

The Yarmouth (Isle of Wight) Harbour Commissioners
Minutes of a Meeting of
The Elected Councillor Advisory Committee
held at the Harbour Office,
on 23 October 2007 at 0840 hours

PRESENT	Councillor Mrs Barbara Foster Councillor David Kennett Councillor Ronald Goodridge Councillor Mrs Valerie Cooke Councillor George Cameron	Chairperson, Isle of Wight Council Yarmouth Town Council Yarmouth Town Council Totland Parish Council Freshwater Parish Council
IN ATTENDANCE	Mr Chris Lisher Mrs Tracey Cooper	Chief Executive/Harbour Master Secretary

1 Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 17 July 2007

1.1 The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as being a true record of the proceedings following a slight amendment to the last paragraph in item 7.2 (Workshop Area Development), the word 'community' being replaced with 'economy'; the sentence now reads, "A member expressed the view that it would not be beneficial to the *economy* if the area was developed for holiday homes."

2 Matters Arising

2.1 Winter Mooring Rates (Item 2.1)

The Chief Executive confirmed the discounted rates have proven extremely popular, in particular the winter moorings on the walk ashore which were booked up almost immediately.

2.2 Bridge Repairs (Item 1.2)

The Chief Executive reported that after a bridge failure a couple of months ago the maintenance repairs are scheduled for 19 November, dependent on funding approval.

Following the failure of the bridge traffic barriers recently the operation of the barriers is being carried out manually and as yet no date for repair has been agreed.

The Chief Executive reminded members that the Commissioners still do not have a bridge operating contract with the Isle of Wight Council, the production of which remains ongoing. Because of the problem with the traffic barriers the Chief Executive has offered to take over responsibility for their maintenance along with the warning lights.

The Chief Executive was asked to consider carefully any bridge repair dates, especially if the bridge is to be closed to road traffic, bearing in mind that the 'middle road' is closed for repairs.

A member suggested that a survey and condition report ought to be commissioned on the bridge either on a six monthly or annual basis, which would hopefully go some way in preventing future breakdowns of the bridge.

3 Harbour Revision Order (HRO) – Second Draft

- 3.1 The Chief Executive explained that the second draft of the HRO was circulated in August for comments by mid-October.
- 3.2 The most significant of the objections received is in relation to the lack on an appeal process being incorporated within the document. The Commissioners agreed to incorporate an appeal process at their last Board meeting and have yet to decide how the process will work.
- 3.3 In terms of the consultation period, this has been increased from 30 to 42 days.
- 3.4 It is hoped that the final draft will be ready for circulation in early November with a view to submitting it to the Department for Transport before the end of the year. It is unlikely the new HRO will be implemented before the end of 2008.

4 The Pier

- 4.1 Following the successful bid for a Heritage Lottery Fund grant, there are a number of conditions attached to its approval; one being that the timber used must be supplied from a sustainable source. This has now been achieved but with a lead time for delivery of three months. It is envisaged this work will commence in January/February 2008, taking approximately two months to complete.
- 4.2 The formal re-opening ceremony of the pier will be held on Saturday 26 April 2008, conducted by Alan Titchmarsh. The Chief Executive said a number of events will be held over the weekend and if any member has any suggestions for same to let him know.
- 4.3 The Pier Appeal Fund was launched to raise funds to supplement the Heritage Lottery Fund grant. On 29 September an Auction was held at The Towers in Yarmouth, which raised approximately £15k and after costs netted a profit of between £9k/£10k. The total in the Pier Appeal Fund is now £25k.
- 4.4 A 10 year maintenance plan for the pier has to be drawn up and the Pier Appeal Fund monies will help towards these costs.
- 4.5 A member suggested that a display feature could be created in Yarmouth illustrating the destructive effect that gribble worm causes to piles as well as the effects of seawater on the metal brackets/bolts. A donation box near by was also proposed. It was considered that this may be a project that Island 2000 could progress.

5 Harbour Website and Advisory Committees

- 5.1 The Chief Executive advised members that anybody can now contact the Advisory Committees via the Harbour's website front page 'contact us' button which gives the option of contacting the Commissioners, the Elected Councillors Advisory Committee or the General Advisory Committee. The Harbour's Admin Department will regularly check for and forward on any mail received to the respective Chairs of each Committee.

6 Chief Executive

6.1 Workshop area development

The Chief Executive reported that an architect's services have been used in connection with the development of the current workshop area, which incorporates the Tourist Office and flat above, and for the provision of a new workshop sited within the confines of the Harbour Office boundary, the location of which has yet to be decided. Initial drawings are expected by December.

The Chief Executive, together with Peter Kingston, has visited the Planning Department, and outlined to the Committee some of the issues that will be faced by the Commissioners with the development of the current workshop site; it is on a flood plain and in a conservation area for example.

The Chief Executive went on to say that it is possible planning permission and funding may be agreed to start building work in the second half of 2008. It is expected that planning permission will be applied for in the first quarter of next year.

A member was concerned that if the new workshop was sited by the slipway at the rear of the Harbour Office that it would create a blind spot of the harbour as well as the view being lost from the Harbour Office building itself, and suggested a better place might be by the Yar Bridge.

