

YHAC CONFIRMED MINUTES

Yarmouth (Isle of Wight) Harbour Commissioners
Minutes of a Meeting of
The Yarmouth Harbour Advisory Committee
held at the Harbour Office
on 22 January 2020 at 0900 hours

PRESENT	Liz Mead David Fox – Chair Gill Kennett – Vice Chair Jamie Sheldon Scott Neill Lee Hall Katie Davies John Howe Ginny McKee	Yarmouth Sailing Club Royal Yachting Association Freshwater Parish Council Country Landowners Association Deputy Harbour Master Commercial Operators Representative Royal Solent Yacht Club Totland Parish Council YHC Staff Representative
IN ATTENDANCE	Tim Adams Lisa Bridges Don Tregear	Chief Executive/Harbour Master Minutes Commissioner
APOLOGIES	Stuart Hutchinson Sue Hawley Jamie Allen Bill Attree Mike Wheeler Martin Gulliver	Isle of Wight Council Estuaries Officer Yarmouth Town Council Commercial Fishermen’s Association Yarmouth Business Association Wightlink Representative

The Chairman welcomed Commissioner Don Tregear to the meeting.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were tendered as noted above.

2. Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of 13 November were approved.

A. OPERATIONAL UPDATE

1. Matters Arising from 13 November 2020

- Yarmouth Business Representative – Nick from Wightlink was approached to do this but his shifts may mean that he is unable to do so. Members may need to consider approaching somebody else.
- The Causeway Bridge - The DHM has spoken with Island Roads about the railings that need to be replaced as some have moved and could be dangerous. These are to be replaced using wood and the rail repainted but as yet no date for completion has been given.

- The lifting of the 7-mile limit for resident mooring applications – the HM was asked whether there had been any impact since its introduction and he reported that it had led to a slight rise in the number of people on the waiting list. It has also meant that some local people have been able to have more than one Licence and has helped with mooring allocations.
- Silting of Newtown Creek – there was no update available as the Estuaries Officer was not in attendance. She will provide an update at the next meeting.

2. Boat Numbers

Total Boat Numbers for 2019

- Overnights show an increase of 1% on the previous year at 17,860 which is encouraging.
- Short stays at 6,299 is an increase on the previous year of 13% or 727 visits. This figure is the highest on record
- LTVs figures increased on the previous year by 11% or 2,484, a total of 25,352. This figure is the highest on record
- Sailing Schools numbers totalled 1326 visits. This figure is the highest on record and is an increase on the previous year of 9%
- Rally bookings at 101 have exceeded the total for all previous years.
- The total visitor numbers at 49,511 was an increase on the previous year of 7% or 3,363 and is the highest on record.
- The harbour is starting to reach capacity now from a safety point of view – particularly in the summer. Numbers should start to level out now.
- The new dock for ribs to use is working well.
- The tender dinghy's that have been provided for people to use have not been used as much as was anticipated. YHC are going to trial leaving the oars in some of them this summer to see if they are used a bit more. At present you need to come into Reception to ask for them.
- A member extended thanks on behalf of the Committee to all of the staff at the harbour for another successful year.

3. Wightlink

Martin Gulliver was not present at the meeting and no report was received. The HM reported that the refurbishment of the linkspan was finished on time. The bearings were changed. Maintenance is ongoing but all major works are now complete.

A member commented that the ferries were significantly disrupted during Nov/Dec 2019 due to illness etc.

The Meet the Managers meeting (Wightlink) is in Tim's office on the 22nd April between 1800 & 1900.

3. Port Marine Safety Code

- There was a recent visit by Wight Safety who conducted a formal risk assessment of the linkspan operation and found no areas of concern
- A drone was used to take footage of the use of the barge by Wightlink. This footage will be used a safety/training video for both Wightlink and YHC staff in the future.
- There is an Oil Spill Exercise scheduled for the near future, TBC. YHC will be drawing on Don Tregear's (Commissioner) expertise having served for many years in the fires service as well as involving the IW Fire Service and will be practising our emergency response following a hypothetical fire scenario meeting.

B. ADVISORY ISSUES

1. Matters Arising from 13 November 2019

There were none.

2. Harbour Works

- RYB are currently working on the harbour dories.
- YHC are trialling a new hydraulic system on the harbour taxi's.
- The lampposts along South Quay have been replaced as they were starting to rot.
- A member enquired about the possibility of YHC provided an electric charging point for cars. The CE/HM reported that he is currently working on this as just one aspect of energy efficiency/sustainability at the Harbour. So far all lighting has been changed to LED bulbs and this has resulted in a saving of £1200 in energy bills.
- A member suggested that it might be an idea for Wightlink to consider providing electric charging points for vehicles onboard the ferries.
- Works to the Yar bridge have now been completed. The passenger taxi service that YHC provided whilst the bridge was out of action seemed to work very well with over 450 passengers utilising the service.
- Over 60 boats have now been removed from the Dinghy Park and either had their Licences revoked or have not had them renewed. This newly created space will be resurfaced once the remaining abandoned boats have been removed to make space for additional parking for annual mooring holders. A member mentioned that Reception staff get a lot of enquiries about the Dinghy Park and if/when YHC will be reissuing licences. The CE/HM reported that once the final amount of space available is known if there are any slots that are vacant these will be allocated to those people on the Waiting List. Completion of this project is anticipated to be by mid-February. A member reported that he had received various comments regarding the general state of the dinghy park – weeds and rubbish around the area. Once the resurfacing works have been completed this will all be dealt with so that the area looks clean and tidy. New racks are being put in for kayaks in order to get these lifted from the ground.
- Refurbishment of the restaurant that was Yarmouth Spice is currently underway. The new restaurant will be called The Terrace and is being undertaken by Phil Keen who is in partnership with Will Bailey from The Royal Hotel. They plan to open in the Spring. Phil has now resigned as a Commissioner as there would clearly have been a conflict of interest.
- The refurbishment of the men's showers is on schedule and completion is likely to be in March.

3. Environmental Matters

The Estuaries Officer was not present at the meeting but the CE/HM gave a brief update:

- A drone is to be flown around YHC's jurisdiction in order to assist with planning the refurbishment of the Breakwater, the erosion of the salt marsh and general mapping of the area.
- Some members mentioned the apparently large number of swans on the river this year – at one point one member counted up to 18.
- YSC have recently undertaken several beach cleans during which half a tonne of plastic waste as recovered from the beaches! There was also 90 kg of rubbish collected from around the banks of the river.

4. Events

- **Spring Festival – 9 May 2020.** The Facebook advert for this has now gone live. The DHM is currently looking for new island businesses to come onboard for the event.
- **YSC VE Day BBQ – 8 May 2020.** Open day as usual for the Spring Festival on 9 May 2020.
- **RSYC Open Day – 9 May 2020.**

5. Any Other Business

The CE/HM reported that there had been some feedback from some of the harbour's Annual Mooring Holders that they were unsure quite how to bring any questions/queries that they may have to a YHAC meeting as they do not know who exactly sits on the committee. He suggested that a list of YHAC members be sent out to all AM holders so that they are able to contact YHAC members should they wish to do so in order to ask that they raise something at the meeting. **Action SJ.**

6. Dates of next meetings

18 March 2020, 13 May 2020.

The meeting finished at 09:40 am.