

CONFIRMED MINUTES

Yarmouth (Isle of Wight) Harbour Commissioners
Minutes of a Meeting of
The Yarmouth Harbour Advisory Committee
held at the Harbour Office,
on 8th September 2009 at 0900 hours

PRESENT	Sylvia Mence, Chairman Ron Goodridge Mike Hayles Gill Kennett Marigold Morphy Sue Hawley Malcolm Thorpe Valerie Cooke Richard Long Colin Campbell	Royal Yachting Association Yarmouth Town Council Commercial Fishermen's Association Freshwater Parish Council Yarmouth Sailing Club Estuaries Officer Royal Solent Yacht Club Totland Parish Council Wightlink British Marine Federation
IN ATTENDANCE	Chris Lisher James Howe Craig Nutter Sarah Humphries Charlotte Beeby	Chief Executive/Harbour Master Commissioner British Marine Federation Admin Assistant Deputy Harbour Master
APOLOGIES	Jon Matthews	Wightlink

The Chairman welcomed Commissioner James Howe, Gill Kennett as the new representative of Freshwater Parish Council and Richard Long who was representing Wightlink at the meeting in place of Jon Matthews.

The Chairman also pointed out that there were two outstanding appointments to the Committee at present, the BMF and IWC representatives. The nominated deputy Colin Campbell was in attendance for the BMF.

1 Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of YHAC held on 9th June 2009 were approved. One member was unhappy with the accuracy of the Minutes of the Special Meeting on 28th July and it was decided to deal with this Item B 3.

A. Operational Update

1. Matters Arising

1.1 Changes to improve ferry traffic flow

Works within the current Wightlink marshalling area are due to commence this month. White markings are also to be put on the new entrance/exit to the Harbour Office.

1.2 Accelerated Low Water Corrosion

This is caused by a microbe that attacks steel and is a problem with some Harbour steelwork, notably the quay wall piling and some piles. Some advice suggests that placing anodes in the water can reduce damage but this is costly and is as yet still unproven in terms of its success in solving the problem. A consultant engineer has looked at this and it has been decided that in some areas it would be more costly to use anodes than to replace the piles in time.

2. Deputy Harbour Master's Review

The Harbour has been busy with the introduction of the mid-week discounts. It was actually closed on several nights throughout the summer during mid week which is unusual.

The Waverley has been into Yarmouth during the season – six visits so far and no problems.

Trinity House visited the Harbour on 7/9/09 to examine all navigational aids and although we await a letter of confirmation all seemed to be well.

A pre-dredge survey was carried out around the Harbour during August and has revealed that there is less dredging required this year than last year. The CE/HM reported that it also revealed that there was less silting up of the harbour entrance where the ferries berth.

The start of the 'enabling works' for the SW corner development has meant that there have been a few issues with tender parking. A member asked whether this should have perhaps been foreseen, and the CE/HM confirmed that it had been but that putting pressure on tenders was intended as so many remain unused and in a state of general disrepair. Compromises are going to be necessary if this development for fisherman is to go ahead.

A member reported that there had been an incident recently when an additional bridge opening had been requested but that there had been no cover available for this due to staff aiding the *Waverley*. The Deputy HM confirmed that there should now be sufficient staff to cover this. She said she would investigate and report back to the member.

3. Wightlink New Ferries

The CE/HM said that as far as he was aware:

- The Judicial Review (Lymington River Association v. Defra and Wightlink) has now been deferred from October to December.

- Discussion with Natural England on mitigation for the effect of the new ferries on Lymington River continues.
- He felt that DEFRA are unlikely to issue the required Licence until all of these issues are resolved and as such has concerns about the timescale of all works being completed in time for next summer.

The Chairman reported that she had a written statement from Dyson Bogg (previously of Wightlink) which gave further explanation to some of the points raised at the Town Council meeting that he attended earlier in the year. Several members requested a copy of this.

4. Safety

No issues to report.

B ADVISORY ISSUES

1. Matters Arising

1.1 Revised Constitution for Advisory Committees 12/01/09: Clarification of Item 10.3.

This amendment has now been made to the Constitution and it has been reissued.

2 Harbour Revision Order

There are still some objections that remain outstanding on the HRO and as such it has been decided that it will now go to a Public Enquiry. YHC are awaiting a date from the DfT – this is likely to be some time in January 2010.

3 SW Corner Development

3.1 It was agreed that the criticism of the 28 July Special Meeting Minutes by Colin Campbell was too detailed to be discussed without advance sighting, and approval would therefore be deferred to the next meeting. Colin would send his views to the Secretary for distribution to all YHAC, not just to the other 5 members who had attended the meeting.

3.2 MCM Construction commenced ‘enabling works’ on 7/9/09 and these are scheduled to last approx 2-3 weeks. The main contract is out to tender and responses for this are due back by 15th September. The grant that has been applied for is for a maximum of 50 % of the total cost of works, from the time of grant award, and the committee to decide on this award is due to meet on 30/09/09. YHC should have their decision by 1st October.

