

NORTHERN LIGHTHOUSE BOARD

NAVIGATION COMMITTEE

MINUTES 21 SEPTEMBER 2017

Present:	Alastair Beveridge	Chair
	Alistair Mackenzie	Commissioner
	Mike Brew	Commissioner
	Mike Bullock	Chief Executive
	Phil Day	Director of Operations

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Peter Douglas.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Navigation Committee held on 27 June 2017 were agreed as a correct record and could be published online.

Action: Secretary to the Board

3. MATTERS ARISING (other matters arising dealt with later in the meeting)

AIS

No further failures recorded. An alternative Sealite combined unit has been bought and successfully trialled. Action closed.

4. OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

Irvine Harbour Company

The text of a Direction Order has been agreed with DfT and submitted to the Minister for approval which is expected shortly. LAC have been informed by DfT about the arrangement. The costs of legal advice received on the failed action have been offset by NLB's solicitors.

GLA Marine Navigation Plan (GMNP)

The Committee noted the improvements made to the GMNP and aside from minor typographical corrections the plan was approved. Committee members to highlight any corrections to the Director of Operations by 30 September.

Action: Committee Members

Corran Narrows

The Committee noted the direct feedback from Masters of vessels using the newly installed sector light and agreed to the request to adjust the light by 1° counter-clockwise for a lead bearing of 032°.

Action: Director of Operations

Fixed and Flashing Lights

A number of user comments have been received about the loss of the loom of the light from large rotating lights as they are replaced by flashing LEDs which results in a loss of spatial awareness during the eclipse and the inability to take a bearing on a short and infrequent flash. A remedy to this is for a Fixed and Flashing Light which combines a low intensity constant light and a high intensity flashing light. NLB's newest generation of large LED lights include a facility for the light to remain on at 25% power output during the eclipse. The Committee agreed that a trial should be conducted at one of the new installations and to seek user feedback.

Action: Director of Operations

Sound of Harris

Following the grounding of the MV LOCH PORTAIN in the vicinity of the Portain buoy in 2015 a NRA was commissioned by CFL and the report has now been received by NLB. The conclusion drawn that the Portain Buoy, which has an 18 metre riser, could have been 16-17 metres out of position at the time of the grounding as it was low water has been disputed by NLB and thus has been accepted by CFL. As noted below:

Thanks for your email, on reflection and after further conversation with our Masters I would tend to agree with you. The grounding occurred in the very young flood and I am doubtful that there was adequate tidal stream to have already moved the buoy to the west of the charted position, especially considering that there was 18 metres of 38mm chain to move as well.

However, as you have said, it does give some scope of uncertainty as to the actual position of the buoy in an area where the margins for error are very slim. I am thankful to you both for your consideration of changing the buoy to a perch.

With this in mind, I have now commissioned a more complete bathymetric survey of this area, by Aspect surveys, from Trench buoy in the west to NF2 perch in the east to better understand any changes in the bathymetry in the period since the last wider survey of the area in 2004.

Brgds

Mark

*Mark Thomson
Head of Marine
CalMac Ferries Ltd*

The report makes a number of recommendations and after discussions the Committee agreed to carry out the following actions:

- Beacons Dugh Sgeir and Janes Tower are to be repainted.
- Grocis Sgeir unlit Beacon is to be re-established.
- Portain Buoy is to be replaced by a lit beacon, final position to be determined in consultation with CFL users.

Action: Director of Operations

Oban Bay

The Navigation Manager has met with the CFL Harbour Manger to discuss potential traffic routing improvements. A number of proposals were discussed and the following actions were agreed:

- An advisory notice to incoming vessels to monitor channel 12 is to be stencilled on the Northwest side of the lower white band of the NLB's North Spit of Kerrera light.
- Seasonal Buoys to be established
 - Port hand mark at 56° 25.276'N 005° 29.261'W (approx)
 - Starboard hand mark at 56° 25.263'N 005° 29.060'W (approx)

Action: Director of Operations

Scurdie Ness

Scurdie Ness is chartered as a 23 mile light and is currently operating on a temporary 12 mile light awaiting the installation of a new LED biform light. The new light is capable of a 22 mile range at 100% power however by running the light at half power will reduce stress on the light and improve battery reserve time but still give a 20 mile range. The Committee agreed to reduce the range to 20 miles.

Action: Navigation Manager

5. ENGINEERING

Monitoring

After long deliberation and a series of meetings, DfT have now determined that a Single Tender Action (STA) is not possible. This means that we will have to go out to the market through a tendering process for

a new system. The Chief Executive and Directors met with IGC9 on 19 September and were briefed by the Monitoring Project Manager, TH's ICT Manager. In frank discussion with both the NLB and TH ICT Managers it was concluded that NLB proceeding alone is the best course of action for all the technical reasons described above. NLB has a time imperative because the obsolete Datac system is heading towards the end of its life therefore the recommendation is that we move ahead with a tender alone but if possible leave the doors open contractually for other GLAs to be able to utilise the contract at a later date. The Committee agreed to the recommendation and will support the proposal at the forthcoming Managing Board.

Action: Committee Members

AtoN Availability

The Committee noted the latest availability statistics.

6. NOTICES TO MARINERS

The Notices to Mariners issued since the last meeting were noted.

7. TECHNICAL DISCUSSION

The Committee enjoyed visits to the Aberdeen Harbour Nigg Bay development, the Marine Operations Centre and the AHB Bridge Simulator.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

SUCG Agenda

The Committee noted the Agenda.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

14 December 2017