

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 8 March 2017 at 0900 hours

PRESENT	Geoff Witt Nick Measor Sue Hawley David Fox – Chair Phil Keen Ginny McKee Bill Attree Stuart Hutchinson Jamie Allen Derek Graham Jamie Sheldon Mike Wheeler	Yarmouth Sailing Club Royal Solent Yacht Club Estuaries Officer Royal Yachting Association Commercial Operators Representative Yarmouth Harbour Staff Representative Commercial Fishermen’s Association Isle of Wight Council British Marine Federation Wightlink Country Landowners Association Yarmouth Business Association
IN ATTENDANCE	Tim Adams Clive Mullins Sarah Judd	Chief Executive/Harbour Master Commissioner Admin Assistant
APOLOGIES	Jeremy Butcher Jenny Jackson Gill Kennett	Deputy Harbour Master Yarmouth Town Council Freshwater Parish Council

The Chairman welcomed Clive Mullins, Commissioner to the meeting. The Committee held a short silence in memory of Commissioner Chris Smith who sadly passed away. Members were given details of the upcoming Memorial Service being held in his honour.

1. Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of 11 January 2017 were approved.

A. OPERATIONAL UPDATE

1. Matters Arising from 11 January 2017

There were none.

2. Reception re-design update

Works to update the Reception area of the Harbour Office are well underway. The new area will provide a coffee lounge and shop selling ‘Cockpit Essentials’ as well as charging stations for phones/devices and TV’s showing 24 hour news. The CE/HM explained that ferry customers were also welcome to make use of this area should they wish to. YHAC members were keen to seek assurances that the retail aspect would remain minimal and was there for the convenience items that visitors may require (ice, toothpaste, water etc) and would not dissuade them from going into the town for items they may

require. The CE/HM reiterated that the harbour would be selling only a small selection of drinks and confectionary and was not aiming to be in competition with the businesses in the town.

3. Boat Numbers

Year to date (Jan-Feb 2017)

Overnights up 28%

Short stays up 45%

LTV up 30%

Sailing Schools down 26%

Total: up 31% overall or 798 boat visits.

4. Wightlink

The Chairman began by passing on the Committee's congratulations for having responded so speedily to the recent incident in the Solent which involved an overturned cuddy boat. With the water being so cold this quick response was undoubtedly crucial in ensuring a positive outcome to the situation. It was noted that the training given to Wightlink staff clearly paid off in a real life situation and the Wightlink representative was asked to pass on thanks to the Captain and crew of Wight Sky for their efforts on the day.

During the months of Jan and Feb the Yarmouth-Lymington route lost a total of 60 sailings due to the inclement weather (fog). Despite this, both freight and vehicle numbers were up on the same period last year. Foot passenger numbers were however down.

Portsmouth terminal is currently closed whilst works on the new vehicle ramps are under construction – all ferries are being diverted to the Portsmouth International Ferry Port whilst this is taking place. The ramps at the Fishbourne terminal are also well underway with work scheduled to be completed by July 2017. The new boat is scheduled to arrive in spring of next year.

A member mentioned the potential difficulties that may be experienced by traffic unloading fairly quickly from the new larger capacity boats at the Fishbourne terminal – this issue was noted by both the Wightlink Rep and the local IW Council Member who said they would endeavour to find out what consideration this may have been given and would report back at the next meeting in May.

5. Strategy Update

As part of 'Modernising Trust Ports, harbours are asked to produce a 'Strategy' document which outlines their mission/vision and their plan of how they aspire to achieve this. The last one that YHC produced was back in 2014 and with this in mind, a new document has now been produced. YHAC members will be asked for their feedback on the document prior to it being presented at the AGM in May. The document will provide information on, amongst other things, how the money that the harbour makes will be spent. The CE/HM is hopeful that he will have something to show members at the next meeting in May.

6. Port Marine Safety Code

A new PMSC is about to be issued and some guidance notes on this have already been published. In these, there are some new things that are being asked of marinas, rather than harbours.

YHC have just purchased a second hand Cheetah catamaran which will be used to tow boats, aid the maintenance crew in hauling buoys etc as well as being used to do market research when possible.

