

YHAC CONFIRMED MINUTES

Yarmouth (Isle of Wight) Harbour Commissioners
Minutes of a Meeting of
The Yarmouth Harbour Advisory Committee
held virtually via Zoom
on 17 March 2021 at 0900 hours

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

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were tendered as noted above.

2. Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of 27 January 2021 were approved.

3. Matters arising

- Communication with YHAC – a separate email address has now been set up (advisorycommittee@yarmouth-harbour.co.uk) so that anyone that wishes to contact the Committee can do so via the website.
- The George Hotel – An objection was sent in on behalf of YHAC as discussed at the last meeting regarding safety concerns with the proposed versa doc pontoon. The CE/HM reported that Crown Estates had become involved and that the planning application had now been withdrawn.

4. Yarmouth Harbour

- **Lockdown Restrictions**

The RYA have now issued guidance on boating activity in England as we begin to move out of the latest Covid restrictions. A copy of this will be circulated to members separately. At this stage it is anticipated that the harbour will be able to accommodate short stays from visiting boats from 29 March, and overnight visitors from 12 April onwards. New Risk Assessments are currently being undertaken to ensure that the harbour can open up safely and the wearing of masks etc will be compulsory in all harbour buildings and will also be advised on pontoons and when moving across other vessels when rafted. There will be increased signage displayed around the harbour advising people to stay safe.

- **Safety**

Beach safety – large orange buoys are being deployed to mark the swimming area off of the beach at Norton Spit and YHC are currently considering if they can safely put in a designated beach landing area – specifically aimed at PWC users.

- **Harbour Works**

The renovation of the showers is now complete and they are looking great. One of the diesel fuel tanks has been emptied in order to be cleaned and it has been decided that this will now house petrol rather than diesel as the harbour sell more of this throughout the year. General harbour maintenance is ongoing at present.

- **Performance**

YHC currently have three different budgets each of which can be implemented as required – namely red, amber and green. The harbour continues to work the amber budget at present and the plan is to revert back to the normal budget plan after April if possible.

- **Commissioner Recruitment**

There is currently one Commissioner position available and this has been advertised. There have currently been two applicants. This position will commence from 1 June 2021.

- **Tidal Turbine Marine Application**

YHC are in discussions with QED Navel regarding the installation of a trial tidal turbine called the SubHub. This is a submerged platform with turbines attached and once on the seabed will be marked by marker buoys. It is quick to deploy and retrieve and should not cause any problems to anyone using the harbour in any way. There will be an exclusion zone around the installation whilst the trial takes place. YHC asked members of the Committee whether they could foresee any issues/potential problems with this and no one raised any objections.

- **Informal Meetings**

The CE/HM asked members their views on how to operate the Harbour's Informal Meetings going forward. He proposed that he could perhaps give a brief presentation and then take any questions that may be asked. Members agreed that this seemed like a good suggestion.

5. Wightlink

MG was not present; however, he did kindly provide members with an update in a separate email prior to the meeting.

6. Clubs

YSC – The first sail of the season is scheduled to take place on 1 April. The bar at the club will be opening on 16 April but this will be table service on the terrace only.

RSYC – Sailing is to start on 4 April, and weds evening sailing is scheduled to start on 21 April. The Club plan to have some outdoor catering on offer in a marquee on the lawn from 12 April onwards. There have so far been 130 expressions of interest for the Taittinger Regatta should this be able to go ahead as planned.

7. Councils

Freshwater – All posts on the Causeway Bridge have now been removed and are being replaced with new, Identical posts. FPC have put forward funding for new buoys to mark the safe swimming area in the Bay. The wooden posts that mark the Hook Trail are also in the process of being replaced. The Parish Council have now taken over the running of the boat park by the lifeboat.

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.

A member informed the Committee that the Environment Agency had awarded matched funding to the IWC for sea defence works at the Bouldnor Green area.

8. Yarmouth Town

The refurbishment of the toilets both on The Common and in Bridge Road is almost complete. Tim Gibbs from Yarmouth Pharmacy has been given Freedom of the Town. sea defences government matching grant for The Bouldnor Green area

9. RYA Update

The latest guidance from the RYA will be circulated to members separately.

10. Boat Yards

Things are getting busier as more people need work doing to their boats prior to them going back in the water.

11. Events

The following events may take place this year but are all TBC:

- Old Gaffers Rally
- Carnival Week
- Sea Shanty Event
- Funfair on the Green

12. AOB

Stuart Hutchinson is standing down from the Isle of Wight Council and as such this was his last meeting prior to the elections in May. He was thanked for his support and contributions to helping the West Wight stay in the County Council's eye.

YHAC wishes to pass on their thanks via Gill to the WSC and the Health Centre for their very efficient running of the COVID vaccination program.

13. Date of Next Meeting

Date of next meeting – **Weds 26 May 2021.**

The meeting closed at 09:55am.