

## The Yarmouth (Isle of Wight) Harbour Commissioners

Minutes of a Meeting of the Yarmouth Harbour Advisory Committee

held at the Harbour Office

on Wednesday 17 January 2018 at 09:00 hours

PRESENT	David Fox (Chair) Nick Measor Geoff Witt Bill Attree Gill Kennett John Howe Jamie Allen Jenny Jackson	Royal Yachting Association Royal Solent Yacht Club Yarmouth Sailing Club Commercial Fishermen's Association Freshwater Parish Council Totland Parish Council British Marine Federation Yarmouth Town Council
IN ATTENDANCE	Tim Adams Tony Stables Tracey Cooper	Chief Executive/Harbour Master Yarmouth Harbour Commissioner Administration Manager (minute taker)
APOLOGIES	Phil Keen Sue Hawley Derek Graham Mike Wheeler Jamie Sheldon Stuart Hutchinson Ginny McKee	Commercial Operators' representative Estuaries Officer Wightlink Yarmouth Business Association Country Landowners' Association Isle of Wight Council Yarmouth Harbour staff representative

### Action

The Chairman welcomed Mr Stables to the meeting.

#### Apologies for absence

- 1 Apologies were tendered by Phil Keen, Sue Hawley, Derek Graham, Mike Wheeler, Jamie Sheldon, Stuart Hutchinson and Ginny McKee.

#### 2 Minutes of the meeting held on 15 November 2017

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 November 2017 were approved.

#### A OPERATIONAL UPDATE

##### 1 Matters Arising from 15 November 2017

- West Wight Regeneration meeting: The Chairman reported that he attended the recent West Wight Regeneration meeting, commenting that the Isle of Wight Council has produced some interesting material. A poster highlighting some of this information was produced at the meeting. He went on to say that the Council are looking and listening to what is happening in the area in a positive way. The next meeting will be held on Thursday 8 February 2018 at 19:00 at the West Wight Sports Centre should members wish to attend.

- Pontoon Improvements: The Chief Executive reminded members that the modular plastic pontoon for tenders in the river is being replaced / extended by a new wooden pontoon. The piles are all in place but unfortunately the weather has proved disruptive. Once the work is finished there will be more space allocated for tenders, and long term visitors on a temporary basis. Once he has had the opportunity to look at the configuration properly it is expected that more annual mooring licences will be allocated.

## 2 Boat Numbers

The Chief Executive reported that:

- in 2016 the total visitor boat numbers amounted to 38,452, and
- in 2017 this number increased by 3,742 (or 10%) – a total of 42,195

The above figures include overnight, short stay and long term visitors.

All resident berths were occupied throughout the year.

The Chief Executive stated that overall the figures are very good, although the weather over the summer months/weekends meant there was a slight drop in overnight visitor numbers.

A member asked if visitor numbers, excluding long term visitors, are available for the past three years. The Chief Executive confirmed that this data is readily available and regularly published for this forum.

He explained that the overnight visitor figures alone do not vary much at all year on year and are usually between 17k and 18k annually. Any drop in figures, the harbour's research shows, can be attributed to bad weather, particularly over weekends in July and August.

Short stay visitor analysis shows approximately 5k visits per annum.

The Chief Executive pointed out that the long term visitors do not have a detrimental impact on the harbour's overnight visitor numbers; this is again borne out by the regular analysis which is undertaken.

A member asked about the current state of the breakwater and whether it is to be extended. The Chief Executive provided some background information and explained about all the recent studies and scrutiny which he has carried out, culminating in the conclusion that the breakwater is in good condition and that repairs, not replacement, are appropriate to prolong the life of this structure.

A member asked whether comparisons between the number of visitors to Yarmouth and Lymington have been conducted, the Chief Executive affirming that they had, and remarking they are very similar. He pointed out that Yarmouth did not turn any visiting boats away from the harbour last year.

A member asked if it is known whether visitors to the harbour find Yarmouth town or Lymington town the most attractive; this research has not been carried out by the harbour.

## 3 Wightlink

There was no update supplied by Wightlink, their representative not being present at the meeting.

The date of Wightlink's 'Meet the Managers' sessions have not yet been set for 2018 but will be circulated to the Committee once they have been confirmed.

#### 4 Port Marine Safety Code

- Risk Assessments: The Chief Executive informed members that the harbour's risk assessments are under review, and as part of that review he will be consulting with various stakeholders.

He will therefore produce hard copies of relevant risk assessments at the next meeting on 21 March 2018 for this sub-committee to subsequently review. He will explain what is required of them for discussion at the YHAC meeting on 16 May 2018.

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### B ADVISORY ISSUES

#### 1 Matters Arising from 15 November 2017

- There were no matters arising from the foregoing minutes.

#### 2 Pier Restoration

Members were advised by the Chief Executive that the contractors are scheduled to commence works on or around 19 February 2018. However, the pier itself will be closed from Thursday 1 February 2018, to enable the harbour's maintenance team to remove furniture, including the round house, from the pier. The harbour has recruited an extra person on a temporary basis to assist with this project.

It was noted that the contractors have been allocated part of the overflow car park to use as their compound for the duration of the works, which will include the siting of a small cabin.

The Chief Executive confirmed that the fog lights and fixed navigation systems will remain active on the pier throughout the restoration works, and that the outer mooring buoys will be laid once the contractor's barge has been repaired. As is usual in such instances, a Notice to Mariners will be issued at the appropriate time.

The contractors are programmed to complete their works at the end of June, following which the harbour's maintenance team will need to replace the furniture and reinstall the round house on the pier. The aim is to have everything finalised before the peak season.

The Chief Executive anticipated that an official pier opening event will be held.

#### 3 Harbour Works

There were no new updates to report, other than recorded elsewhere in these minutes.

#### 4 Environmental Matters

The Chief Executive informed the meeting that the Yarmouth Clean Seas project has commenced, with a small working group appointed. The project artwork is currently under production. It was noted that the working group will be focusing on small activities in the initial stages of the project, and the Chief Executive outlined some of these.

A brief discussion took place on the use of plastics and recycling in general.

## 5 Any Other Business

- Events: To remain as a standing item on future agendas.
- Future Events: The following events' dates were noted:
  - Yarmouth Harbour's Spring Festival – 5 May
  - Yarmouth Old Gaffers Festival – 1-3 June
  - Taittinger Regatta – 20-22 July
- Harbour Commissioners' Informal Meeting: It was noted that the next informal meeting of the Commissioners will be held on Thursday 25 January 2018 at 17:00 at the Harbour Office, should anyone wish to attend.
- Fuel dispensing: Following an enquiry about the availability of fuel, the Chief Executive advised that a sensor fault has been identified in the harbour's fuel system and replacement parts are awaited. As a result of this fault the fuel berth is being shut down of an evening.

The Chief Executive confirmed that requests for fuel will be acceded to whilst the fuel berth is closed awaiting repairs, should a commercial operator require this facility.
- Chain of command in the Chief Executive's absence: A member asked who should be approached for advice in the Chief Executive's absence, to which he replied either the duty berthing masters or the Facilities Manager, dependent on the nature of the enquiry. The Chief Executive advised that he can also be contacted by phone at any time.

## 6 Dates of next meetings – 09:00 at the Harbour Office

- 21 March 2018
- 16 May 2018

*The meeting was declared closed at 09:35 hours.*