

MINUTES OF COMBINED SEAWAY TOWER OPERATORS MEETING

Held: 21 February 2018 at 18:00 at Coast Guard base, Southport

Apologies from: M Hill, D Lissenden, S Willis, T Hillier, J Crane (plus 3 others; indistinct recording).

Minutes of previous meeting: Moved by G Paschedag that the minutes be confirmed as true and correct; seconded by P Cartwright that the minutes be received and dealt with, there being no votes against the motion.

A report was provided as to the workshop which took place at Waterways on 8 February 2018. The attendees at that meeting were named.

A summary of the objectives at the meeting were set out and next step/objectives were read out.

Martin Walsh and Ken Stanley were present and introduced to the operators and Martin spoke as to the Committee for the Tower and the position of Seaway Tower Manager appointed for a period of two years ending August in each two year period.

President of VMR and Commander of Coast Guard spoke to the meeting as to issues arising from the workshop.

Waterways completed the plumbing works at the Tower just one day before the meeting and the meeting was informed that we could now go back into the Tower. A decision was made to go back in on Monday, 26 February 2018 as this would allow for road closures, roster changes, radio and computer inspections and cleaning at the Tower.

Discussion was held as to public perception of the Tower. There was further discussions as to calls signs (P Cartwright raised Point Danger being Marine Rescue NSW and thus different from the Tower's position). It was moved by P Cartwright and seconded by B Bird that a vote be taken as to one call sign. All voted for VMR with I Farr being the lone dissenter.

Ken Stanley updated the meeting on information in his possession for the rest of this year only and that in 2019, occupation of the Tower may be unknown, depending on funding.

Martin Walsh addressed the meeting on the approaches to be made for funding.

Ken and Martin informed the meeting as to the requirements for statistics to be sought by the relevant attendees.

A long and emotive discussion then followed as to documenting various incidents. There were also arguments put forward as to various operators' views on Tower operations, duties and functions.

The meeting was requested to write down and preserve the incidents related to safety and prevention separate to the Coms Log.

Martin and Ken informed the meeting of the authorities regarding the Tower as a listening watch only.

P Cartwright suggested that until an agreement to licence the Tower was in place, all other matters must be delayed. The Committee agreed with this approach.

The Committee was in agreement that in the event that the agreement to licence required VMR and Coast Guard to pay all ongoing costs, then the agreement would not be taken up and that the Tower operators from each organisation would not provide volunteer hours.

Martin Walsh informed the meeting that the boating public and boating groups were being consulted.

Members were referred to the MOU and that document's shortcomings.

Tanya Christensen addressed the meeting on statistics and the need to complete the Coms Log more carefully. There is a presentation available from Tanya on request. I Farr raised the recording of emails "E" on the Coms Log. Tanya added the recording of fax.

It was moved by D Gibson and seconded by B Weldon that the Tower close at 18:00 hours. The motion was passed with two abstainers and one dissenter.

Meeting closed at 19:30 hours

Next meeting to be at VMR Base after the agreement to licence becomes available or advice as to renovations are confirmed, subject to any other urgent matter.