

CARDIFF BAY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of a Remote Annual Meeting held on 26th October, 2022.

Present: S. Jones (Boatfolk Marinas Ltd), C. Kingston (Waterfront Partners), C. Michael (RSPB), A. Parker, Councillor N. Thomas (Penarth Town Council), Councillor M.R. Wilson (Vale of Glamorgan Council) and M. Thomas (Clerk / Democratic and Scrutiny Services Officer Vale of Glamorgan Council),

Also present: A. Ernest (Penarth Tourism and Visitor Association), D. Hall (Cardiff Harbour Authority), Councillor M. Lewis (Cardiff County Council), A. Michael (Penarth Headland Link Charity) and A. Vye-Parminter (Cardiff Harbour Authority).

(a) Appointment of Chair -

Councillor M.R. Wilson was appointed Chair for the current Municipal year.

(b) Appointment of Vice-Chair -

A. Parker was appointed Vice-Chair for the current Municipal year.

(c) Apologies for Absence –

These were received from Councillor J. Burke-Davies (Cardiff County Council), F. Hourahine (Natural Resources Wales) and C. Dimond (Cardiff Flood Action Committee).

(d) Minutes of the Meeting held on 16th March, 2022 –

There being no comments, it was subsequently

AGREED – T H A T the minutes of the Meeting held on 16th March, 2022 be approved as a correct record.

(e) Timetable of Meetings.

The report proposed the timetable for future meetings of the Committee, with Members asked to consider the timetable and to make any amendments as required:

DATE	VENUE
Wednesday, 26 th October, 2022 at 5 p.m. (Annual Meeting)	Remote meeting (via MS Teams application)

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Wednesday, 4 th January, 2023 at 5 p.m.	Remote meeting (via MS Teams application)
Wednesday, 22 nd March, 2023 at 5 p.m.	Remote meeting (via MS Teams application)
Wednesday, 3 rd May 2023 at 5 p.m.	Remote meeting (via MS Teams application)

The Chair suggested to the Committee having either all the meetings held online or having a possible mix of online and face to face meetings or even a 'hybrid' approach.

Other participants expressed similar thoughts on the timetable of meetings, with the possibility of having alternate face to face and remote meetings thereby having the benefits and advantages of both.

Members raised the issue about the 'front loading' and closeness of the Committee meetings in the first part of 2023. The Chair explained this was in part due to the delay caused by the death of Queen Elizabeth II which had impacted the scheduling of the Annual Meeting, therefore having a 'knock-on' effect on the timings of subsequent meetings and the timetable also reflected the need to hold meetings within the remainder of the current Municipal Year.

The Vice-Chair suggested that it would be advantageous for the Committee to hold its scheduled meeting in May 2023 at Cardiff Bay, involving a boat trip of the area, for Committee Members and attendees to have a first-hand view of the area covered by the Committee.

Councillor Lewis asked where the meetings of the Committee would be held when face to face. It was explained that these could be held at either the Associated British Ports Offices, Cardiff International White Water Centre or the Cardiff Harbour Authority Offices.

The Chair asked the Clerk / Democratic and Scrutiny Services Officer to look at the use of remote / face to face / hybrid means in order to hold meetings of the Committee, as well as scoping potential locations to hold meetings physically, and to report back to the Committee at the next meeting, scheduled in January 2023, which the Chair suggested should be held remotely.

It was subsequently

AGREED – T H A T the Timetable of Meetings be revisited, at the next meeting of the Committee, 4th January, 2023.

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(f) Navigational Safety and Progress Report(s) – Cardiff Harbour Authority (CHA) –

Andrew Vye-Parminter, representing Cardiff Harbour Authority (CHA), updated the Committee on the following:

Navigation

- The Outer Harbour and Approach Channel Dredging was completed last month successfully under the new dredging contract;
- CHA officers had been working with colleagues in Housing Development and Regeneration regarding the planned new pedestrian and cycle bridge across the Taff which formed part of the wider Marl redevelopment plans. Public consultation would open in the second week of November.

