

YHAC CONFIRMED MINUTES

Yarmouth (Isle of Wight) Harbour Commissioners
Minutes of a Meeting of
The Yarmouth Harbour Advisory Committee
held virtually via Zoom
on 7 October 2020 at 0900 hours

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

The Chairman welcomed Commissioner Sue Poston, Nick Whittle (who was attending in place of Lee Hall as the Commercial Operator representative) and new member for Yarmouth Business Association Danny Arthur to the meeting.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were tendered as noted above.

2. Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of 12 August 2020 were approved with one minor amendment to the RSYC item.

3. Matters arising

- Beach safety – Colwell, Totland and Sandhard – there was a recent meeting attended by several members of the YHAC committee and the owners of The Hut to discuss the issue of beach safety relating to swimming areas and the dangers posed by fast-moving watercraft such as ribs and jet skis. The member for Totland requested that as the local

County Councillor it would be beneficial for him to be involved in any future meetings which members agreed it would.

The Isle of Wight Council are currently consulting with other areas and various stakeholders in order to come up with a comprehensive set of guidelines relating to safety and good practice with regards to the operation of such vessels in these areas. This will also cover launching and recovery and is likely to take several months.

The RYA are also involved in trying to help with this and the CE/HM said that he has a meeting coming up with the Marine Police where he would point out the 'hot zones' where they may be able to step up their patrols. It was noted that many of these craft are rented and therefore education will be key – this will need to start with the rental companies.

4. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

A member nominated David Fox to remain Chair and Gill Kennett to remain Vice Chair of the YHAC Committee and this was seconded by several other members.

Updates

Yarmouth Harbour

- **Safety** –there have been several concerns raised over the condition of the ladies showers and it has therefore been decided that work to refurbish these (phase 2) would be brought forward. Work started on 5 October. This should be completed by early February 2021.

Harbour Taxi's – during the recent spell of northerly winds there have been several occasions where the safety of passengers embarking/disembarking the taxi has posed a safety issue. It has therefore been decided that the taxi driver on duty will make the final decision about whether or not it is safe to operate on the day.

- **Harbour Works** – see above
- **Performance**

Boat Numbers 2020

The total visitor numbers for August (LTV, Overnight & Short Stay) show an increase on the previous year of 2%.

September

Overnight visits exceeded the number of visits last year in the same month by 777 nights and beat the September record set in 2014 by 77 nights at 2676.

Shorts Stay visits reached an all-time high with 957 lunchtime visits for the month, an increase of 253 on the previous year and an increase on the previous record set in 2014 of 151 boats.

Long Term Visitors numbers show an increase of 531 nights in comparison to the same month last year totalling 2423 nights.

So far, a delayed but successful summer season.

- **Harbour Dues and Charges** – the CE/HM reported that there will be **no rise** to any Harbour Dues and Charges for 2021.

5. Wightlink

MG was not present at the meeting but several members raised concerns over lack of seating inside both Lymington and Yarmouth terminals throughout the winter period. The CE/HM said that he would pass these comments onto Wightlink for consideration.

Note: The Chairman gave his apologies to members as the Zoom call was running low on time and asked them to raise any items that they felt were important rather than working through the remainder of the Agenda.

A member mentioned a new project called 'Time and Tide' which was looking at installing a large bronze bell on the pier which rings every time the tide goes in and out. These have been installed all over the country but are usually in locations where no one is living so it was not felt that it would be appropriate to have one so close to the town.

A member mentioned a recent survey focused on a Business Rates Review and said that he would send out the link to members for their information.

YHC are going to look into the possibility of creating a Zoom account to eliminate the issue of running out of time during future meetings.

11. Date of Next Meeting

Date of next meeting – Weds 9 December 2020

The meeting closed at 09:50am.