

Yarmouth (Isle of Wight) Harbour Commissioners

Minutes of a Public Meeting of The Yarmouth Harbour Commissioners held at Yarmouth Sailing Club, Yarmouth, On 23 October 2006 at 1830 hours

PRESENT	Mr J May (Chairman) Miss V Gwynn (Vice-Chairman) Mr M Collinson Mr H Fair	Mr C Lisher, (Chief Executive/Harbour Master) Mr K Orwin Mr P Keen
IN ATTENDANCE	Mrs P McCoy Mr E Jewett	Mr B Bird Mrs T Cooper
APOLOGIES	Mr M Dorey	Prof D Farnham
PUBLIC ATTENDING	M Bunting A Toms M Mawhood D Kennett J Lewis T Davis T Higginbotham R K Goodridge M Stallard D Lemonius S Davies L Taylor R Gawn D Toms T J G Francis B Turner D Pentreath P B Thomas M Lane J Liddington G Cameron G P Knight V Cooke M Lawrence P Stovold J Stovold G Bunton J Green N W Green P Green J Green	Harbour resident Yarmouth Sailing Club Yarmouth Town Council Harbour user Licence holder Licence holder Yarmouth Town Council Yarmouth Town Council Yarmouth Marine Service Harbour resident Harbour resident Stakeholder Harbour user RNLI "Salvation Jane" Water Taxis Harbour user Harbour Taxis Isle of Wight Council West Wight Business Association Totland Parish Council Fisherman General Advisory Committee General Advisory Committee Royal Solent Yacht Club Harbour user Harbour user Harbour user Harbour user

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed and thanked members of the public for attending. He introduced Mr Lisher as the new Chief Executive/Harbour Master and explained a new Commissioner, Prof Farnham, had also been appointed since the last Public Meeting but unfortunately could not attend the meeting this evening. Mr May and Miss Gwynn had been reappointed as Commissioners for a further three year term. Following their reappointments Mr May was also re-elected Chairman for three years and Miss Gwynn as Vice-Chairman for one year.

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

301/06 As per the Register. Nothing further to declare.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING HELD ON 30 JANUARY 2006

302/06 There were no matters arising from the foregoing minutes.

COMMISSIONERS' UPDATE SINCE THE LAST PUBLIC MEETING

303/06 The Chief Executive presented an update on matters of interest since the last public meeting. A copy of the presentation handout is attached to and forms part of these minutes.

Topics covered in the presentation included the Harbour finances, the Commissioners' future strategy for the harbour, upcoming changes and improvements being made, maintenance works and issues surrounding Yarmouth Pier.

Following the Chief Executive's presentation the Chairman invited questions from members of the public.

QUESTIONS

304/06 Car Parking – Harbour Office : Clarification was sought on the proposed car parking arrangements for annual mooring holders. The Chief Executive explained that over the years parking has been an issue in and around the property and the conclusion the Commissioners have come to is to withdraw the facility for annual mooring holders from 1 January next year. People who can park there are commercial licence holders, Commissioners, Advisory Committee members and staff. Annual mooring holders will still be permitted to park whilst loading/unloading which will subject to a time restriction. These changes have been approved by the Commissioners.

A member of the public asked the Commissioners if they were aware that they had a legal obligation under the Trust Ports Act to consult with Advisory Committees before making such decisions. He said the Commissioners had not consulted with

the Advisory Committees but have simply advised them, and only last week, that they have reached this decision. The General Advisory Committee is less than happy about the proposal. He went on to say that as stakeholders he believes they are entitled to some discussion before such decisions are taken.

Another member of the public said the Commissioners have got to treat all stakeholders on a level playing field saying this is a legal requirement.

The Chairman said the Commissioners are very good with their consultation process and pointed out that those present had picked on one particular issue, car parking. He explained that the Commissioners are not expected to consult on absolutely everything they intend to do. However, the Chairman accepted that some people felt they should have been consulted on this matter.

A member of the public pointed out that one hour for loading and unloading was deemed not long enough.

