

## CONFIRMED MINUTES

**Yarmouth (Isle of Wight) Harbour Commissioners**  
**Minutes of a Meeting of**  
**The Yarmouth Harbour Advisory Committee**  
**held at the Harbour Office,**  
**on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2009 at 0900 hours**

<b>PRESENT</b>	Sylvia Mence, Chairman	Royal Yachting Association	
	Richard Long	Wightlink, Isle of Wight Ferries	
	William Burt	Isle of Wight Councillor for Shalfleet and Yarmouth	
	Ron Goodridge	Yarmouth Town Council	
	Mike Hayles	Commercial Fishermen's Association	
	Julia Bridgeman	Yarmouth Business Association	
	George Cameron, Vice Chairman	Freshwater Parish Council	
	Marigold Morphy	Yarmouth Sailing Club	
	Sue Hawley	Estuaries Officer	
	Valerie Cooke	Totland Parish Council	
	Steve Wartman	British Marine Federation	
	<b>IN ATTENDANCE</b>	Chris Lisher	Chief Executive/Harbour Master
		Phil Keen	Commissioner
Sarah Humphries		Minutes Secretary	
<b>APOLOGIES</b>	Charlotte Beeby	Deputy Harbour Master	
	Malcolm Thorpe	Royal Solent Yacht Club	
	Jon Matthews	Wightlink	
	Danny Arthur	Yarmouth Business Association	

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The Chairman welcomed Julia Bridgeman substituting for Danny Arthur, Richard Long substituting for Jon Matthews, Phil Keen, Commissioner and Steve Wartman who was the proposed BMF representative.

**1. Approval of Minutes**

The Minutes of YHAC held on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2009 were approved.

**2. Matters Arising**

**2.1** To confirm meeting frequency: this was confirmed as February, April, June, September, October and December.

**2.2** To confirm the YHAC procedure document: this was agreed by the Committee and officially adopted by YHAC on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2009.

**A. Operational Update**

**1. Deputy Harbourmaster's Review**

The Maintenance and Beneficial Dredging that has been taking place in and outside of the harbour has now been completed. The Fishermen's representative pointed out that the Dredger had dumped one of its loads of mixed shingle and mud some 100ft north of the breakwater. This is visible at very low tide and shows part of it to be on an oyster bed. The CE/HM

commented that dumping had taken place as close to the breakwater as was possible and that, when the initial load was deposited in this location, the dredger crew were informed that it was too far north and were closely monitored to ensure that this did not occur again. YHAC was reassured that this would also be closely monitored in the future when dredging is taking place.

**2. Wightlink New Ferries**

The third new ferry arrived in Lymington today. The hourly timetable still operates for the time being. A full Planning Application is now to be submitted to New Forest District Council for the installation of a passenger walkway. It was agreed that the Chairman would email Jon Matthews at Wightlink and request that he keep her informed of any developments within the next two months and that she would pass these on to all YHAC members.

**3. Yar Bridge**

A contract has now been signed with the Isle of Wight Council for the operation of the bridge. In addition to the Summer fixed and Winter request opening times, the bridge must now be opened once daily throughout the Winter.

The IW Council has issued a Road Closure Notice to operate between 14<sup>th</sup> April – 15<sup>th</sup> 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 were concerned about the lack of parking space on the Freshwater side of the bridge, enabling people to park and then walk into the town during the closure period. There would be a serious impact from this closure on the traders and businesses in both Yarmouth and Freshwater/Totland at this time of year. There were also concerns about the state and safety of both the Middle Road and Wilmingham 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.

**Safety**

No issues to report.

**B ADVISORY ISSUES**

**1. Harbour Revision Order**

The RYA has now withdrawn its objection to the proposed HRO. Some of the remaining objections were in support of the RYA. A meeting is scheduled to take place at the Harbour office on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April which will involve the representatives of the previous GAC and Gus Lewis of the RYA who will explain the changes/amendments to the HRO and the reasons for withdrawing its objections. The former GAC will need to send a statement of its position to the Secretary of State and YHC.

## **2. Proposed Changes To Improve Ferry Traffic Flow**

The CE/HM and Wightlink have discussed the YHAC proposals made at the March meeting. It has been concluded that to provide access to the 'Emergency Slipway' directly from the roundabout would not be safe as there would not be sufficient space to turn around and reverse a boat down onto the slipway. It had been agreed that Wightlink should leave lane one (from the point of entry to the slipway) clear of ferry traffic to give access to the slipway. Wightlink have confirmed that they will only use this lane as a last resort. The CE/HM confirmed that this does mean that on occasions there may be a need to use this lane for loading at extremely busy periods.

