

CONFIRMED MINUTES

Yarmouth (Isle of Wight) Harbour Commissioners
Minutes of a Meeting of
The Yarmouth Harbour Advisory Committee
held at the Harbour Office,
on 13th October 2009 at 0900 hours

PRESENT	Sylvia Mence, Chairman Ron Goodridge Mike Hayles Gill Kennett Marigold Morphy Sue Hawley Malcolm Thorpe Valerie Cooke Jon Matthews Craig Nutter Julia Bridgeman	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 Yarmouth Business Association
IN ATTENDANCE	Chris Lisher Phil Keen Colin Campbell Sarah Humphries Charlotte Beeby	Chief Executive/Harbour Master Commissioner Member of the public Admin Assistant Deputy Harbour Master
APOLOGIES	None	

The Chairman welcomed The Chairman of the Commissioners, Phil Keen, and Craig Nutter as the new representative of the BMF. The IW Council representation was still outstanding.

Election of Vice Chairman

Marigold Morphy was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Gill Kennett and duly elected.

1. Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of the Special meeting held on 28th July 2009

The Minutes were approved subject to the following addition at the end:

"Colin Campbell has asked for a minute stating that he considers "aspects of this development unacceptable and making for a more dangerous situation for the safety of navigation in the area of the SW corner development." Additionally, he wishes it placed on record that he is "not prepared to accept any liability over approval of this committee's findings and the unconfirmed Minutes of the meeting held 28 July 2009."

Minutes of 8th September 2009.

The Minutes were approved subject to the following amendments.

B.3.4. 1st bullet point. To be added at the end: "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."

B.3.4. 3rd bullet point. To be added at the end: ", regarding the stream flow through and under the bridge as set out."

B.3.4. 4th bullet point: To be added at the end: "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."

B.3.4. An additional bullet point to be added: "A member requested as to whether the Coastal Protection Act would be adhered to."

B.7.4. To be amended to read: "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."

A. Operational Update

1. Matters Arising from 8th September 2009 meeting:

1.1 Minute A2, last paragraph: Staffing during Waverley visits. The Deputy HM reported that it was her view that the Harbour had sufficient staff to cover the scheduled bridge openings, Reception, the Harbour and Waverley at this time.

1.2 Minute B 7.4 North West Corner Channel

The Deputy HM explained that she had been keeping an eye on this during the busy periods at the Harbour since the last meeting and that she felt confident that the fairway gap was always kept to a minimum of some 40 ft, not 20 as suggested. The member concerned contended this. The Chairman suggested that raising the issue had clarified the staff's intention and the Deputy HM had now confirmed that it would be monitored. The HM confirmed that this fairway would always be kept to a gap of at least 40 ft at all times.

2. Deputy Harbour Master's Review

Swing Bridge Users Guide – this had been previously distributed to all members for information. It is to be implemented from 1st Jan 2010 and has been produced in response to the suggestions that came out of the Risk Assessment carried out by Marine Enforcement. It will also be accompanied by further more detailed procedures for the Bridge operator. The leaflet is to be distributed to all harbour users in December when Annual mooring bills go out to customers.

There are presently around 22 winter moorings in the harbour and these are proving to be fairly popular as they are increasing in number all of the time.

The mooring buoys outside of the harbour are due to be lifted in time for the oyster dredging season which starts in November.

The barge on Town Quay should be finished by the end of the week – they have been delayed due to some problems lifting some of the piles due for replacement.

A member asked if the wire that goes from the road to the dinghy park could be replaced at Yarmouth Sailing Club as this had remained missing since Gaffers weekend. The Deputy HM confirmed that she would look into this.

3. Wightlink New Ferries

The Judicial Review is now scheduled to take place in mid December. Wightlink are in ongoing talks with Natural England regarding mitigation. These and the New Forest District Council Planning delay may well result in the works in Lymington not being started until next autumn as Wightlink would not disrupt the season's operations if the works could not be completed by Easter.

One member commented that not all of the ferries currently tie in with the trains going into Brockenhurst. Wightlink believe that 17 out of 20 ferries do in fact connect with the Lymington train. The rail company will not change their times as they must provide the service from Lymington Town to meet trains at Brockenhurst.

4. Safety

No issues to report.

B ADVISORY ISSUES

It was agreed to take the Events item first as the YBA representative needed to leave the meeting early.

1. Events

The YBA representative reported that, together with the Harbour, a Christmas Festival in Yarmouth is planned from Thursday 10th December involving decorated shops, lights, a lantern parade, poetry and craft for children, family suppers in the restaurants, late night shopping and Farmers' Market. The Festival will end with the traditional Carnival Committee carols, Santa Claus and tree lighting on the Saturday evening. It is hoped to build on this in following years.