B. ADVISORY ISSUES

1. Matters Arising from 11 January 2017

- **Minute B1 Drainage:** YHC are still to carry out this work on behalf of IWC.

YHC are currently awaiting delivery of a new flood boom that will be used on the slipway when required. When this arrives, the CE/HM said that YHAC members would be invited to come along to see for themselves how it works.

2. Pier Restoration

The sourcing of 'recycled' greenheart from other projects for use for the replacement of the pier piles has been fairly successful. This will mean that YHC will not have to source this from forests in Guyana. There is also the possibility that the wood that is currently down in the seabed from the current piles can be extracted and saved for use in the future as and when further works to the pier are necessary. It is anticipated that the cost of using previously used wood is likely to be equivalent to sourcing new material but is far more sustainable.

News on the outcome of the second round of bidding for the Heritage Lottery Fund for the Pier restoration project is still awaited. YHAC members will be informed once this is received. Various fund raising activities are planned for throughout the year under the banner of 'The Pier's Tale' and will be formally launched on 29 April 2017 at the Harbour's Spring Festival.

3. Harbour Works

- Works are about to start on the painting of the Cheetah Catamaran that has just been purchased by YHC.
- Replacement of the non-slip surface on the foot passenger ramp over at the Wightlink Terminal has commenced.

4. Proposed MCZ Tranche 3

Natural England are hosting two meetings aimed at the slightly different audiences where people can go and ask questions about the MCZ Tranche 3 proposals:

- 8 March 2017 4-7pm at The Riverside Centre, Newport. This is aimed at recreational boaters and fishermen.
- 22 March 2017 – 2-7pm at The Riverside Centre, Newport. This will be a 'community' session open to all.

5. Events

- Spring Festival – 29 April 2017.
- Gaffers Festival – 2-4 June 2017 (see AOB)
- Isle of Wight Day – 23 September 2017. Members all agreed that no-one was really sure exactly what IOW Day was supposed to be. Emails have been circulated asking local clubs/harbours to start to think about what they could do in order to support this – both on the water and on the shore. It was suggested that YHAC compile a letter to the High Sherriff to ask for some clarity as to the purpose/aim of the day. It was also suggested that berth holders at Yarmouth Harbour be invited to take part in some way also.

6. Any Other Business

Gaffers Festival

Debbie Cotton was welcomed to the meeting. Debbie kindly came in to talk to members about this year's Festival. She explained that Wightlink were now on board with supporting the festival financially and said that she hoped that they would also give consideration to laying on an additional late ferry (be it passenger or vehicle) in order for people visiting from the Mainland were able to get back. It was noted that additional security would be required on this vessel should it be laid on. Debbie explained that the policing of the event used to be done for free but that it would now have to be charged for. She said that she was in talks with the new Police Sargent who was doing his very best to try to reduce this cost for the Gaffers Committee and for this she expressed her thanks to him for his cooperation. This year there will be a new funfair, a 'robot' that will be on site for the children along with an inflatable slide. The main marquee is to be renamed 'The Pavillion' and will host local bands on the Friday evening. A Rock 'n' Roll band will be playing on the Saturday eve. The theme this year is to be

'maritime'. She is hoping to get a local radio station to do the opening and perhaps for a celebrity to get on board also.

Members thanked Debbie for coming to the meeting and providing an update on this year's event.

The Yar Bridge will be closed for a week from 31st March – 5 April 2017 to both road and river traffic whilst routine maintenance is carried out. Members asked the local IWC rep to liaise on their behalf regarding the simultaneous closure of this and Wilmingham Lane as both being closed at the same time would lead to West Wight being fairly isolated! He said that he would raise this as a concern with Island Roads.

The CE/HM showed the Committee a concept video which YHC are in the process of producing to promote both the harbour and the town. This was well received by members. He explained that should local businesses require additional exposure on the video, this could be arranged by contacting the company that are producing it – 'Sales Torque' (David Maskens – david.m@salestorque.co.uk) and that various options were available for a charge. A member of the committee suggested that this video be shown to the IW Council's Regen team as they may be able to use it to get other areas to promote themselves in a similar way.

7. Date of next meetings

10 May 2017, 12 July, 13 September 2017.

The meeting finished at 1040.