The Chief Executive said it would be more beneficial for the Commissioners if the current workshop site was to become all residential property, whereas a member suggested that commercial outlets on the ground floor would be advantageous to the town.

A member asked if the Commissioners had considered purchasing the property for sale next to the Tourist Office and then developing the whole site. The Chief Executive said that this has not been considered by the Commissioners.

ECAC would like to see and discuss the plans when they are available.

6.2 Trees on The Green

The Chief Executive explained that two options are being considered; one being to replace the trees over a ten year period, the second, which has not yet been discussed with the Isle of Wight Council, is to remove all the trees and start afresh. Any work would not begin until next year with re-planting commencing in the autumn.

6.3 Dredging

The Chief Executive advised members that dredging is underway in the river basin, with some also being carried out in the main harbour. The dredging company has a commitment in Lyminster in November and may have to return to Yarmouth to complete the works, which will be arranged around other projects that will be underway during the winter months.

A new dredging licence has been applied for.

6.4 South-west corner development

The Chief Executive reported that funding has been obtained from DEFRA towards surveying work which has now been completed, and reports are expected in November/December. Dependent on the findings of the surveys the proposed development may have to be modified in some way.

6.5 Wightlink ferries, linkspan, etc

The Chief Executive provided members with an update on the current situation regarding the new ferries, stressing the importance of this route not only to the harbour but the whole of the West Wight area.

The Chief Executive went on to explain that a FEPA (Food and Environment Protection Act) licence is required and has been applied for in connection with the works on the linkspan and other works in Lymington; one licence covers both sites. It is understood a number of objections have been received, in particular from Natural England in relation to the works in Lymington, that has resulted in legal advice being sought by all parties concerned which may ultimately delay the introduction of the new ferries.

The closing date for the receipt of tenders for the design and build of the linkspan in Yarmouth is 24 October, and the Chief Executive hopes to receive some feedback week commencing 29 October. It is not known when this work is likely to start.

Should the new ferries ever need to use the emergency slipway at Yarmouth, Wightlink propose to use a barge which will be based at Lymington and towed over to Yarmouth as and when required. This barge will also service Wightlink's Fishbourne terminal.

A member reported that the Yarmouth Town Trust had requested a meeting with Wightlink which has been arranged and will be attended by members of the Yarmouth Town Council and other invitees. The Chairman asked that an update be provided following this meeting.

6.6 Car parking review

The Chief Executive explained that following the change to the parking policy in April there would be a review by the Commissioners in November. Although some initial problems were encountered, no complaints or difficulties have been experienced over the summer period and clampings have tailed off in September/October. It is anticipated that the Commissioners will propose no changes to the current arrangements.

6.7 Power generation bid

The Chief Executive reported that a mature student from Southampton University conducted a water turbine trial under the pier in July, and his report was received last week. The initial thoughts were that no power could be produced but it was discovered that power could indeed be produced, mostly on the ebb tide.

The report concluded that for approximately £150k, 30 water turbines could be sited under the pier which would generate in the region of 60% of the harbour's needs over a year. The view is that it would not be worth selling the electricity to the National Grid but it would be more useful to make use of the resource for the harbour's own requirements.

It is generally thought that gaining planning permission for such a project would be unlikely. However, something on a smaller scale may prove successful. The Chief Executive is eager to further this project in some way.

Southampton University has confirmed it would like to conduct some further tests under the pier.

During the initial tests weed was a big problem which will necessitate the blades being redesigned to cope with this.

The Commissioners have yet to discuss the findings of the report.

6.8 Solar Panels

The Chief Executive explained that grant aid funding has been received from the Isle of Wight Council which supports renewable energy projects. The money has to be spent this year and a planning application has been submitted for the provision of solar panels.

6.9 Recycling bins

New recycling bins will be in place in November at the Harbour Office. Bags have also been purchased for use by boat owners to encourage them to separate and recycle their on-board waste.

6.10 Commissioners Informal Meeting – 29 October 2007

The Chief Executive informed members that the Commissioners will be holding an Informal Meeting on Monday 29 October at 6pm at Yarmouth Primary School. Everyone is welcome to attend.

6.11 Recent Decisions by the Board of Commissioners

Nothing other than reported elsewhere in these minutes.

6.12 Any Other Matters

Court case : Yarmouth Harbour Commissioners -v- commercial fisherman. The Chief Executive reported that this matter was scheduled for Newport Magistrates Court on Monday 22 October. However, the defendant did not attend and the case was adjourned until 19 November.

7 Minutes of the General Advisory Committee held on 2 October 2007

7.1 The minutes of the above meeting were noted.

8 Any Other Business

8.1 Harbour Finances (Update)

The Chief Executive provided an update on the current finances of the Harbour in terms of income and surplus, both of which are in a healthy condition. It was noted that the walk ashore facility has been fully booked every weekend from the beginning of May this year to the end of September.

9 Date and Time of Next Meeting

9.1 The next meeting will be held at 0830 hours on Tuesday 22 January 2008.

The meeting was declared closed at 0950 hours