There will be a Help for Heroes Event taking place on the Green on 3rd/4th July 2010. Details of this will follow.

There are proposals for a weekly event 'Fish on Fridays' to be held by the fishermen, enabling them to sell fresh fish on stalls in Pier Square. Details have yet to be agreed.

2. Harbour Revision Order

There are 5 outstanding objections remaining to the HRO from Jamie Sheldon (landowner), Harold Hayles Ltd, Holt & Green (water taxi firms), the Fishermen's

Association and the YBA. It has been decided that as a result of this the HRO will go to a Public Inquiry which is to be held at The George for 5 days starting on 18th January 2010. The Harbour bears the cost of this.

Julia Bridgeman left the meeting.

3. SW Corner Development

The decision by the MFA regarding the 50% grant funding for this project has been deferred and an onsite visit involving them, the harbour and the Fishermen was recently held.

The Commissioners are now awaiting a letter which is scheduled to arrive in the week of 19th October but a decision on the grant is unlikely to be made until the FEPA Licence is issued.

A member asked if the newly produced Swing Bridge Users Guide would be sent to Mark Capon for his views on whether this made the operation of the bridge ALARP now and after the proposed development, and the CE/HM confirmed that it would be. His views are to be reported back to YHAC.

A member asked whether consultation had taken place with both the RNLI and YMS regarding the waiting area on the South Quay and the CE/HM reported that this had not yet been done but would be carried out in the near future.

A member raised concerns about the Users Guide stating that boats waiting for the bridge should not go beyond Red 6 when approaching the bridge and that this would lead to a fair amount of congestion in the bridge approach from waiting vessels. This is especially difficult in windy conditions. This would be discussed with the CE/HM outside of the meeting. Phil Keen pointed out that the new regulation of VHF radio communication should avoid boats pressing up to the bridge.

4. Harbour Dues & Charges

The harbour Dues & Charges for 2010 were sent to members prior to the meeting for their information. There will be around a 5% increase in charges for visitors and residents and around a 7% rise for commercial harbour users. The CE/HM pointed out that at the end of the year the VAT rate will increase by 2.5% to 17.5% once again and that this had been factored into the mooring fees for 2010. He also explained that some charges i.e. crane usage do not go up every year and so that when they do increase, it may be a bigger jump up than other charges to compensate for this. Fees are also rounded up to either the pound or 50 pence to make handling of cash far easier out on the water.

He also explained that registered charities who are registered with Yarmouth Harbour also receive a discount of 10%.

A member asked about comments he had heard from harbour users complaining that larger boats were actually sometimes cheaper to berth than small boats due to the discounting system that the Commissioners had introduced. The CE/HM stated that he had only received two complaints regarding this and that the reason for structuring the discounts in that way was to keep things simple. This system will also be introduced in 2010 but will be less than offered in 2009.

5. Harbour Works

The Gents North showers in the Harbour Office are being refurbished and should take approximately a further 4 weeks.

6. Modernising Trust Ports – 2nd Edition

This document supercedes the one published in 2001 and concentrates much more on commerciality rather than good governance. Members were all provided with a copy to take away and read and this document will be discussed at the next meeting.

7. Port Marine Safety Code

The Commissioners have reviewed the documentation relating to this and have approved its management by an outside consultant Peter Nicolson who also handles similar issues for other nearby harbours. YHC have some 470 Risk Assessments that are lengthy and are rarely used. The idea is to make these documents much more user friendly.

8. Environmental Matters

Sue Hawley reported that she had recently applied for funding from the West Wight Landscape Partnership for a local environmental education project “MUD” which looks at species and habitats and delivers an educational project to the local community. The decision on this has been deferred pending more information but there should be further news on this by the next meeting.

She is also planning to do a litter clearance in the estuary – perhaps in March of next year in time for the summer season. This will be sponsored by the local authority and is something that she would like to carry out every year.

One member mentioned that a helicopter had landed at YMS during three weekends over the last month or so and she wondered if this was permitted in a SSSI area. Sue said she would investigate.

The CE/HM reminded the group about the existence of the Coastal Defence Working Group which is meeting regularly and is trying to investigate the potential issues surrounding a rise in sea levels in the future. The group is currently trying to gain funding from the West Wight Landscape Partnership for a survey to indicate the predicted heights of sea level rise on Yarmouth and the estuary.

9 Any Other Business

The RSYC representative asked about a reduction in craning costs for sports boats taking part in the RSYC winter Sunday races. The CE/HM would discuss this with him after the meeting.

10 Date of next meetings:

15th December 2009 instead of 8th December 2009, 9th February 2010, 13th April 2010.

The meeting ended at 1100 hrs.