Following the update, the Chair asked if there had been any issues with the dredging. It was explained that there had been no issues with the new dredging providers, and they had utilised the same method as had previously been used to dredge these areas, which had been successfully completed within 10 days.

David Hall (CHA) subsequently provided the Committee with a general update, including:

Barrage

- The extended Spring and Summer dry spell had created significant challenges to Barrage Operations, as well as the need for imposing restrictions to mitigate these. All locking restrictions had now been removed, as flows had returned to the rivers concerned;
- In September, the Liam Gallagher Concert and October the Half Marathon took place on and over the Barrage. The marathon went well and looked great on the highlights show;
- The Sluice maintenance campaign was nearing completion with Sluice 5 being repaired together with some works on Sluice 3 hydraulic cylinders, which had been identified during the maintenance inspections;
- With some potential filming on site and a fishing competition planned CHA would move into Lock maintenance in January to avoid any potential impacts. CHA planned to change a hydraulic cylinder in Lock 1 during this maintenance campaign.

Following the update, Stuart Jones (Boatfolk Marinas Ltd) wished to thank the team involved with maintaining the Barrage during the summertime for their work in dealing with the low river flows, which had resulted in no major concerns being raised by Marina customers.

Councillor Thomas raised concerns about rising seas levels and their impact on Cardiff Bay and the surrounding areas and asked about any scoping exercises undertaken by the relevant authorities in this area to help 'future-proof' the Barrage and the Bay. Stuart Jones (Boatfolk Marinas Ltd) explained that half a

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metre had been added on to the Barrage crest height in order to handle rising sea levels due to climate change (which had a 100-year design life); although other areas outside of the Barrage (i.e. Cardiff Docks) could still be impacted. David Hall (CHA) added that Cardiff County Council had in place a long-term flood defence strategy, which had been approved by Natural Resource Wales and was regularly monitored and updated.

It was subsequently

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

(g) Natural Resources Wales Update –

An update had been provided to the Committee from Natural Resources Wales (NRW) which highlighted the following areas of interest:

Dissolved Oxygen (DO) Levels

Due to the recent drought conditions Cardiff Harbour Authority (CHA) had been notifying NRW on a weekly basis as to the status of the Bay. Between April and August average DO compliance was 98.12% with the highest water temperature recorded on 14th August at 24.53 °C. The temperature had since subsided, which had given rise to more stable conditions. The oxygenation barge and aeration system were still in operation at this time.

Pollution Incidents and Investigations

As reported previously, intermittent pollution had been discharging into Cardiff Bay from an outfall located near the Watermark Building, Ferry Road. Analysis of the discharge found that it contained leachate, very likely coming from the former Ferry Road landfill. Cardiff Council, the owners of the landfill, continued to enact measures to address the source and pathway of the leachate, as set out in an action plan agreed with NRW. Since the last update NRW had undertaken a site visit to assess the progress of actions assigned to Cardiff Council through a Compliance Assessment Report (CAR). Cardiff Council had procured an external landfill engineering consultant to provide technical advice on their engineering upgrade, investigation, and monitoring upgrade work. The majority of these works had been completed or were near completion.

All investigations completed by Cardiff Council to date indicated the main source of the leachate entering the outfall located by the Watermark flats which fed into Cardiff Bay. The solution for the leachate pumping automation system was identified and the works scheduled to start at end of September.

NRW reviewed the Hydro-geological Risk Assessment (HRA) submitted by Cardiff Council and agreed actions with the Council, one of which was the installation of the new groundwater monitoring points to increase groundwater monitoring to improve understanding of the landfill's impact within the wider environment. Procurement of this work had been completed, with the locations of the boreholes

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agreed, and the specification was in the process of being finalised. It was estimated that the works would start within 2-3 weeks.

