

YHAC CONFIRMED MINUTES

Yarmouth (Isle of Wight) Harbour Commissioners
Minutes of a Meeting of
The Yarmouth Harbour Advisory Committee
held virtually via Zoom
on 3 June 2020 at 0900 hours

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

The Chairman welcomed Commissioner Tony Stables to the meeting.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were tendered as noted above.

2. Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of 22 January 2020 were approved.

Matters arising

- The Causeway Bridge – GK reported that the barriers that were placed on the bridge are now starting to fall into the river. No current work is being undertaken to rectify the situation.
- Harbour Drone – The HM reported that drone footage was captured prior to the Covid-19 pandemic and he will share this footage with members.

Updates

3. Yarmouth Harbour

The Harbour’s disaster management plan has been implemented. The plan, that has been in place for some time, mitigates against a significant but temporary loss of income. The Covid-19 crisis has had a serious impact to the Harbours finances. The Harbour has revised the budget, reducing costs in order to protect the Harbours cash reserves for the foreseeable future.

During the Lockdown the Harbour property has been closed, however open port duty has meant the waterways have remained open to provide a safe haven for distressed vessels and those in transit.

The closure of Harbour facilities has allowed time for staff to make the necessary adaptations to become 'COVID-Secure' and HSE compliant. Signage and 2 metre markings are in place around the Harbour, a glass screen has been erected in reception, sanitising stations are in place, PPE has been purchased and all staff have undertaken COVID-19 training.

The Harbour is currently operating on a skeleton staff, with the majority furloughed. The Harbour is underwriting the 20% gap in salary for those furloughed.

The Harbour is now accepting short stay / day visitors, however overnight stays are not permitted under the current Government guidance.

The Chairman asked about Fisherman on the Pier and whether they were paying for licences. The HM reported that licence fees are being charged and Night Security are patrolling and checking. However there have been issues on the pier since the easing of Lockdown with a number of 'drunks' who have been caught on CCTV vandalising the pier and Gossips café, urinating, littering and intimidating the regular fisherman that are using the pier peacefully. Damage has also been done in the overflow car park as a result of cars doing 'doughnuts' and driving recklessly. CCTV footage has been presented to the Police.

The HM informed the Committee that the issue of the Fisherman on the Pier will be discussed at the Commissioners Board meeting this week, and asked for the views of the Committee on erecting a gate at the end of the pier to close the pier completely to eliminate the issues. The Committee recognised that this would negatively impact on the Fisherman who are using the pier appropriately, and that the closure of the Pier may drive the issue elsewhere whilst the pubs remain closed, however agreed that the temporary use of a gate at this time would be a reasonable measure if the Commissioners decide to take that course of action.

4. Wightlink

MG was not present, therefore the HM gave the following update;

The Yarmouth-Lymington route remains suspended. Wightlink are receiving some financial Government support. It is hoped that the route may be reopened sometime in July when it is suggested further easing of Lockdown could allow the hospitality sector to start to reopen.

5. Clubs

Royal Solent Yacht Club – Throughout the Lockdown RSYC members have been involved in chemist deliveries in the Community.

This weekend saw the first Laser racing event since the restrictions. The sailing was a success and social distancing was adhered to. There was no social event afterwards. Future family events are planned, however sailing at the present time is only allowed with members of the same household.

The Club has not yet reopened, members are looking at how that could be possible whilst adhering to social distancing, and acknowledge it will be a challenge.

Jet skis have been visiting in large numbers due to the recent warm weather and easing of Lockdown. There is some concern at the hazard, the HM confirmed that it is outside of the Harbours jurisdiction.

Yarmouth Sailing Club – Some sailing has started to take place with members of the same household only, there has been no racing just social sailing whilst following Government Guidance.

6. Councils

GK reported that she has been chairing the COVID-19 Community Hub which has been supporting vulnerable Islanders. In the West Wight 501 people have requested help from the Community Hub and 485 have come forward to volunteer which has been a phenomenal response.

The Hub has made and distributed 100 sets of scrubs and 900 face masks for frontline workers.

The Freshwater Parish Council have held their first Zoom meeting and Totland are about to host theirs in this way.

The Chairman thanked GK and the team on behalf of the YHAC Committee for the outstanding effort and achievements during the crisis, that has helped and supported so many vulnerable Islanders.

7. Yarmouth Town

Harwoods re-opened last week and is selling face masks for £1, donating 50p per mask to WightAid. Holdings have also re-opened and Gossips café has continued to offer a takeaway service. A number of pubs and restaurants including the newly opened Terrace, are offering takeaway menus.

It is anticipated more businesses will reopen by the middle of June.

The Harbour has taken the decision to re-open the pier toilets daily between the hours of 9:00am – 4:00pm. The outside toilets at the Harbour are open and the main facilities in the Harbour building will open in due course.

8. RYA latest

No representative to report to the meeting.

9. Boat Yards

No representative to report to the meeting.

10. Events

All events planned to date are either postponed, on hold or have been cancelled due to COVID-19 and the Lockdown measures.

Folk boat week is the next event in the calendar, it is undecided if the event will be able to ahead at this stage.

Rafting boats is a concern as it will be difficult to do whilst maintaining the necessary social distance. The HM reported that feedback so far suggests that our customers do not want to be rafted, for fear of contracting the virus from contaminated surfaces that other people have touched whilst moving across their boat to get onto the pontoon.

AOB

Crane – The crane is open on a case by case basis, subject to risk assessments being produced. It is predominantly being used by commercial operators.

Newtown Creek – SH reported that all work is currently on hold due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

SH informed the Committee that she is working on a project that is looking at new mooring techniques and she is sharing this information with the DHM.

Work on the Saltmarsh projects will begin again in the near future, SH is hoping to use some of the drone footage for this.

YHAC Constitution – A review has been undertaken and will be discussed at the next meeting.

Action: Add YHAC Constitution to the agenda and circulate paper prior to meeting - LB / SJ

Yarmouth Harbour Commissioners AGM – The HM reported that the original date 5 June, has been postponed. He is in the process of writing his annual report and the accounts have been approved. It is yet to be decided whether the meeting will be postponed or take place virtually.

Sailing Club Commodore – LM informed the Committee that she will be stepping down as Commodore of Yarmouth Sailing Club after the Management Team have confirmed her replacement.

The Chairman thanked LM for all her work at the Sailing Club and for her commitment and support to this Committee.

A discussion took place following a statement submitted by Nick Whittle regarding the crane pricing. The HM produced a presentation which relayed to members of the committee the Harbours position on the matter and suggested that NW arrange to meet with him to discuss the matter further.

11. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting date is yet to be arranged in light of the current situation; DF will propose the next meeting in due course.

The meeting closed at 10:01am.

The following reports have been received since the meeting and the Chairman requested these additions to the minutes;

8. RYA latest

The RYA Coronavirus (COVID-19) FAQs for Affiliated Clubs, Classes and Recognised Training Centres, has been circulated to local sailing clubs, and a link be circulated to YHAC members.

9. Boat Yards

Harold Hayles boat yard is now open and operational.