

CARDIFF BAY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 27th June, 2018 at Cardiff International White Water.

Present:

Mr. N. Ajax Lewis (MBE)	Senior Conservation Officer, Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales
Councillor J.C. Bird	Vale of Glamorgan Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Planning
Mrs. C. Dimond	Cardiff Flood Action Committee
Councillor N. Humphrey	Penarth Town Council
Mr. C. Michael	South Wales Area Manager, RSPB Wales
Mr. A. Parker	
Mr. S. Rayner	Waterways and Environment Officer, Canoe Wales

Also present:

Mr. A. Ernest	Penarth Tourism and Visitors Association
Mr. T. Gifford	Cardiff Harbour Authority
Mr. D. James	Cardiff Harbour Authority
Mrs. K. Bowen	Vale of Glamorgan Council (Democratic and Scrutiny Services Officer)
Mr. M. Willmott	Vale of Glamorgan Council (Assistant Democratic Services Officer)

(a) Appointment of Chairman –

Mr. A. Parker was appointed Chairman for the Municipal Year.

(b) Appointment of Vice-Chairman –

Mrs. C. Dimond was appointed Vice-Chairman for the Municipal Year.

(c) Apologies for Absence –

These were received from Commodore D. Cairncross (Cardiff Bay Yacht Club), Mrs. N. De Longhi (Natural Resources Wales), Mr. J. Maidment (Cardiff Harbour Authority), Councillor M. Michael (Cabinet Member for Environment, Cardiff Council), Ms. S. Newbold (British Marine Federation and Royal Yachting Association), Mr. A. Vye-Parminter (Harbour Master) and Councillor C. Wild (Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Transport, Cardiff Council).

(d) Minutes –

AGREED – T H A T the minutes of the meeting held on 14th March, 2018 be approved as a correct record

(e) Matters Arising –

The Committee noted that a detailed report on the Volvo Race would be submitted later on the agenda, however a member queried the provision of drinking stations provided during the Race by Dŵr Cymru. It was confirmed that these had to be provided for the Race only and at present the Cardiff Harbour Authority had no long term plans to provide drinking water stations around the Harbour.

Reference was made to concerns about cycling on pavements causing a nuisance to the public, however the Chairman advised that any concerns regarding the use of bicycles in an unsafe manner should be referred to the Police.

(f) Navigational Safety –

Mr. T. Gifford provided the Committee with a verbal update advising that there were no safety issues to report since the last meeting.

(g) Progress Report from the Cardiff Harbour Authority –

Mr. T. Gifford informed the Committee that the Volvo Race had now concluded and the race stage at Cardiff had been a huge success for the area. He had received very positive feedback from Volvo and indeed the teams competing. Over 180,000 visitors had visited the Race Village over the two weeks, which was over 50,000 above the Welsh Government target. He stated that 7,000 registered volunteer hours had been logged and the only negative for the event was a slight lack of wind on certain days.

Members of the Committee congratulated the Cardiff Harbour Authority on the success of the event. However, while acknowledging the success of the event, a Member from Penarth referred to the difficulty of accessing information for the event. It was noted that the timings of the events depended on the weather conditions so a degree of flexibility was required. To make the event an even greater success in future, it was requested that the Cardiff Harbour Authority establish clearer lines of communication with stakeholders to disseminate information from the Volvo team as soon as the race conditions were confirmed.

The Committee noted that building had commenced on the Cardiff Bay beach. This event was being moved from its normal site in the Oval Basin to the Barrage due to the Eisteddfod which was running from 3rd – 11th August, 2018. The Beach would include rides and amusements and additional features on the embankment close to

the skate park. The big wheel had been moved on to the tarmac area where the trailers used to be stored and opposite the event staging area on the rubber crumb would be food and drink outlets. The Beach was planned to be open from early July until early September and the event would also include an actual beach positioned close to the Bay's edge.

