

WORKINGTON HARBOUR MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes of a Meeting of the Workington Harbour Management Committee held on Thursday, 18 July 2019 at 10.00 am at Port of Workington

PRESENT

County Councillors

Mr A Bowness
Jenkinson
Mr KA Little
Stoddart
Mrs C Tibble

Officers in Attendance:-

Mrs L Davis	- Democratic Services Officer
Ms A Jones	- Acting Executive Director - Economy and Infrastructure
Mr J W Lihou	- Port Manager

PART 1 – ITEMS CONSIDERED IN THE PRESENCE OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

The Chair welcomed the new Allerdale Borough Council representatives to the meeting following their appointment to the Committee.

12 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

RESOLVED, that Mr M Johnson be elected Vice Chair of the Workington Harbour Management Committee.

13 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mr J Holliday, Mr M Johnson and Mr A Markley.

14 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED, that the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of agenda item 11 – Port Manager’s report on the grounds that it contains exempt information as defined under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person including the authority holding that information.

15 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no disclosures of interest.

16 MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Workington Harbour Management Committee held on 23 April 2019 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

17 TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Committee received the terms of reference for the Workington Harbour Management Committee. The terms of reference had been agreed at the full County Council meeting held on 11 April 2019.

RESOLVED, that the terms of reference be noted.

18 MEMBERSHIP

The Committee noted the membership of the Workington Harbour Management Committee. The Chair advised that Mr Jenkinson, Mr Johnson and Mr Stoddart were now Allerdale Borough Council’s representatives on the Committee following the Borough Council’s election in May.

RESOLVED, that the membership be noted.

19 ACTION PLAN

Members received the Recommendations and Action Plan for Workington Harbour Management Committee from the Port Manager.

It was noted that the minutes of the Workington Harbour Management Committee were now received at Allerdale Local Committee meetings for information. It was further noted that a review of governance arrangements in line with the DfT’s recently published Ports Good Governance Guidance had been undertaken.

The Port Manager advised members that arrangements were being made to hold a PMSC awareness training session for the Duty Holder and Workington Harbour Management Committee members in September/October.

The Port Manager detailed the terms of reference for the Committee and asked members to identify intended actions to ensure implementation and management of these. It was noted that all the information needed by the members to fulfil their functions and duties were contained in the reports received at the Committee meetings. Members were also asked to consider the recruitment of non-voting co-opted members to the Management Committee who were stakeholder representatives and/or individuals who could provide valuable skills and experience in support of the management of the Port for a limited specified time.

In discussion, members noted that the biggest challenge was attracting new investment in the self-sustaining Port. The Chair suggested the establishment of a Port User Group, involving representatives from the local community, stakeholders and businesses to generate ideas for renewed investment, growth and promotion of the Port. He further suggested that, if established, a representative from the Group be recruited as a co-opted member of the Committee. Members welcomed the suggestion and the Acting Executive Director – Economy and Infrastructure agreed to explore interest in this.

The Acting Executive Director - Economy and Infrastructure informed members that a forward looking Business Plan for the Port would need to be developed and input from the Committee, the LEP and stakeholders would be required for this. It was noted that if a User Group was established, feedback from the Group could be used in the development of the Plan. Members noted that the LEP were currently developing a Cumbria Ports Growth Strategy to ensure the Local Industrial Strategy recognised the roles ports play and the Port Manager was involved in this process. The Allerdale Borough Council member suggested inviting an officer from the Borough Council to attend Committee meetings as the Port was integral to both councils. It was further suggested that an open day be arranged to promote the Port's commercialism.

RESOLVED, that

- (1) the action plan be noted;
- (2) the Acting Executive Director – Economy and Infrastructure investigate interest in the establishment of a Port User Group;
- (3) an officer from Allerdale Borough Council be invited to attend Committee meetings;
- (4) the Acting Executive Director – Economy and Infrastructure commences the initial process for the future development of a Port's Business Plan;
- (5) an open day be arranged to highlight the Port's commercialism.

20 ACCOUNTS AND PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

The Port Manager updated members on the latest Revenue and Expenditure for the quarter ending 30 June 2019. The Committee were advised that, in the first quarter, the operating target was above expectation, £462,654, the operating expenditure was £396,852 and the trading surplus £65,802. Members were advised that the earmarked reserves would need to be used for the forecasted overspend of the dredging budget.

It was recognised by members that the trading position of the Port was volatile and a lot of the contracts in place were short term. The Chair congratulated the staff for all their hard work operating above target in the difficult trading times. The discussion led on to potential future use of the facilities and the development of the land around the Port. The difficulties of the rail infrastructure and the impact that had was discussed at length.

RESOLVED, that the report be noted.

21 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Officers agreed to look at future Committee meeting dates, in consultation with members.

22 PORT MANAGER'S REPORT

A report by the Port Manager informed the committee of the general commercial activities that were on going and anticipated. There had been a number of enquiries and quotation requests from various parties.

Port Health and Safety

An appraisal of health and safety at the Port was given to members. The minutes of the Port's Health and Safety Committee were appended to the report.

Port Marine Safety Code (PMSC)

The Port Manager highlighted the salient points from the Marine Safety Management performance reports, covering the 12 month period from 1 June 2018 to 31 May 2019 and the three year period from 1 June 2016 to 31 May 2019. It was noted that an external audit would be carried out in August 2019.

Investment Programme

The Port Manager gave a verbal update at the meeting on the Port's capital investment requirements. The capital investment requirements were currently being reviewed by the Council.

Dredging Programme

Members noted that the dredger was in place to commence activity which would be dependent on weather and tidal conditions.

In discussion of the report, the Acting Executive Director – Economy and Infrastructure emphasised the necessity for long term plans for renewed development, improvements in the infrastructure and growth at the Port. A short discussion took place on the latest position of the railway bridge.

RESOLVED, that the report be noted.

The meeting ended at 11.55 am