The Chief Executive said the issue of car parking has been discussed on numerous occasions in the past at Advisory Committee meetings and no suggestions for alleviating the problems faced have been forthcoming. Abuse of the parking facilities continues unabated. It was pointed out to those present that there is a local council car park within easy reach of the Harbour Office. He said most of the difficulties surround not having enough loading/unloading space and this is being addressed under the new policy.

The Commissioners were asked to consider allowing annual mooring licence holders to use the overflow car park facility.

The Chairman thanked people for their contributions and said the Commissioners would discuss them at their next meeting.

Someone asked when a response would be made and how it would be promulgated. The Chairman said everyone would be made aware of the Commissioners' decisions.

305/06 Advisory Committee Representation. A member of the public suggested that annual mooring holders are not represented on either of the Advisory Committees and that this should be addressed. However, a member of the General Advisory Committee who was present at the meeting pointed out that approximately 50% of that group were annual mooring holders and although they were appointed to the General Advisory Committee representing different organisations they were always conscious of their annual mooring status.

306/06 Harbour Full. A member of the public said a numerous complaints had been received by them about being turned away from the harbour throughout the summer when it appeared to them the harbour was nowhere near full. When the berthing masters had been asked about this they said they had not had the time to take the flag down. It was felt that the

board and flag signifying that the harbour is full are put up too early. The Chairman promised to look into this.

The Chief Executive said he would like people to bear in mind that bookings are taken for the walk ashore facility and when people are turned away it is because some people who have booked haven't yet arrived. He said it was in everyone's interests to fill the harbour as best as can be done, but in the early part of the season the berthing masters were instructed to act conservatively for safety's sake because it was a new facility.

307/06

Review of Annual Mooring Licence Terms and Conditions. A member of the public said he was shocked to learn that the revised annual moorings licence procedure/terms and conditions were intended for implementation from 1 January 2007. He asked whether they would be issued to annual mooring licence holders as a fait accompli without people having a right to comment on them.

The Chairman explained that a lot of time has been spent going through the proposed changes with the Advisory Committees. The idea behind the revision is to clarify a system which has been very badly documented in the past.

The Chairman said a meeting would be held with commercial annual mooring licence holders as there were some changes to the documentation relating to commercial licence holders that would affect the fishermen and the Commissioners wanted to discuss these separately with them.

The Chairman said a letter will be sent to annual mooring licence holders on or about 1 December 2006 explaining what has been done, highlighting the main changes and those who have already got licences will be asked to have returned their applications and payments to the Harbour Office by the end of January next year.

The Chairman said copies of the revised documents would be made available at the Harbour Office reception.

In response to the adverse comments Miss Gwynn said she was surprised that mooring holders are not more in touch with each other and this lack of communication cannot be blamed on the Commissioners. She said David Wastall was complimented five years ago by the Government about how the Advisory Committee structure had been set up. She said the Commissioners have bent over backwards in the last five years to consult and she is aghast at some of the comments she has heard at tonight's meeting.

308/06

Walk Ashore Facility. A member of the public said that a lot of people didn't want the walk ashore facility installed and still don't want it. It is causing a great deal of grief for the Commissioners' staff, particularly with regard to pre-booking and it is going to be full whether bookings are taken or not so why not leave it as first come/first served.

The Chief Executive explained that only 11 berths are made available for booking on the walk ashore facility, that the system is new and has encountered a few problems. Much of the feedback from visitors on the walk ashore facility has been very positive, and even more so about being able to book. Visitors want certainty not uncertainty about being able to berth in Yarmouth Harbour when they arrive.

The Chief Executive said the Commissioners have been publicising the bookings facility and that they intend to increase the number of available berths for booking. From his discussions with other harbours and marinas the Chief Executive said they were also starting to go down the route of offering bookable moorings.

DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

309/10 The next Public Meeting will take place on 29 January 2007 at 1800 hours – to be confirmed. Venue to be advised.

The meeting was declared closed at 1940 hours