

# MINUTE

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## Harbour Board

Port Administration Building, Sella Ness

Thursday 21 February 2008 at 10.00am

### Present:

A T Doull	E L Fullerton
R S Henderson	J H Henry
N McCracken	J Tait

### Apologies:

A T J Cooper	I J Hawkins
R C Nickerson	A Polson
F A Robertson	C Smith

### In Attendance (Officers):

J T Dickson, General Manager, Ports & Harbours Operations  
B Edwards, Operations Manager, Ports  
P Gray, Superintendent Engineer, Marine  
A Inkster, Port Engineer  
R Moore, Operations Manager, Marine  
S Summers, Administration Manager  
B Robb, Management Accountant  
L Gair, Committee Officer

### Chairperson:

On the Motion of R S Henderson, seconded by Mr A T Doull, Mr J H Henry was appointed as interim Chairperson.

### Circular:

The circular calling the meeting was held as read.

### Declarations of Interest:

None

### Minutes:

The minutes of meetings held on 31 January 2008, were confirmed.

### Members' Attendance at External Meetings – Update

Members noted that the General Manager and Mr C Smith would be visiting various organisations in March, for the purpose of marketing Ship to Ship Transfers at Sullom Voe.

10/08

### Ports Project Monitoring Report

The Board noted a report by the General Manager (Appendix 3).

### Dock Symbister – RCM 2309

The Port Engineer advised the Board that 2 days after the last meeting, Historic Scotland contacted him to say that they were no longer willing to wait for the Conservation Engineer's report. He said that Historic Scotland planned to visit Shetland in 2 weeks time and had indicated that they were likely to give the go ahead to the project. The Port Engineer advised that once Historic Scotland had confirmed the project could go ahead, planning approval would be applied for,

updated figures would be calculated and funding sought. He confirmed that the Scottish Government funding would still be available, as they had indicated that they were keen to keep the funding in place. The Port Engineer added however that the Scottish Government funding was approved at 50% of the original estimated figures, and he could not be sure that they would be able to approve 50% on the recalculated figures.

#### Tug Replacement Programme – RCM 2313

The General Manager advised that there was nothing to report and that the programme was on target and budget.

The Chairperson queried whether, in the past, models of vessels had been donated to the Museum, stating that it was important to keep up the Harbour's profile. Members were advised that models had been provided, but may not be on display, and the General Manager agreed to donate one of the two models of the new tugs that would be delivered as part of the contract.

In response to a query from Mrs E L Fullerton, the Marine Superintendent Engineer advised that tug crews and masters were given the opportunity to comment on the tug specifications, and they had been consulted throughout the process. The General Manager advised that a number of their comments had been incorporated and added that to make changes at this stage would cost more.

Mr J Tait commented that the price of steel had gone up and queried how that would affect the cost of the vessels. The General Manager confirmed to the Board that the Tug Contract was a fixed price and would not change, he stated that it was a risk that the Company took when preparing their tender.

#### Uyeasound – RCM 2314

The General Manager advised that preparatory pre-cast works and blasting at the quarry would be carried out shortly and planning consent was imminent.

#### Navigational Aids – PCM 2104

The General Manager advised that the navigational and communication aids were currently being installed and would be complete by the end of the financial year, and the other equipment would also be delivered by the end of the financial year.

#### Walls Pier

In response to a query from Mr J Tait, the General Manager confirmed that the Walls Pier project had been to the Capital Projects Review Team, and was now on the list. Members explained that the process for project prioritisation was under review, and that they were unsure how that would affect the projects on the list. The General Manager said that work would be carried out to ensure that everything was ready to go in order that they could demonstrate to Council that the project could go ahead as soon as the funds were allocated.

#### Scalloway Dredging

The General Manager advised that he had vired money to allow a wash probe survey to be undertaken. He said that the survey would take a week to carry out and would begin on 3 March, in the vicinity of the College. The General Manager added that the dredging was still a live issue and that everything would be put in place. He indicated there had been some disappointment from the initial prices.

