

## **Warrenpoint Harbour Authority AGM 25th June 2018 Questions & Answers.**

### **Questions received in advance of AGM**

**Name:** James McAreyve

**Question 1:** There are opinions being expressed locally that WHA is involved in importation of nuclear waste for transportation to a designated site in Northern Ireland. What is WHA's response to this?

**Response:** Warrenpoint Port is not involved in any such scheme and are not going to be part of any scheme.

**Question 2:** Why was there a change of venue for the AGM this year?

**Response:** the Town Dock office is the interface of the Port and the town and will be the focus of regeneration as outlined in the Masterplan. Future AGMs will be held in this building.

**Question 3:** Why were questions sought in advance of the AGM?

**Response:** In order that complete, full and accurate answers could be given.

**Name:** Christine Gibson

**Question 1:** what is the percentage of personnel who have zero contracted hours?

**Response:** The Port does not issue zero hours contracts. All workers receive holiday pay and have pension rights. 20% of workers are described as casual workers.

Mr B Sloan said that as a retired employee and union representative in the Port he can confirm that there are no zero hour contracts in the port..

**Question 2:** why was the 2016 annual report missing any reference to the Masterplan. In addition, why have the dredging plans also changed substantially within one year?

**Response:** Attention was drawn to Page 4 of the 2016 Annual Report within the Chairman's statement and Page 5 under the strategic report where, in both cases, reference was made to the appointment of consultants and the expected delivery of the Port Masterplan during 2017.

With regard to dredging attendees were directed to Pages 6 & 7 of the Annual Report 2016.

The Chairman advised that there are published depths on navigational charts which must be observed for the benefit of customers.

Mr Paul McTernan, SLR Consultant said that the environmental report for dredging will be published during 2018. There will be full public consultation. These reports will be in the public domain when complete..

**Question 3:** What is the remit/expertise of each person on the board?

**Response:** The Chairman stated that the board is collectively responsible for the long-term success of the business. He directed the public to the website where there are details of the board members and advised that there were copies of board pen pics available at the meeting should anyone wish to take them.

**Question 4:** How would additional questions which may arise when she has had the opportunity to read the 2017 annual report?

**Response:** The Chairman said that any further questions following the presentation of 2017 Annual Report can be e-mailed to Warrenpoint Port and will be answered.

**Name:** Brian Sloan, Michael Kilgallon and Bernarde Kilgallon

**Question 1:** Is there is a stop time for the loading/off loading of Scrap cargo at night?

**Response:** The Chairman advised that 11 pm is the cut-off time for both.

**Question 2:** Can anything can be done about the noise of loading/unloading?

**Response:** Due to dredging issues in both Warrenpoint and Heysham it was necessary to load/discharge vessels at 2/3 in the morning. These issues have now been resolved and this will not be happening in the future. Mats have been installed on the ramps to reduce noise pollution but that these can become dislodged and he would check if they are in place.

**Name:** Chris Cassidy

**Question 1:** Why will WHA not accept me as a whistle-blower as detailed in the legislation?

**Response:** Chairman responded that WHA has already provided you with a full written response to this.

### **Further Questions asked at AGM**

**Name:** Christine Gibson

**Question 1:** Could WHA host an Annual Open Day?

**Response:** The CEO said that this would be difficult from a health & safety perspective given space constraints, and it would require the Port to be closed. She welcomed visitors to have a tour of the Port in small groups. CEO to contact Ms Gibson and a colleague to arrange for a tour of the Port.

**Question 2:** Could passenger services be introduced at Warrenpoint as it was a long way for people to travel to Belfast to get the ferry?

**Response:** The chairman stated that this would not be economically viable. The CEO responded that based on the size of all existing passenger ferries in the Irish Sea, in order to accommodate passenger vessels, considerable additional dredging would be needed to obtain the depth required and that this would not be viable.

**Question 3** Why were there so much imports versus exports?

**Response:** The FD stated that the volumes were balanced in the Port between imports and exports. He referred Ms Gibson to page 4 of the 2017 annual report. There were 1.87 Million tonnes of imports and 1.69 Million tonnes of exports in 2017.

**Question 4:** Why the port was bringing so much in?

**Response:** The CEO noted that consumer demand and necessity requires the import of goods from elsewhere.

**Question 5:** Will these questions and answers be posted on the website.

**Response:** Yes.