The Chairman asked members to observe how this worked during the coming busy season and, as YHAC would not meet between April - June and June - September, to write to the CE/HM and/or herself as and when any difficulties were observed.

The commercial load/unload space would not be affected. It was also confirmed that all Highway alterations would be carried out whilst the Yar Bridge is closed over the next few weeks.

## **3. Planning Applications**

### **3.1 SW Corner Development**

The objection put forward by Natural England has now been overcome, following mitigation agreement, but there is now an objection from the AONB that is in the process of being considered. The IW Council Planning Officer held a site visit with the AONB Officer last week and they appeared to be happy with proposals but this has yet to be confirmed formally.

### **3.2 Reception**

Following further discussions with the IW Council Planning Department, the Commissioners have withdrawn the planning application as it was decided that it was unnecessary. YHC are now installing hot and cold drinks machines and will sell some additional souvenirs. The IW Council have stated that they will monitor this over the next 3-6 months.

In addition, a new planning application has been made to extend the rear of the Reception area to provide improved viewing and monitoring of the fuel berth area by Harbour staff.

## **4. New Commissioner Appointments**

There were 8 applications in total and from them 4 new appointments have been made:

David Farnham	Community Affairs
Belinda Walters	Legal Affairs
Tim Francis	Coastal Environment
James Howe	Health & Safety

These posts are due to start at the end of May / beginning of June.

**5. Annual General Meeting**

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2009 1800 hours Yarmouth Primary School. The Chairman requested that copies of the Accounts be circulated to members of the Committee prior to the meeting. The CE/HM confirmed that the Accounts have been audited and that there had been nothing requiring amendment. A smaller profit was reported than the previous year but as all profit is taxed, it is a fine balancing act between making a profit and reinvesting the money back into the Harbour.

**6. Events**

The Commissioners have looked at the possibility of using a marquee on the Green for the month of September 2009. This may be utilised for a Wedding Reception on 5<sup>th</sup> September, a Charity event on 12<sup>th</sup> Sept and potentially a food festival on 19<sup>th</sup> Sept, although the latter was looking unlikely. One member suggested an event similar to the Island Expo event held in Cowes be investigated as this appeared to be fairly successful.

**7. Environmental Matters**

There has still been no advance with the recycling scheme at the Harbour due to the Gasification plant at Forest Rd not working consistently and its capacity to receive 'commercial waste'. The Harbour's waste is classed as commercial because the harbour is a business and this limits our recycling to items that Biffa will collect. Currently Biffa will only take cardboard but our cardboard bin is frequently contaminated with other waste and this leads to it being classed as 'mixed waste' which incurs a much higher disposal charge. The cardboard bin will be locked for the time being to regulate what is put into it. Everything that is put into the skip goes straight to landfill so further attempts will be made to reduce this.

**8. Any Other Business**

8.1 Members are requesting clarification from the Commissioners of Item 10.3 in 'Attendance Of Others' in the Revised Constitution for Advisory Committees. The first sentence would appear to exclude members of the public from attending YHAC meetings if they belonged to an organisation already represented on YHAC. This had not been in the previous Constitution and, in the light of GAC's experience, it would be difficult and time consuming to enforce. YHAC advises the Commissioners that it would prefer to have this exclusion removed.

8.2 A member raised the issue that his predecessor on GAC did not think he was suitable for reappointment onto YHAC as he has previously served. The Chairman and the CE/HM confirmed that this was not the case and that members that had sat on GAC were permitted to be nominated by their organisations to represent them on YHAC.

8.3 Although there had been a suggestion that parking should be free in Pier Square during the Bridge closure, the CE/HM pointed out that the IW Council was responsible for the Bridge and could therefore offer free parking at the Council's car park.

The BMF representative would discuss the possibility of providing some parking on his landlord's land whilst the bridge was closed enabling pedestrians to gain access to Yarmouth by river taxi.

Totland Parish Council had sent a letter to the IW Council regarding the state of Wilmingham Lane and had received a favourable letter back. Many 'patch' repairs have already been carried out and should any members see any more that require attention they should let the Council know in order that they can be repaired.

A request by the local County Councillor for an enforced 40mph speed limit on Wilmingham Lane had been made but was turned down.

The CE/HM informed members that there were to be three retirements at the Harbour this year: Alan Howard in April, Ed Jewett in July and Les Turner in September.

9. **Date of next meetings at 0900:** Tuesdays 9<sup>th</sup> June, 8<sup>th</sup> September.

The meeting ended at 1015.