

## **ASSOCIATED BRITISH PORTS**

### **MINUTES OF THE HUMBER LIAISON COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT THE HOLIDAY INN, HULL MARINA ON THURSDAY 31.10.02**

#### **Attendance & Apologies for Absence**

- . See Appendix 1 & Appendix 2

#### **1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTION**

- . PH welcomed the delegates to the meeting and outlined the meeting agenda.

#### **2. PORT MARINE SAFETY CODE - PMSC**

- . PH gave a brief background to the PMSC
- . Following an incident involving the Sea Empress at Milford Haven between 15 & 21 February 1996 a report was prepared by the Marine Accident Investigation Branch (MAIB) and presented to the Secretary of State for Transport 27 March 1997.
- . The report contained the Inspector's Inquiry into the grounding and subsequent salvage of the tanker.
- . The Report prompted the Department for Transport to further develop and implement effective monitoring of Competent Harbour Authorities' standards of training and examination of pilots.
- . A statement regarding the PMSC is to be presented by ABP Humber Estuary Services (HES) to the Department for Transport January 2003. This will include the following documents: -
  - . Pilotage Supplementary Provisions
  - . Pilotage Directions
- . Jimmy Chestnut, Deputy Port Manager & Harbour Master - Southampton, is ABP's designated representative who reports directly to the ABP Marine Board.

- Areas to be covered: Consultation, Safety & Risk Assessment.
- PH asked for any questions.
  - MS requested that ABP cover the requirements of Howdendyke & Selby in its PMSC.
  - JD queried if a pilot would be required for a tug of 58 metres. PH said that a phone call must be made to determine circumstances and conditions etc on a case-by-case basis.

### 3. PROVISIONAL TERMS OF REFERENCE

- PH read aloud each paragraph of the proposed Terms asking for comments from the Committee.
- The primary purpose of the Committee was fully accepted.
- ABP are to write to organisations in order to produce a list of members who have been nominated to represent them. This will include name and title. *Action PH*
- It was decided that the Committee should meet twice per year and a suggestion was made by PH that working groups could be formed to meet as when required.
- AT requested a copy of the agenda for each meeting so he could decide if he wishes to attend.
- PP suggested ABP should nominate internal members of staff to discuss relevant issues directly with specific organisations when necessary.
- KH would like to attend only for specific issues relating to the Trinity House Lighthouse Service. This was agreed also by DS. A total of 7 attendees in a show of hands agreed same.
- RC welcomes the committee and would like to contribute as much as possible.
- PH raised the suggestion again of forming working groups which could then report to a larger body. There were no objections.

- No objections were made to PH continuing to chair the Committee.
- ABP Humber Estuary Services will continue to provide secretarial support. Minutes will be produced and circulated within 28 days.
- RC requested that the minutes of any Sub Committee Meetings should be circulated to the whole of the Humber Liaison Committee membership which was fully agreed.
- It was agreed that the Committee would alternate the meeting venue to include the north and south bank.
- It was agreed that the Sub Committee should be made up of a minimum of 12 people including a PEC holder and a Pilot.
  - The Sub Committee should have the ability to invite additional attendees from the main committee to deal with specific issues.
  - The above will be discussed further and suggestions submitted by post to all committee members. *Action  
PH*

**4. REFERENCE THE AGENDA 26<sup>TH</sup> HUMBER LIAISON COMMITTEE MEETING**

- **TUGS** – PH has written to all relevant agencies and formed a Safety of Navigation Committee to discuss safety issues.
- DS brought to the attention of the committee an incident which took place in March of this year 2002 when a Finnlane vessel failed to obtain tugs due to resources being allocated to other ships. PH said that this was an individual case which could be discussed further outside of this committee.

**Port and Vessel Information System**

- PH – ABP have a responsibility to consult members of the general public and a duty to maintain the Estuary for

Navigational purposes ref: Humber Conservancy Acts 1852 – 1907. Department for Transport is also a consultee.

- ABP must prove to Environmental bodies such as English Nature that any undertakings on the Estuary will not have any detrimental effect to wildlife. BN is directly involved with the various agencies.
- PH explained ABP's involvement with the Humber Scheme of Management. As a Relevant Authority (RA) under the Habitat Regulations, ABP, along with other RA's including English Nature, Environment Agency, IDB for other Harbour Authorities is working towards sustainable development of the Humber Estuary.

## **5. HUMBER PILOTAGE SERVICE**

- PH gave a brief background to the dispute involving ABP and the Humber Pilots.
- The Humber Pilots have taken legal action and an employment tribunal is currently ongoing.
- ABP have taken the stand not to respond to the press but issue clear statements when felt necessary.
- The Department for Transport receive weekly updates from ABP of the current situation. The feedback is positive and indicates that the incident rate is considerably less than was previously the case.

## **6. WEBSITE**

- The ABP Website should be up and running by January 2003. This will include the PMSC, Notice to Mariners, Policies, Plans, Structures, Ship Movements etc. PH looking at the feasibility of introducing live web cams around the estuary. The site will eventually become interactive. PIN Codes will be introduced for security purposes.

## **7. PAVIS – PILOT & VESSEL INFORMATION SYSTEM**

- PH informed members of the current development of the PAVIS system, the next phase of which will introduce automatic billing possibly by the last quarter of next year 2003.

8. **ESTUARY DEVELOPMENT**

- . PH gave an update of development taking place around the estuary including the Outer Harbour at Immingham, additional berth at the Humber Sea Terminal and Quay 2005 at Hull.
- . PH explained that any developments of the estuary brings with it intense scrutiny from English Nature which is primarily concerned with maintaining suitable habitats for flora and fauna. This has led to a number of initiatives by Environmental Agencies and ABP for the planned setback of flood defences.
- . The Environment Agency is funding a project at Paull to set back the current defences which will eventually lead to the flooding of 250 acres of land. The breaching of the present defence is scheduled to take place in October 2003.
- . Plans are also being discussed to flood 1000 acres between Alkborough 2 Flats and the River Ouse, scheduled for 2005.
- . ABP has donated a plot of land to English Nature at Kilnsea as partial mitigation for loss of habitat in connection with developments at Immingham and Hull.

9. **VHF**

- . The 4 hour notice period of arrival required is now being communicated on channel 14 as opposed to 15.

10. **TRAFFIC SEPARATION SCHEME (TSS)**

- . PH reported that the TSS scheme, which has been in use for 18 months, continues to be a great success, particularly with regards to safety.
- . Non-compliance with the TSS has been treated leniently since its introduction, however, PH reported that next year, prosecutions would be considered for persistent offenders.

11. **HUMBERSIDE FIRE BRIGADE**

- . TR reported that the Brigade continued to give full support and service to the designated areas of the Humber Estuary and its Docks.

- . TR commented that there were still issues relating to insurance outside the Tetney Mono Buoy which need to be cleared.
- . PH reported that Memoranda of Understanding between ABP, the Police, Fire and Ambulance Services would be appended to the PMSC.

12. **NEXT MEETING**

- . Date & Venue to be advised

*Action*  
*PH*

**MINUTES TAKEN AND TYPED BY ANGELA BARKER**