3.3 The Unconfirmed Minutes from the Special meeting on 28/07/09 had been sent to Mark Capon from Marine Enforcement. He had replied that he would respond when he had seen the new written procedures. The CE/HM said these would be ready in September/October. Members wished the Commissioners to be aware that YHAC was concerned that, meanwhile, the area involved was not ALARP according to the Risk Assessment.

3.4 The following points were made by members:

- If the development went ahead, the Commissioners could be advised to remove Pile B13 if that proved necessary for safe turning in the area. Members explained their concerns regarding the available turning area around the original position of B14 and B13 piles should the development proceed as planned and the potential dangers.

- Reference was made to the concern of the Commissioners in 2003 regarding the western side of the groyne (residual life of the sheet piling estimated to be 13 years).
- A member repeated his personal view that the Hyder Report was flawed regarding the stream flow through and under the bridge as set out.
- The fishermen did not claim to be experts in all possible impacts of the new development on the harbour. The fishermen have always expressed their reservations concerning the tidal flows in and around the SW development area but feel they do not have the expertise to challenge the Hyder Report.
- A member was concerned for the safety of the remaining commercial use of the groyne following the development.
- The CE/HM confirmed that the Commissioners had not yet decided whether to go ahead with the development if the grant was refused.
- A member requested as to whether the Coastal Protection Act would be adhered to.

4 Events

There was a wedding held on the green on 5th September which went very well.

Kim De Luce is currently talking to Yarmouth Business Association about the possibility of having a Xmas Fair in Pier Car Park some time in December. This has not been confirmed and as yet no date has been set.

On 3rd/4th July 2010 YHC are planning a Help for Heroes event on the Green. It is hoped that RSYC would be involved in this but discussions are at an early stage.

There are also plans to try to hold a Food Festival in September of next year – again on the Green.

Yarmouth Old Gaffers Festival – YHC have agreed to supply some funding towards this next year, as have Wightlink who are likely to be the major sponsor for the event in 2010.

5 Harbour Works

The piles on Town Quay are to be replaced, beginning on 21/09/09 and this work is scheduled to take approx 1 month.

The Gents North showers in the Harbour Office are to be refurbished during the next couple of months.

A third party consultant has been in to audit the Harbour's Safety Management System to ensure that this is up to the standard of the Port Marine Safety Code. Some changes are required in order to ensure conformity and these will be dealt with by this third party who will in effect become the Harbour's 'designated person' to deal with such issues.

A few items remain outstanding with the Linkspan, but YHC do not yet have a date.

An estimate for work to Pier Square toilets is being investigated.

6 Environmental Matters

Sue Hawley had recently received a report of trapped cygnets by the Mill. The EA were eventually called and came and opened the tidal flaps enabling them to escape.

She had recently applied for two different sources of funding – one from the West Wight Landscape Partnership for a local environmental education project “MUD” which she hopes to hear about in the next month or so, and one from a national fund called the Low Carbon Building Project. This project looks at installing some photo voltaic cells on the Harbour Office roof which will produce electricity and perhaps enable YHC to sell this back to the grid.

A member enquired about the recycling facilities and Sue confirmed that YHC are no further forward with this as there are still problems with the gasification plant and the fact that the harbour produces ‘commercial’ waste.

7 Any Other Business

7.1 The Chairman reported that as George Cameron was no longer on YHAC, a new Vice-Chair needed to be elected. It is proposed that this is carried out at the next meeting.

7.2 The Fishermen’s representative said that he had asked about the rise in mooring fees for next year at a previous meeting and had been assured that these would only go up in line with inflation. A fellow fisherman had subsequently received some correspondence from the CE/HM saying that this rise would be likely to be slightly more for the commercial users of the harbour. The CE/HM apologised that this had changed over time but confirmed that the rise was likely to be slightly more for commercials.

7.3 The Fishermen’s representative enquired about the possible new fuel berth in the new development. The CE/HM explained that all fuel installations had to be approved/signed off by the Isle of Wight Council’s Fire officers and that they had reported that to install a new berth in the harbour that was remote from the existing one would mean that boat users could only draw up to 75 litres at a time. Therefore the cost of installation versus the benefits make this prohibitive.

7.4 A member had safety concerns that the main fairway in the NW corner was often too restricted at peak times due to the number of visiting boats, sometimes leaving as little as approx 20 ft for boats to pass through - this caused potential safety issues for small dinghies. Also the member was concerned that Mark Capon’s report failed to cover the north west corner of the fairway. The CE/HM asked for specific dates and times and said that he would investigate.

7.5 The CE/HM mentioned recent thefts in July and stressed the importance of the incidents being reported to the Police.

7.6 Les Turner who has worked for the Harbour for some 39 years retires on Thursday 10th September.

7.7 The CE/HM reported that there have been several incidents involving cars and pedestrians ignoring the stop lights on the bridge and being abusive to employees. YHC will prosecute if this occurs in the future.

8. Date of next meetings:

13th October 2009, 8th December 2009, 9th February 2010.

(Since the meeting the CE/HM finds that he must attend an oil spillage course throughout the week of 8 – 11 December. Members will be asked at the next meeting to agree a change of date to 15 December).

The meeting ended at 10.45am.