

No.

CARDIFF BAY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of a Remote Meeting held on 1st December, 2021.

Present: A. Parker (Chair), F. Abbott (Natural Resources Wales), Councillor L. Burnett (Vale of Glamorgan Council), S. Jones (Boatfolk Marinas Ltd), C. Michael (RSPB), Councillor N. Humphrey (Penarth Town Council), Mr. P. Stone (Canoe Wales) and M. Thomas (Democratic and Scrutiny Services Officer).

Also present: A. Ernest (Penarth Tourism and Visitor Association), J. Maidment (Cardiff Harbour Authority), A. Michael (Penarth Headland Link Charity), D. Hall (Cardiff Harbour Authority), A. Vye-Parminster (Cardiff Harbour Authority) and A. Williamson (Cardiff Harbour Authority).

(a) Apologies for Absence –

These were received from C. Atherton (Chair of Waterfront Partners), C. Dimond (Vice-Chair of Cardiff Flood Action Committee), R. Fremantle (Director of Operations, Cardiff Marine Village), R. Irranca-Davies (Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales) and Councillor M. Michael, (Cardiff Cabinet Member for Environment).

(b) Minutes of the Meeting held on 8th September, 2021 –

On the agenda item / minute concerning the Penarth Headland Link Verbal Update at the meeting on 8th September, the Vice-Chair wished to pass on to the Committee her thanks to the Penarth Headland Link Charity for their sterling work and to say that when this scheme comes to fruition it will be a great asset to the area.

Regarding the Chair's query about the Barrage Fishpass on the previous minutes, and Anthony Ernest's (Penarth Tourism and Visitor Association) question on the Marine Licence application from EDF (relating to Hinkley Point C Nuclear Power Station), Fiona Abbott, representing Natural Resources Wales (NRW), stated that she would address these queries within her update to the Committee later on in the meeting's agenda.

There being no further comments, it was subsequently

AGREED – T H A T the minutes of the Meeting held on 8th September, 2021 be approved as a correct record.

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(c) Navigational Safety and Progress Report – Cardiff Harbour Authority (CHA)-

Andrew Vye-Parminter representing Cardiff Harbour Authority (CHA) explained to the Committee that, on navigational safety, there were no further updates at this time.

David Hall (CHA) subsequently provided the Committee with a general update on activities undertaken by, or involving, the CHA:

Environment -

- Higher river flows had meant rubbish and other waste entering into the bay and the subsequent need to remove these, for example, 60 tonnes of rubbish had been removed from the Bay in October alone.
- Educational activities around the local environment and other matters had now restarted, with 30 pupils from a primary school in Dinas Powys and 120 Cardiff University geography students coming to Cardiff Bay to learn about the local history and architecture, and how CHA manage the local environment, respectively.

Contracted works –

- The contractor had been given the go-ahead to replace the boardwalk nearby to the Norwegian Church and Senedd, with work due to commence from the third week of January and due to finish at the end of March 2022.

Barrage –

- Sluice Maintenance: there were currently two sluice hydraulic cylinders which were out for planned repair works, with the intention for this work to be completed within the next two weeks.
- Locks: the Electrical Lock Panels on Lock 3 were currently being renewed and repositioned in order to be in a high enough position to avoid being inundated by Spring tides and prevent water ingress into the panels.

Merchant Seaman's Memorial Plaque -

- Works to move this memorial from its former position to the new fabricated plinth, in a more prominent location, were completed.

Pollution exercise –

- There had been, on the 30th November, a small pollution spill exercise within the Bay, in order to test CHA's response to a pollution incident in conjunction with a contractor. The Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) were happy with how the exercise went.

It was subsequently

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

(d) Natural Resources Wales Update –

Fiona Abbott, representing Natural Resources Wales (NRW), provided an update to the Committee on the following areas of interest:

Dissolved oxygen (DO) levels

There have been no recent notifications from Cardiff Harbour Authority (CHA) regarding low DO levels within the Bay. Furthermore, CHA had not reported any other issues.

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 was containing 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. This included the operation, engineering upgrades and regular maintenance of the leachate collection system, monthly sampling, the submission of monitoring results and the preparation of a Hydro-geological Risk Assessment (HRA).

Having reviewed the monthly monitoring results submitted by Cardiff Council since they started operating the landfill leachate collection system (September results submitted on 28th October), NRW have concluded that landfill leachate entering Cardiff Bay progressively reduced before re-starting in September, probably due to increased rainfall. The discharge was monitored and investigated, with the specific assessment to be included in the HRA.

Hinkley Point C Nuclear Power Station

There had been no changes to the situation since the update given by NRW at the last meeting of the Committee, with no further information provided by EDF as yet which would allow determination of the application by NRW. If circumstances changed, NRW would update their online statement – the link for this was shared in the electronic version of this update to the Committee.

The Barrage fishpass

The Barrage fishpass monitoring equipment had broken down and cannot be accessed for repair until the main fishpass maintenance in the spring. A back-up system was therefore quickly installed at the top of the pass. However, the process involved with using this back up monitoring equipment was labour-intensive, and the work was unfortunately not yet complete, though the total

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number of fish passing through the Barrage this year should be available in time for the next Committee meeting. However, in recent years the vast majority of fish entering the Bay did so before the end of August, so numbers were not expected to greatly increase in the meantime.

It was subsequently

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

(e) Any Other Business –

The representative from Penarth Tourism and Visitor Association commented on an issue previously raised at this Committee about the number of cyclists going through residential areas near to the Marina and the Barrage. Improved signage had been placed near to the areas effected and he asked if this had improved the situation. Councillor Burnett (a Cabinet Member from the Vale of Glamorgan Council) stated that she was not aware of any major issues regarding cycling in the residential areas mentioned recently and the situation had eased, possibly in part due to the temporary withdrawal of Nextbikes within Cardiff.

The Chair asked the representative from the Penarth Headland Link Charity if there were any further updates regarding the link; the response was that further details would be provided at the next meeting. However, the representative did explain that there had been a meeting between the charity and the Welsh Government First Minister, at which he expressed his support for the Penarth Headland Link going ahead and as a result, this would now be progressed, which was extremely welcome.

Members were also reminded if they had any queries or issues that they wished to raise, they should contact the Clerk who would place these on future agendas.

(f) Date of Next Meeting –

It was agreed that the next meeting would be on Wednesday, 2nd March 2022 at 5 p.m.