

## NORTHERN LIGHTHOUSE BOARD

### NAVIGATION COMMITTEE

MINUTES – 9 March 2017

|                 |                    |                               |
|-----------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>PRESENT:</b> | Alastair Beveridge | Chairman                      |
|                 | Mike Brew          | Commissioner                  |
|                 | Mike Close         | Commissioner                  |
|                 | Alistair Mackenzie | Commissioner (by telephone)   |
|                 | Graham Crerar      | Commissioner                  |
|                 | Mike Bullock       | Chief Executive               |
|                 | Phil Day           | Director of Marine Operations |
|                 | Peter Douglas      | Navigation Manager            |
|                 | Paul Hudson        | Project Engineer              |

#### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Jill Bennett.

#### 2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the Navigation Committee meeting held on 16 January 2017 were agreed as a correct record and could be published on the website.

*Action: Secretary to the Board*

#### 3. MATTERS ARISING

Matters arising were addressed within the relevant subject areas.

#### 4. OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

The Committee noted the report and discussion took place on the following items:

##### Beacon Lighting Programme

The Committee noted the input from Forth Ports supporting the establishment of a buoy at South Carr. In view of the protracted but unsuccessful attempts to gain permission to establish a light on the beacon, it was decided to establish a North Cardinal buoy station at this site. It was also agreed that NLB's solicitor should be instructed to cease work on the permissions for the beacon.

*Action: Director of Marine Operations*

##### Irvine Harbour Company

The Committee noted that progress with establishing new lights at Irvine were proceeding very slowly. It was agreed that the NLB solicitor should continue to apply pressure and that progress would be reviewed at the next committee meeting.

*Action: Director of Marine Operations*

##### Loch Creran

The Committee noted the Navigational Risk Assessment for the entry to Loch Creran and the potential for groundings and collisions. Establishment of a beacon on the reef running North from Eriska was identified as a potential mitigation, however it was unclear whether the volume of traffic

and degree of risk justified such a measure. Discussions are to be initiated with local users regarding these issues.

*Action: Navigation Manager*

#### JNRP

The revised draft version of the GLA's Joint Navigation Requirements Policies was reviewed. After incorporation of suggested changes, the Committee recommend acceptance of this document.

*Action: Navigation Manager*

#### Annual LLA/Offshore and Aquaculture Reports

Draft reports of inspection of Local Lighthouse Authority/Offshore Installations and Aquaculture sites were reviewed. After incorporation of suggested changes, the Committee approved the external distribution of these documents.

*Action: Navigation Manager/ Director of Marine Operations*

The Committee endorsed NLB's ongoing involvement with the aquaculture industry and particularly the annual aquaculture safety training days.

#### Marine Licence and Sanction Requests

The Committee noted the summary of Marine Licence Activity and Sanctions for the establishment/disestablishment of AtoN since the last meeting.

## **5. ENGINEERING**

The Committee noted the report provided by the Acting Director of Engineering and discussion took place on the following items:

#### Corran Narrows

The Committee noted the ongoing project to establish a directional light at Corran Narrows NE light. The Committee approved the trial of VHF user-controlled functionality at this site, however the light is to be established as a 24/7 AtoN.

*Action: Acting Director of Engineering*

#### Nickel Metal Hydride batteries

The Committee noted the work undertaken to identify the failure mechanism of overheating on charge cycle and mains stations, and that a design change had been identified and tested. The modification will be installed during repair work at Ruvaal. A modification procedure will be developed. A base charging unit will be built at Oban and used to recommission batteries in long term storage. A paper will be delivered to the forthcoming IALA Workshop on Sustainable Light and Power, and will be offered to the 2018 IALA Conference.

*Action: Project Engineer*

#### Availability

The Committee noted the stable 3 year Category 1 outage figures. Combined light/AIS units mounted on buoys appear to be reaching the end of their useful life due to corrosion issues. A procurement exercise is required to identify a new supplier.

One year Category 1 availability reports are required to be presented to future meetings to facilitate early identification of declining performance.

*Action: Acting Director of Engineering*

#### Monitoring

The Committee noted ongoing efforts to establish a tri-GLA position prior to seeking approval from DfT for single tender action (STA) to integrate NLB monitoring into the Trinity House Servelec system.

*Action: Acting Director of Engineering*

## **6. NOTICES TO MARINERS**

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

## **7. TECHNICAL DISCUSSION**

The Committee noted the draft GLA Marine Navigation Plan. Overall, the document was considered too technical and lengthy and not ready for the outside audience. Some revision will be required if the document is to be presented to JUCG on 2 June 2017. Specific comments are requested to be returned to the Director of Marine Operations by 17 March.

## **8. ANNUAL REVIEW OF NAVIGATION COMMITTEE EFFECTIVENESS**

The Committee reviewed its effectiveness against the required criteria. It was considered that the effectiveness of the Committee had improved in recent meetings, with less duplication of Managing Board topics.

The Committee noted the value of input from all mariners, and recommended that increased efforts be made to liaise with the fishing industry.

The Committee discussed the potential for meeting by teleconference and videoconference, but noted that discussions of individual locations benefitted from common access to presentations and charts.

## **9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The Committee noted that the CEO of the Isle of Man Government Infrastructure Department had been invited to visit the Douglas Head refurbishment project on 29 March.

The Committee noted the ongoing importance of contributing to IALA.

## **10. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Navigation Committee will take place on 27 June 2017. This is scheduled to be in Edinburgh (am), but may be relocated to Aberdeen (pm) (tbc).