

v ASSOCIATED BRITISH PORTS

NOTES OF THE 1st HUMBER LIAISON SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT PORT HOUSE, HULL ON THURSDAY, 12th JUNE 2003

Present:

Name	Organisation	Inits
Capt Paul Hames (Chairman)	Harbour Master, Humber, ABP	PH
Mr M Cadman	Humber Pilot, ABP	MC
Capt R Coates	HST Ltd	RC
Capt P Cowing	Pilotage Ops Mgr, ABP	PC
Mr John Dean	Ass'n of Inland Shipping Operators	JD
Capt Ian Fee	Rix Shipping	IF
Capt M Gough	Dock Master, ABP	MG
Capt Terry Jeffrey	F T Everard & Sons	TJ
Mr R Kersey	DFDS Tor Line	RK
Mr John McCartney	APT	JM
Capt A Metcalfe	Harbour Master, River Hull	AM
Mr B Nickson	Conservancy & Environment Mgr, ABP	BN
Capt P Pannett	Dep. Pilotage Ops Mgr, ABP	PP
Capt D Rogers	Dock Master, ABP	DR
Capt Ian Spikings	VTs Manager, ABP	IS
Mr C Vernon	Humber Pilot, ABP	CV
Capt N Woodhouse	P&ONSF	NW

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Received from:

- Capt J. Brennan, Associated Petroleum Terminals
- Capt EW Lyons, FT Everard & Sons

1. NOTES OF MEETING OF THE HUMBER LIAISON COMMITTEE SET UP MEETING HELD AT THE HOLIDAY INN, HULL ON 31 OCTOBER 2002

- The minutes of the inaugural HLC were agreed to give a true record of the proceedings

2. AGREEMENT OF PROCEDURES FOR FUTURE SUB-COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- It was agreed that the present format of the committee and its proceedings were acceptable.

3. PILOTAGE MATTERS

- PP gave an explanation of how incidents on the estuary are investigated, dealt with and reported, making special reference to the VTS Database.
- Some time was spent explaining the system of categorising incidents by number, making tracking trends more transparent.
- PP then gave a breakdown of incidents on the river to the period ending 30 May.
- The total number of Pilotage Exemption Certificates in force as at the date of the meeting:
 - Over 100 metres 148
 - Under 100 metres 94
- The system of issuing internal Notices to Pilots was being extended to include Notices to PEC holders. This had been introduced following the recent collision of a ferry with the No. 9 Buoy. The logistics of communicating these notices to PEC holders, who were not presently trading to the Humber area, was discussed but it was noted that they would shortly be available on the ABP Humber Estuary Services web site.
- IF requested an update of the position with regard to PECs for barge skippers. Revised Pilotage Directions will be issued in the New Year, following a period of consultation, which would bring in those skippers carrying bulk cargoes of dangerous substances. Prospective barge PEC holders would be called to Port House for a discussion based on practical knowledge. There would be no charge for the PEC.
- AM advised that he was not being called by pilots when they entered the Old Harbour. PH agreed to rectify the situation.
- RK asked whether PEC holders were still required to send in the monthly tripping reports. PH stated that the intention was to use the Port and Vessel Information System (PAVIS) to generate the PEC voyages and invoices, automatically. PEC holders would be informed in due course as soon as returns were no longer required.
- Renewal forms for PECs would be required for the foreseeable future.
- PH agreed to speak to Specialist Marine Services, which had recently commenced tug operations on the Humber, to confirm that they would be agreeable to allowing prospective PEC holders to undergo tug tripping on its vessels.

4. CONSERVANCY MATTERS

Harbour Works

- The necessary consents and licences have been granted to the Yorkshire and Humber Regional Development Agency for flood protection works at Island Wharf. Work is now in progress.
- Consents have been obtained by Humber Sea Terminal Ltd for Phase II of HST at North Killingholme. Dredging works are underway.

- An application for consents under Coast Protection Act 1949 and a licence under the Food and Environment Protection Act 1985 for improved flood defences at Barton Haven has been received by the Marine Consents and Environment Unit and circulated to statutory consultees.
- The Environment Agency has continued progress with a scheme of managed realignment of the flood defences at Thorngumbald. The flooding of approx. 100 hectares of land is expected to take place before the year-end.

Buoyage

- The buoy replacement programme is progressing on schedule.
- A trial of new plastic buoys has proved successful. The 'Hobo' buoy, in the Humber approaches, is the first plastic buoy to be used on the Humber and it is intended to follow this up with the replacement of the 'Chequer' buoy for a similar unit. In the future, it is intended to change over to the use of plastic buoys when the steel buoys reach the end of their useful life.

Survey

- The 2003 annual chart is now available.
- Surveying work in connection with the 2004 annual chart is progressing well.

5. PORT MARINE SAFETY CODE - UPDATE

- The Safety Management System (SMS) was presently being written by Environmental Resources Management Ltd (ERM) and should be in place by the year-end.
- ABP Humber Estuary Services (HES) has invested in the Microsoft SharePoint™ system to provide effective, computer-based, version-controlled document management.
- The PMSC requires the passage of a vessel to be monitored against present criteria. To assist with compliance, ABP HES is shortly to let a contract (£25,000) for the introduction of electronic passage planning. The software will run in the background of PAVIS. When a pilot is allocated to a vessel, the plan will automatically produce the passage plan for that voyage.

6. DOCKS AND INSTALLATIONS

Hull Docks

- A public inquiry into the Quay 2005 proposals, adjacent to Victoria Dock, is due to begin in July. The quay will provide roro/lolo facilities and may provide a new location for the Hull Container Terminal which may be transferred from King George Dock to provide greater space for the Finland Terminal.

Goole Docks

- Automation of all bridges was underway to allow them to be operated from the lock. Work is due to be completed by the end of the summer.

Grimsby/Immingham Docks

- Environmental objections against the Immingham Outer Harbour were expected to be signed off within the next two weeks.
- Progress with HIT 2 is customer driven and will go ahead as soon as written guarantees are in place.
- The tug berths provided outside of Immingham Dock were not presently being used but should shortly be utilised.
- The entrances to the lock at Immingham have been redesigned. The new angular form combined with the replacement of brickwork with a steel fender for two-thirds the length of the large lock has significantly reduced impact damage.

Humber Sea Terminal

- Construction of Berth 3 was due to commence shortly. PP asked RC to let him have notification of construction traffic.
- A new service to Hamburg had been secured and the Rotterdam service increased to a daily service giving a total of 23 arrivals/departures per week.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- The millennium footbridge across the entrance to the River Hull is to be closed for 6 weeks for repainting.
- AM informed the committee that coping stones had fallen into the River Hull, in the area between the North and Scott Street bridges. The Environment Agency was aware of the problem and steps were being taken to have the material removed. In the meantime, there was a narrowing of the channel in this area which may cause difficulties for some vessels, particularly those that are deep draughted.
- NW referred to a build up of debris near to the P&O berths in King George Dock. DR explained that this was being dealt with but problems were experienced with changes in wind direction which often moved debris under the suspended quay when clearing operations were being undertaken.
- PH gave a brief account of the proposals to extend radar coverage upriver of Hull to include the Rivers Trent and Ouse.

8. NEXT MEETING

- To be arranged

At the conclusion of the meeting, delegates were given a pre-launch view of the ABP HES web site by IT Infrastructure Manager, Humber, Mark Hepworth.