

WORKINGTON HARBOUR MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes of a Meeting of the Workington Harbour Management Committee held on Friday, 22 April 2022 at 10.00 am at Port of Workington

PRESENT

Mr K Little (Chair)

County Councillors

Mr A Bowness
Mr A Markley
Mrs C Tibble

Allerdale Borough Councillors

Mr M Heaslip
Mr M Johnson
Mr C Sharpe

Officers in Attendance:-

Mr J Coughlin	-	Co-opted Member
Mr M Barry	-	Place and Enterprise Manager
Mrs L Davis	-	Democratic Services Officer
Mr A Harty	-	Assistant Director - Environment and Enterprise
Ms A Jones	-	Executive Director - Economy and Infrastructure
Mr S Richards	-	Port Manager

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

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Mr A Bowness.

49 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED, that the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of Agenda Item 9 – Port Manager's report and Agenda Item No 10 – Report on Existing Customer on the grounds that they contain 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.

50 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Mr M Johnson declared an interest as a Managing Director of A J Johnson.

51 MINUTES

Subject to Mr J Coughlin's name being added to the list of attendees, it was

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the meeting held on 28 January 2022 be confirmed as an accurate record.

52 MEMBERSHIP

There were no changes to membership to note.

53 ACTION PLAN

Members received the recommendations and action plan for Workington Harbour Management Committee from the Port Manager. It was the intention to have revised recommendations for the action plan for future meetings.

RESOLVED, that the report be noted.

54 ACCOUNTS AND PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

The Port Manager updated members on the last Revenue and Expenditure for the quarter ending 31 March 2022. The Port Manager highlighted the provisional out-turn for the financial year 2021/22. Members noted that despite the challenges presented, the Port had an upturn in revenue in the last quarter and congratulated the Port officers for this. The Port Manager outlined cargo that had passed through the Port and new business activities that were expanding the Port's customer base. The volatility of the economy, the increase in inflation costs raising running costs and impacts of the Ukraine situation were discussed. The Executive Director – Economy and Infrastructure confirmed that work was taking place to assess the impacts and implications of these on the Port.

RESOLVED, that the report be noted.

55 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting of the Committee will be held on 27 July 2022 at 10 am in the Conference Centre, Port of Workington.

PART 2 – ITEMS CONSIDERED IN THE ABSENCE OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

56 PORT MANAGER'S REPORT

The Committee received a report from the Port Manager on the general commercial activities that were on going and anticipated. The Port Manager outlined sanctions that had been implemented at UK Ports in relation to Russian vessels and the support that the DfT was providing on this.

Members were informed of an incident that had taken place and where significant amount of learnings had come from the investigation. These learnings included a change in the decision making process in adverse weather conditions and the

addition of a formalised dynamic risk assessment. The Marine Accident Investigation Bureau had concluded its investigation with the port and were satisfied with the report's findings.

Members received a Covid 19 Update on response and recovery as well as a summary of the Port's commercial and business activities from 1 April 2021 to 31 December 2021. The Port's Health and Safety matters were outlined by the Port Manager.

Committee members were informed that the Port's Masterplan had been approved by Cabinet in September 2021 and in support of the Masterplan, the Workington Town Deal Board had defined the Port as a key asset for the town and its clean growth credentials. Infrastructure surveys of the Port's key assets had been commissioned. The infrastructure survey would assist in evaluating the current condition of key port assets and help determine a 15-year plan for future surveys and works that are to be undertaken to ensure the continued operation of those assets. Following on from this further detailed survey work had been commissioned to assist in planning the infrastructure improvements particularly in the areas of the quay walls and preliminary reports from this was appended to the report. The Place and Enterprise Manager gave a presentation on Energy Coast Rail Upgrade. The presentation included proposals for improvements of the Port's rail infrastructure.

Members noted that, following the successful application to the Cabinet Office for the Port Infrastructure Fund (PIF) which was awarded to the Port of Workington to build a new warehouse for the storage of Wood Pulp, the warehouse construction was now complete with an official handover anticipated next month. The success of the Gateway to Growth campaign, in raising the Port's profile, was highlighted.

The Port Manager informed members that from 1 January 2022 the Port had been operating under the new border arrangements with no significant issues causing delays. The Ports Marine Safety System had undergone an annual audit and the Port's action tracker had been updated with actions arising from this.

The Port Manager outlined maintenance dredging and Port recruitment.

RESOLVED, that the report be noted.

57 REPORT ON EXISTING CUSTOMER

The Assistant Director - Environment & Enterprise gave members an update on an existing customer at the Port.

RESOLVED, that the report be noted.

The Executive Director – Economy and Infrastructure gave an update on Local Government Reform.

The meeting ended at 11.30 am