

YHAC CONFIRMED MINUTES

Yarmouth (Isle of Wight) Harbour Commissioners
Minutes of a Meeting of
The Yarmouth Harbour Advisory Committee
held virtually via Zoom
on 27 January 2021 at 0900 hours

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

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were tendered as noted above.

2. Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of 9 December 2020 were approved.

3. Matters arising

- Beach safety – A Beach Safety Strategy has now been approved by the IWC and can be viewed online. They are also setting up a Coastal Communities Forum which will mean that anyone who wishes to become involved can do so. The Chairman thanked YHAC members for their help on this during recent months.

4. Yarmouth Harbour

• Lockdown Restrictions

The harbour has now received clarification that recreational sailing is permitted under current government lockdown restrictions even though it is not encouraged. The Harbour

is still open for use by the fishing fleet and commercial licence holders. Reception is now also closed in order to minimise any potential spread of the virus.

- **Safety**

YHC have had multiple signs produced for in and around the harbour including the fuel berth that are aimed at people using PWC's. They are also upgrading the marker buoys which show the designated swimming area off of the beach and are currently working on some additional signage which will aim to guide users of PWC's safely onto the beach.

- **Harbour Works**

The renovation of the ladies showers is going well and is on time and on budget. It is hoped that these will be finished by February.

- **Performance**

YHC currently have three different budgets each of which can be implemented as required – namely red, amber and green. The harbour are currently working to the amber budget which means stopping all but essential spending until at least the end of March. The Commissioners will then review the situation and proceed accordingly.

- **Communication with YHAC**

The Chairman suggested that it might be beneficial to clarify how local residents can contact members of the YHAC committee should they so wish. All were in agreement. The CE/HM said that he would set up a new dedicated email address that could be used via the website.

5. **Wightlink**

MG was not present at the meeting.

6. **Clubs**

The Chairman welcomed the new YSC representative Liz Mead to the meeting. The Club is currently closed. It has prepped its sailing programme for the coming season but is waiting on further government guidance on reopening.

RSYC is also closed but are offering take away curry on a Weds evening. They too are hoping to have their Spring Series but will obviously have to wait and see whether or not this will be able to go ahead.

7. **Councils**

Freshwater – Island roads have now said that they hope to carry out the necessary works on the Causeway Bridge by February. The West Wight Help Hub has received funding from DEFRA so that it can offer free meals on Tuesday's and subsidised meals at other times from the Sports Centre. The uptake of this service has been high and great thanks go to all of the volunteers that have given their time to help the project. The FYT bus has also done a great job transporting everyone to their vaccination appointments.

Totland – the new café on the pier is due to open in March and works to extend the pier and build a new restaurant at the end of the pier will commence after that. All materials will be brought in via barge. It is hoped that the area will be able to host events such as fireworks and regattas.

8. **Yarmouth Town**

The refurbishment of the toilet block is almost complete.

The George Hotel Planning Application – All members raised safety concerns regarding the proposed installation of a versa dock at the end of the hotel’s garden area.

These included concerns relating to the impact of the tide, adverse weather conditions, its close proximity to the ferry and the potential for alcohol related problems.

The area is in YHC’s jurisdiction and The George would therefore need to satisfy the Harbour Master that safety would be a priority. The area is likely to require policing in some way just as visitors to the harbour are greeted at the harbour entrance by a Berthing Master and directed to a safe berth. They would also require a licence from both the MMO and YHC.

Members of the committee agreed that they would like the Chairman to submit an objection to the application on their behalf based on these safety concerns *(this has now been submitted – please see attached)*

YTC have already submitted an objection.

A member declared an interest at this point as he currently sits on the Isle of Wight Council’s Planning Committee.

Barney Sollars joined the meeting at 9:40.

9. RYA Update

Following Brexit new government guidance has been issued which relates to boat travel to/from Europe.

10. Boat Yards

Nothing to report.

11. Events

Nothing to report.

12. Date of Next Meeting

Date of next meeting – **TBC**

The meeting closed at 09:45am.