Finally, Mr. Gifford stated that there had been several events located on the Harbour in the last week including the Cardiff Triathlon, which featured over 1,500 competitors and a 20° C water temperature had been recorded. He stated that the Triathlon had received positive feedback. There was also lots of filming taking place in the Cardiff Bay area, including Casualty using the site for a base and filming at The Custom House.

AGREED – T H A T the Cardiff Harbour Authority progress report be noted and a letter of thanks be sent to Volvo by the Chairman.

(h) Natural Resources Wales: Progress Update –

Mrs. N. De Longhi, who was unable to be present at the meeting, had forwarded an update to the Clerk which was tabled at the meeting.

The report noted that the last week before the meeting, water levels in the Taff had been below normal, while levels in the Ely remained normal. With the forecast weather, Natural Resources Wales expected river levels to remain low.

Cardiff Harbour Authority were monitoring the dissolved oxygen as normal and using mitigation measures to return dissolved to above the threshold. If conditions worsened, there might be a need to reduce the abstraction that fed Bute Dock, under the standing agreement between Associated British Ports and Cardiff Harbour Authority, allowing more water to flow into the Bay.

Natural Resources Wales had issued a press release urging the release of all salmon caught on Welsh rivers. Catch and release was already mandatory on the Taff. The request came as the latest assessments confirmed stocks of these iconic fish continued to face severe challenges. Early indications were that there were fewer fish in the rivers than previous years. Every released fish had a chance at helping to secure stocks for the future. Natural Resources Wales stated it was encouraging that the majority of anglers were already voluntarily releasing the fish they caught, however they felt the situation was now so serious for salmon stocks that they required all anglers to play their part. In 2007 whilst some 86% of salmon were released, there were still 15% of anglers in Wales that didn't return any of the salmon they caught. The latest salmon and sea trout assessment reports and updated catch summaries good practice guide could be found on the Natural Resources Wales website.

A Member of the Committee commented that in his experience, cormorants could be a cause of the reducing stocks of salmon as they were often seen hunting through

the fish pass. If there could be control mechanisms considered it was felt that the salmon numbers could be increased.

AGREED – T H A T the Natural Resources Wales update be noted.

(i) Penarth Headland Link Update –

The Committee noted that funding had been released to undertake an engineering study for the Penarth Headland Link and this would be considered by WeITAG. There being nothing further to report at this stage, it was

AGREED – T H A T an update report be sought from the Vale of Glamorgan Council's Visible Services and Transport Department for the next meeting.

(j) Groundwater Monitoring Level Update –

Mr. D. James informed the Committee that 181 boreholes remained, following a review in 2010 to 2011 and then in 2012, and following a review of the pumping data additional groundwater pumps had been turned off. The Cardiff Harbour Authority was now considering post 2019 options, including the monitoring network. Mr. James stated that work had been undertaken with Natural Resources Wales to undertake a geological survey to explore the possibility of installing shallow ground heat systems using boreholes and the potential benefits of this green energy supply, as a test facility in the Grangetown had been successful.

Following a comment from a Member that they had been advised that groundwater monitoring was to cease, the Committee discussed future groundwater monitoring and pumping options, with Mr. James clarifying that although it was not confirmed that groundwater monitoring would cease, it was being considered.

The Chairman stated that information had previously been given to the Committee by a professor from Cardiff University, and it might be helpful if he could be in attendance at a future date to provide an overview and an update to Members.

AGREED – T H A T the groundwater monitoring update be noted and the professor from Cardiff University be approached to attend a future meeting.

(k) Any Other Business –

Mr. T. Gifford advised the Committee that due to the low water levels, lock restrictions were in place, similar to those undertaken in 2013. This information had been widely circulated.

(l) Date of Next Meeting –

Wednesday, 19th September, 2018 at 5.15 p.m.at Cardiff International White Water
(It was noted that the agenda and reports for this meeting would be forwarded to all Members of the Committee by e-mail with the request for comments on the documents to be forwarded to the Clerk).