

CONFIRMED MINUTES

Yarmouth (Isle of Wight) Harbour Commissioners
Minutes of a Meeting of
The Yarmouth Harbour Advisory Committee
held at the Harbour Office,
on 10th March 2009 at 0900 hours

PRESENT	Sylvia Mence, Chairman Jon Matthews Cllr William Burt Ron Goodridge Mike Hayles Roger Granger Danny Arthur George Cameron Marigold Morphy Sue Hawley Valerie Cooke	Royal Yachting Association Wightlink, Isle of Wight Ferries Isle of Wight Councillor for Shalfleet and Yarmouth Yarmouth Town Council Commercial Fishermen's Association Royal Solent Yacht Club Yarmouth Business Association Freshwater Parish Council Yarmouth Sailing Club Estuaries Officer Totland Parish Council
IN ATTENDANCE	Chris Lisher David Farnham Sarah Humphries	Chief Executive/Harbour Master Commissioner Minutes Secretary
APOLOGIES	Malcolm Thorpe	Royal Solent Yacht Club

1. **Welcome and Introductions**

The CE/HM welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the Yarmouth Harbour Advisory Committee and introductions were made.

2. **Yarmouth Harbour Advisory Committee**

• ***Commissioners aims for the new Committee***

The CE/HM explained that the aim of the new Committee was for the Harbour to share plans and views with each of the organisations represented on it and was not intended to provide a forum at which individuals could pursue their own interests. He explained the importance of feedback so that information is disseminated in the appropriate way and the intention to have as open a relationship with members as possible.

The CE/HM explained that, although in attendance at the Committee meetings, he was only present in order to provide information to the Committee, he does not have a vote and is not actually a member.

• ***Election of a Chair / Vice Chair***

The Committee elected Sylvia Mence as Chairman and George Cameron as Vice Chairman.

• ***Administration***

The newly elected Chairman explained that YHAC needed to meet 6 times per year as per the Constitution and that it was important to meet in October (when charges for the following year are being set) as well as soon after the AGM. It was therefore

proposed that YHAC meet in February, April, June, September, October and December. All members were in agreement that these dates would be accepted at this stage and confirmed at the next meeting in April.

Meetings are to remain on a Tuesday morning and will commence at 0900.

The Chairman suggested that the Committee adopt a 'Procedure' which sets out general guidance for its operation including the number of members needed for a Quorum and meeting frequency. The details of this were accepted by members and is attached to these Minutes for approval at the next meeting. In relation to the new Constitution, the Committee agreed that the attendance of 10 members of the public would be monitored by the Chairman and that members of the public would be permitted by the Chairman to speak after the initial Committee discussion of any item.

A. **Operational Update**

1. **Wightlink New Ferries**

The new 'W' class ferries have been operational since 4th March. There have been hydraulic problems with Wight Sky and this coupled with the slow crossing times due to crew inexperience have led to delays. This has led to Wightlink switching to an hourly timetable throughout the day and a 45 mins timetable during peak times. It is anticipated that this will only need to operate until mid –May. The third ferry Wight Sun is due to sail back from Croatia at the end of April and could take between 3 – 6 weeks to arrive.

Installation of new passenger ramp at Lymington awaits planning permission from New Forest District Council whilst the piling work still awaits a FEPA licence from Defra. They are currently in consultation with Natural England about the environmental impact that this may have on the local area.

A member raised the issue of widespread problems associated with the lateness of the commuter ferries and the impact this had had on both workers and school children during the last few weeks. The representative from Wightlink explained that this was the reason that an hourly timetable was now in operation.

2. **Yar Bridge**

A contract has now been signed with the Isle of Wight Council for the operation of the bridge. There are some closures coming up in the near future. The first is between 20-27th March when it will undergo its annual service. On occasions the bridge may be closed to both river and road traffic but this will be only when absolutely necessary.

The IW Council has issued a Road Closure Notice to operate between 14th April – 22nd May. The bridge will be open to pedestrians throughout this time but will be closed to all road traffic. It will be able to be opened for river traffic during this time.

Several members asked if the IW Council could be approached regarding the possibility of using the field on the far side of the bridge for parking use, enabling people to park and then walk into the town during the closure period. The Committee expressed concern for the impact of this closure on the town traders at this time of year – both in Yarmouth and Freshwater / Totland. There were also concerns about the state and safety of both the

middle road and Wilmington Lane which will receive heavy usage when a diversion is put in place. Another member highlighted the importance of having the correct signage in working order in the correct places to warn of the closure.

3. **SW Corner Development**

There have been a number of objectors including Natural England, the Environment Agency and one concerning the Hyder Survey. The Planning decision has not yet been notified.

4. **Dredging**

The dredging programme was almost complete and a Beneficial Dredging licence is being obtained to deposit the shingle from the harbour entrance dredging against the Breakwater and the Castle.

5. **Safety**

No issues to report.

The Committee stated they would find it useful for the Deputy Harbour Master to attend YHAC meetings in the future to give her report.

B **ADVISORY ISSUES**

1. **Harbour Revision Order**

The RYA's objection to the HRO has now been resolved, the Order has been redrafted and sent back to the RYA for comment. The Chairman would be arranging for Gus Lewis of the RYA to meet the former GAC members in due course.

2 **Any Other Business**

2.1 The Chairman asked members whether they wished to be named in the Minutes of the committee meetings and all were in agreement that they did not wish to be named unless specifically requested.

2.2 The CE/HM informed members that the Harbour had advertised for a total of 4 new Commissioners' vacancies at the Harbour and that these were due to come on board in June 2009.

2.3 The CE/HM explained proposals from IW Council, Wightlink and YHC to introduce changes to the road, marshalling area and exit lane in order to improve traffic flow around the ferry terminal. Plans of the proposed changes were made available to members and several raised concerns with these.

David Farnham left the meeting at this point.

The main concern raised by several members was the problem of public access to the emergency slipway if the proposed changes were to go ahead as described. The CE/HM explained that this constituted Phase 1 of the proposed changes, and that there were 3 in total and each would be subject to consultation at the relevant time. He asked members to put into writing any objections they may have as soon as possible and by 31 March 2009.

Members resolved to advise the Commissioners:

- that YHAC approved the road plans relating to the flow of traffic;
- that further consideration should be given to improving access to the public slipway if the proposal went ahead;
- that Wightlink be asked to leave lane one (from the point of entry to the slipway) clear of ferry traffic in periods when members of the public were likely to need access to the slipway;
- that the CE/HM discuss with IWC Highways Dept. the provision of an entry “for slipway only” off the roundabout at the ferry traffic exit.

2.4 A member asked if an explanation of why his organisation’s nominated Deputy was turned down could be emailed in the near future.

3. Date of next meeting: **Tuesday 14th April 2009 at 0900**

The meeting ended at 1109.