#### Skerries

The General Manager advised that ZetTrans had undertaken work on how to improve the south mouth of Skerries to allow the Filla to use it in certain swells. He said that ZetTrans officers and Colin Reeves, Marine Superintendent, had planned a visit for 21 February, but said that he had received word that the plane had not taken them to Skerries and that visit would be rescheduled.

The General Manager advised that a procedure would be prepared for the use of the Filla and once an agreement had been reached it would be passed to ZetTrans to seek funding for the work.

#### Sullom Voe Terminal Jetty Maintenance Contract

Mr N McCracken advised the Board, that a large amount of Capital work was undertaken as part of the Jetty Maintenance Contract, and he felt that this should be discussed at Harbour Board meetings. The Port Engineer explained that this was correct, and as well as routine maintenance, the Contract also covered the replacement of major items of equipment, such as mooring gear and access equipment. He advised that he would provide an update separately, at future meetings.

The Port Engineer advised that the access towers on Jetty One and Jetty Three were due to be replaced this year, with the Jetty One Tower scheduled to commence on 1 March. The tower was due to be delivered from Holland next week. He said that this meant there was a tight schedule to take the existing tower down and erect the new one within the agreed shutdown. The second Tower would be replaced in June.

11/08

#### **Port Operations Report**

The Board noted a report by the General Manager (Appendix 4).

#### Ship Incidents

The General Manager explained that a line had been released in an uncontrolled manner and it had crashed to the deck of the tug, and advised that there had been another incident of this kind. He said that it came down to crew competence and there was no excuse for it. The General Manager advised that he would make sure that the Master and the ship owner were advised of his displeasure. He added that incidents of this nature were reported to the Technical Working Group and the Safety Sub Group for discussion and the Harbour Board would also be notified.

#### Pollution Incidents

Mr N McCracken provided the Board with an explanation behind the beach cleaning recently carried out. He advised that extreme rain over the terminal caused a back up of water from the oil water sewer which over spilled, flowed into a surface drain and ended up in the voe. He said that it was not as bad as had been reported, and had been confined to the outfall. He advised that it had contaminated seaweed, but the whole beach had been cleaned and the contaminated seaweed had been removed. Mr McCracken advised that an investigation was still ongoing and all drains had been gulley sucked and inspected. He said that the drain inspections involved a camera and a float test for blockages and repairs would be carried out as necessary.

#### The Met Office

The General Manager advised Members that he would keep in touch with the met office, regarding the Scottish Government Inquiry. The General Manager said he hoped that there would be funding for a weather radar.

### Pilotage Exemption Certificates

The General Manager explained to the Board that Pilotage Exemption Certificates allowed approved ships, above a certain size, to carry out the pilotage function themselves. He advised however that Sullom Voe did not permit this due to the nature of the ports operations. The General Manager informed Members that this was reviewed every 3 years and said that he had written to the Scottish Government under Section 8.3 of the Pilotage Act that Sullom Voe be exempt from this practice. He added that there should be no reason that the Scottish Government would not approve this again.

**On the motion of Mr J H Henry, seconded by Mr A T Doull, the Board resolved, in terms of the relevant legislation, to exclude the public during consideration of the following item of business.**

(Members of the press left the meeting)

12/08

### **Vessel Traffic Service - Manning Changes**

The board considered a report by the General Manager (Appendix 3).

The General Manager briefly introduced the report and provided a history to the manning operations on the Vessel Traffic Service. He also provided a summary of the proposed changes, highlighting the training required, career opportunity presented and the potential cost savings.

Following some discussion, Mr R S Henderson moved that the Board approve the recommendations contained in the report. Mrs E L Fullerton seconded.

The Chairperson advised Members that this would be Mr N McCracken's last Board meeting before he took up new post with BP. The Chairperson thanked Mr McCracken for his participation on the Board and wished him well for the future.

The meeting concluded at 10.55am

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J H Henry  
CHAIRPERSON