Hinkley Point C Nuclear Power Station

NRW had received a Marine Licence application from EDF in March 2021. In May of 2022 this Licence for dredged material to be deposited off Cardiff had been withdrawn. Further updates had been provided to NRW regarding the situation whereby a request was made to the Environment Agency (EA) to remove a condition within the environmental permit, which dictated the need to install an Acoustic Fish Deterrent system on the cooling system for HPC. This was initially rejected by the EA and was later appealed against. After an investigation and support from the Secretary of State this appeal was refused, and the condition stood.

The Barrage Fish-Pass

Data had been downloaded from the Barrage fish-pass monitoring equipment on 1st September, 2022 to establish the recorded numbers of fish passing through by that date. The data had been validated and extrapolated to show that 77 salmonids (sized 55cm or greater) had passed across the barrage into the Bay. As stated previously the monitoring equipment used to collect fish count data was still running on a back-up system. The automated counting system had now been repaired during the yearly maintenance.

Drought and Prolonged Dry Weather Conditions

During the prolonged dry weather experienced across Wales this summer, CHA had been in constant communication with NRW regarding river flows, dissolved oxygen and water temperatures surrounding the Bay. The lowest reported water levels in the Bay were during the week commencing 25th July, 2022 where Bay levels reached 4.492m AOD. During this period of low flows and reduced water levels, a rise in dissolved oxygen (DO) instability was seen. Requests for the reduction to flows within the dock feeder were agreed, however, a malfunction with ABP's saline pumps needed to pump saline water to maintain dock levels meant the dock feeder was reopened. NRW would have liked for a reduction to the dock feeder to have come sooner during the dry weather to help maintain good water quality in the bay. This issue had now subsided with recent rainfall. The Bay level currently sat at 4.756m AOD with a Bay level target of 4.7m AOD. With the move to cooler months, further stability was expected in both Bay levels and DO.

Penarth Headland Link

NRW was made aware of plans to progress the previously rejected Penarth Headland Link project and would like to be kept informed of its renewed progress. NRW welcomed an update on where the project was at this time, particularly with regards to planning, and requested that NRW were engaged and consulted early in the process.

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Regarding the above update, Anthony Ernest (Penarth Tourism and Visitor Association) referred to the previous concerns raised about the potential dumping of dredged materials by EDF near to Cardiff Bay, and stated that it was good news that the related licence had been withdrawn and the appeal to remove a condition of the environmental permit had been refused.

The Vice-Chair referred to the Barrage fish-pass, and the good news around the growing fish population using it.

Councillor Thomas referred to the potential dumping or pollution of nearby rivers i.e. the Ely and the Taff and its impact, with the Vice-Chair raising the issue of dumping near Hadfield Road and Anthony Ernest cited the pollution incident at Ferry Road, and asked if the Committee could have a further update from NRW on whether the relevant works had been completed. David Hall (CHA) stated that work on these areas were also being undertaken as part of the Cardiff Council Drainage Project, and further information on this could be provided to the Committee.

Alun Michael, the representative from the Penarth Headland Link Charity, informed the Committee that he had been in contact with a senior director at NRW already concerning the Penarth Headland Link project, and that they would be engaged with the project going forward. He was also keen to speak to the representative from NRW on the Committee on this topic, and this would be done outside of the meeting.

It was subsequently

AGREED – T H A T the above report be noted, with any queries raised from this forwarded on to the appropriate representative to address.

(h) Any Other Business –

The Vice-Chair asked about the maintenance of Windsor Esplanade and the local habitat / wetlands and whether additional information on this could be provided to the Committee. David Hall (CHA) explained that the Esplanade and the local 'mosaic' of habitats were regularly maintained and continuously managed, with the local area broken down into a number of separate 'compartments' in order to support these more effectively. A further update could be provided at the next meeting of the Committee.

(i) Date of Next Meeting –

The Clerk would contact all Members regarding the arrangements for the next meeting due to be held on Wednesday, 4th January, 2023 at 5.00 p.m.