

**Yarmouth (Isle of Wight) Harbour Commissioners**  
**Minutes of a Meeting of**  
**The Yarmouth Harbour Advisory Committee**  
**held at the Harbour Office**  
**on 17 May 2017 at 0900 hours**

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

The Chairman welcomed Miles Peckham, Commissioner and David Eccles, Freshwater Parish Council, (standing in for Gill Kennett) to the meeting.

**1. Approval of Minutes**

The Minutes of 8 March 2017 were approved.

**A. OPERATIONAL UPDATE**

**1. Matters Arising from 8 March 2017**

- MCZ’s – The Chair noted that the timescale for the latest round of designations (and associated management measures) had been put back/slowed down due to the upcoming election.
- YHC’s promotional video has progressed. This aims to highlight Yarmouth Town and West Wight by illustrating what is on offer for visitors. Filming is currently underway which will focus on local eateries/shops as well as things to do with children when visiting the West Wight. The idea is to send out various sections of the video out via social media at different points within the year.

## 2. Boat Numbers – 2016 / 2017 Comparison

April	Overnight Visitors	Long Term Visitors	Sailing Schools	Short Stays	Total
%+/-	81%	84%	N/A	51%	76%

Year to date	Overnight Visitors	Long Term Visitors	Sailing Schools	Short Stays	Total
%+/-	40%	44%	-7%	17%	40%

## 3. Wightlink

Wightlink ran a night service on the Yarmouth-Lymington route during several nights in April when the Portsmouth-Fishbourne route could not operate as a result of the works taking place at these locations. There was not the freight traffic that was expected during this period – although it did return to normal once the service returned to the Portsmouth-Fishbourne route. Works at Fishbourne are expected to be completed by the end of July.

Wightlink will be running an extra passenger vessel (a charter boat) at midnight on the Saturday of Gaffers weekend – Sat 3 June 2017. This will have the capability to hold a maximum of 240 passengers.

There are various maintenance projects to be scheduled for completion during the winter months – this is works to the passenger walkway and the link span.

95% of Wightlink sailings left within 5 mins of their published departure time. The number of foot passengers was up on the same period last year.

## 4. 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. YHC have published their strategy in the Annual Report in order to try to increase its visibility. The draft document had been distributed to YHAC for consultation prior to the meeting and the Chair asked the group for any comments. Members reported that they were impressed with the clarity of the document. Stakeholder benefits were also discussed – a member commented that it was useful to see written down on paper a thorough list of things that the Commissioners do for/within the local community.

One item mentioned within this was ‘slipways’ and the CE/HM noted that these would be discussed in more detail at the next meeting. A member stated the importance of remembering that the slipway closest to the Wightlink terminal is a public slipway. The CE/HM clarified that although YHC allow it to be used by the public, it is designated under local harbour legislation as having priority use by Wightlink if required as an emergency slipway.

## 5. Port Marine Safety Code

There will be an Oil Spill Exercise at the Harbour on Fri 19 May 2017 during which staff will utilise the recently updated Oil Spill Response Plan and newly purchased skimming equipment. This will also serve as a training exercise for YHC staff and staff from Bembridge Harbour who are also planning to attend.

## B. ADVISORY ISSUES

### 1. Matters Arising from 8 March 2017

There were none.

## 2. The Pier's Tale Project Update

YHC were successful in securing a HLF award of £778,000 for the Pier Restoration project. This will require YHC to contribute a further £200,000 (this will likely cost the Harbour closer to £400,000 due to tax being payable). The MMO have now granted the licence required in order for the project to commence. Bournemouth University are planning to install some underwater cameras under the pier head which will enable visitors to see the kinds of wildlife that is below. Southern IFCA are also doing a fish study. The 'Pier in a Box' project will also be rolled out into Island Schools over the coming months.

## 3. Future of the Pier

Greenheart wood for use to replace the current damaged pier piles has been sourced from a project in Portsmouth. YHC plan to reclaim this rare and fairly expensive resource for use during not only this phase of the pier's restoration but also the next two phases of restoration in years to come. As this is an increasingly rare wood to source, the price will go up, so in securing sufficient stocks at this stage there will be a significant cost saving over time. The wood will be stored in a fenced off area within the Dinghy Park. The area will be monitored via CCTV.

## 4. Harbour Works

- There has been a problem with the Boiler at the Harbour Office– this is a very recent event and will need to be investigated further.
- The Harbour's Cheetah cat has now been repainted and is almost completely up together in time for the Gaffers Festival on 2 June.

## 5. Events

- Spring Festival – members reported that they felt that this had gone very well once again. Both the Sailing Club and Yacht Club reported that they had many visitors to their clubs and had signed up several new members. There were 28 exhibitors in total this year, 10 cars attended the Boat Jumble and over 180 expired flares were collected in the Flare Amnesty. Wet Wheels did 4 trips out to the Needles with disabled and elderly passengers. A member reported that it was becoming increasingly difficult to transport the collected flares back to Lymington for disposal. A member suggested that it may be worth approaching Pains Fireworks to see if they are able to transport them back on their barges when they visit during the year. Another suggested that it may be worth turning it into a 'Flare Exchange' in future years as this may put the onus on the Suppliers to take back any expired flares. The CE/HM mentioned that Island Harbours were in the process of trying to organise a central point on the Island where flares could be safely disposed of.

Members acknowledged that the Festival – now in its third year - perhaps requires promotion to the rest of the Island community rather than just to locals in order for it to grow.

The DHM thanks Wightlink for allowing YHC to use their marshalling area during the festival – without the use of this area it would be very hard to hold such an event.

- Gaffers Festival – 2-4 June 2017

## 6. Any Other Business

- YSC Rally Update – the Sailing Club are currently running a collaboration with YHC whereby Rallies visiting the harbour are offered use of the Sailing Club's facilities. Catering is outsourced to Island Catering Solutions and the bar is run by one member of staff. So far the club has had 8 bookings and the concept seems to be working very well.
- A member asked the group whether anything more had been heard about Isle of Wight Day this year. So far, no one seemed to have heard anything regarding events etc being held in and around Yarmouth.

- The Chairman encouraged members of YHAC to attend the AGM on 31 May 2017 at the RSYC at 1800. PK gave his apologies.
- The CE/HM informed the group that five additional parking spaces had been made available over at the Overflow Car Park for use by Annual Mooring holders during the summer. Anyone wishing to use one of these spaces (should the car park at the Harbour Office be full) should come into Reception and request a temporary pass. He also pointed out that people had been parking in the way of the Police and Oil Spill containers and that this would be policed during the season as these areas cannot be blocked.

**7. Date of next meetings**

12 July, 13 September 2017, 15 November.

The meeting finished at 1010.