 2020 with the Clerk being requested to agree a date with all parties via e-mail. All Members to also be asked for their views of two of the four dates in the report being undertaken by e-mail.

It was subsequently

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AGREED – T H A T:

- 18th December, 2019 suggested date be re-arranged for a date in January 2020.
- Wednesday, 1st April, 2020 be confirmed.
- Wednesday, 1st July, 2020 Annual General Meeting be confirmed to be held at the Conference Room, Harbour Authority Offices, Queen Alexandra Dock, Cargo Road, Cardiff, CF10 4LY.

(e) Navigational Safety – Cardiff Harbour Authority –

Mr. T. Gifford representing Cardiff Harbour Authority provided an update on recent events advising that dredging of the outer harbour and approach channel had been delayed as a result of the licensing process. It was noted that approximately 200 tonnes had been removed from the Bay with 85% of this being natural debris.

Annual maintenance of the Barrage would take place over the next three months and it was noted that Bridge 3 would be re-painted in April with the work taking approximately 12 weeks.

Mr. S. Ellery referred to an invasion of an invasive species namely the Asian Clam which had been discovered by scientists from the Welsh Museum in September 2019 in the wetlands area. There was, however, no other habitat to be found and it was only the second place in Wales where such species had been discovered and the only other area being Neath/Port Talbot although it had been noted that this had now been cleared and/or had died out. It was further noted that the species was also quite widespread in the Norfolk Broads. The species preferred a gravelly setting and spread quite readily. The Harbour Authority was looking to limit the spread by the use of cleaning and drying equipment on a regular basis.

Members were advised that the clams could impact on the environment and affect water intakes and pipes, it was a problem that Cardiff Harbour Authority had to try to minimise and work would be ongoing.

AGREED – T H A T the above report be noted.

(f) Natural Resources Wales Update –

Although Mrs. N. DeLonghi was unable to be present at the meeting a written briefing note had been forwarded to the Clerk for Member's information as outlined below:

Summer 2019 Dissolved Oxygen Levels

NRW received regular notifications from Cardiff Harbour Authority regarding Dissolved Oxygen sags within the Bay, however they were generally localised to

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the deep water channels and did not affect the overall water quality within the bay. The aeration system was in operation during these times.

Ferry Road Landfill

For a number of years there has been an ongoing issue concerning an intermittent polluting discharge in Cardiff Bay from an outfall located below the Watermark building, Ferry Road.

The source of the intermittent discharge had been the subject of an ongoing investigation, with the source previously suspected as leachate from the former Cardiff Council, Ferry Road Landfill site.

NRW has further progressed the investigation by facilitating a meeting with Cardiff Council and Cardiff Bay Retail Park agents to coordinate the final drainage survey – necessary to determine the route cause(s) of the polluting discharge.

The polluting discharge had been tested and there was evidence of leachate, raw sewerage and hydrocarbons and the NRW believed, from initial investigations, that there were a number of misconnections. This aspect of the investigation would run concurrently to the leachate investigation.

As the investigation had concluded, there would be a number of remedial actions and works required to stop the polluting discharge which would include drainage cleansing and misconnection repairs.

Cardiff Harbour Authority and NRW Pollution Prevention Campaign

There had been a number of reports concerning oil discharges into the bay at a number of locations, however the sources had yet to be identified. NRW had been working closely with CHA to address the issue and would be conducting a risk based and targeted pollution prevention campaign visiting boat clubs, commercial boat operators and adjacent industrial units to provide advice and guidance on oil and fuel storage. If during the course of the visits NRW identified that there was an unacceptable risk of surface water or groundwater pollution, NRW would intervene and ensure that the individual, operator or business take action to prevent surface water or groundwater pollution.

The site visits were due to commence mid November.

Cardiff Bay Dredging Operations

NRW had received a notification request regarding Cardiff Bay Barrage Act 1993 Schedule 3 approval to dredge within the Bay and the approach channel and inner harbour. The request was being assessed subject to CHA providing further information regarding details of the dredge operations, timings and location marked on a plan. Sufficient evidence and relevant data to demonstrate that any adverse effect on integrity of Severn Estuary EMS could be avoided.

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AGREED – T H A T the above report be noted.

(g) International Sports Village Development Strategy – Cardiff Cabinet Report – 10th October, 2019 –

The report had been placed on the agenda for the Committee's information, it being noted that any queries that any Member had in relation to the Strategy could be referred to the Clerk who would obtain a response and reply accordingly.

(h) Any Other Business –

Councillor Burnett drew attention to the proposal to extend the e-Bike scheme into the Vale of Glamorgan which would be sponsored by the Vale and would be a positive asset for sustainability. Councillor Burnett agreed to provide a further progress update on the scheme to a future meeting.

Following a query from a Member regarding the Penarth Headland Link proposals Councillor Burnett advised that a report had recently been presented to the Vale of Glamorgan Council's Cabinet which could be circulated to all present for their information.

A Member requested whether the Cardiff Harbour Authority could consider the use of a wildlife friendly mower for the grass on the Barrage with the officer responding that he would look into this and report back appropriately.

Mr. Ajax-Lewis referred to a Strategy that was being undertaken regarding invasive non species referring to the quantity of Knotweed within the area. The representative from the Cardiff Harbour Authority advised that Knotweed tended to flow down in spades when there were high river flows. It had not been an issue on the edge of the Bay as yet. Mr. Gifford advised that the CHA had a contract in place for spraying twice a year and it appeared to be reducing.

At the end of the meeting, the Chairman reminded all present that if they had any queries or issues they wished to raise to contact the Clerk for placing on future agendas.

(i) Date of Next Meeting –

It was agreed that the Clerk would contact all Members by e-mail regarding a date in January 2020.