

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 10 July 2019 at 0900 hours

PRESENT	Liz Mead David Fox – Chair Gill Kennett – Vice Chair Barry Whatley Sue Hawley Jamie Allen Scott Neill Lee Hall Jamie Sheldon	Yarmouth Sailing Club Royal Yachting Association Freshwater Parish Council Wightlink Estuaries Officer Yarmouth Town Council Deputy Harbour Master Commercial Operators Representative Country Landowners Association
IN ATTENDANCE	Tim Adams Lisa Bridges Don Tregear	Chief Executive/Harbour Master (Minutes) Commissioner
APOLOGIES	Bill Attree Mike Wheeler Stuart Hutchinson Ginny McKee John Howe Katie Davies	Commercial Fishermen’s Association Yarmouth Business Association Isle of Wight Council Yarmouth Harbour Staff Representative Totland Parish Council Royal Solent Yacht Club

The Chairman welcomed Commissioner Don Tregear, the Deputy representative for Wightlink Barry Whatley and the new representative for the Commercial Operators Lee Hall to the meeting.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were tendered as noted above.

2. Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of 8 May 2019 were approved.

3. Membership

Jamie Sheldon has been re-elected by the CLA to continue his representation on YHAC.

New members to YHAC are;

Lee Hall representing the Commercial Operators and Martin Gulliver representing Wightlink.

The Chairman informed members that there will no longer be a representative from the British Marine Federation (BMF), as they have not put forward a nomination. The Chief Executive added that Yarmouth Harbour Commissioners are not an active member of the BMF.

A. OPERATIONAL UPDATE

1. Matters Arising from 8 May 2019

- **New Commissioner Recruitment** – Lee Hall has been appointed to sit on YHAC representing The Commercial Operators in place of Phil Keen, who stepped down after his recent appointment as Yarmouth Harbour Commissioner.
- **Ladders on the Commercial Pontoon** – The Deputy Harbour Master reported to the meeting that there are 4 ladders on the Commercial pontoon, which is in excess of the recommended 1 ladder per 30 vessels. He concluded that there will always be an issue with moored boats obstructing ladders, and so suggested that in addition to the 4 ladders that lifejackets are worn on the pontoon as an additional safety measure.

2. Boat Numbers June 2019

- Overnight visits for June at 2521 show a decrease on the same period 2018 of 13% or 363 nights.
- Short Stays or lunchtime show a decrease on the previous year of 44 boats or 3% at 835.

Overnight and short stay visits are directly affected by the weather. In June 2019 there were 13 wet days of which 61mm of rain fell and in 2018 only 4 wet days of which only 0.8 mm of rain fell. The wind direction throughout the month was predominantly from the north or northeast in fact there were northerlies for 26 days of the month which is unusual.

- Long Term Visitors totalled 2000 nights an increase on the same month last year of 169 nights or 9%
- Sailing School visits in June show an increase of 138 visits or 20% on the same month in 2018. This figure is the highest on record for the month. LTVs and Sailing Schools are largely unaffected by adverse weather which is reflected in the numbers.
- The number of Overnight, LTV, Short Stay and Sailing School visits combined to date up to the end of June shows an increase of 2,237 or 11% at 21,831.

3. Wightlink

Barry Whatley attended the meeting in place of new representative for Wightlink Martin Gulliver.

Barry reported that Wightlink have overcome their fleet issues that had hampered their service over the early part of the year and much like the Harbour, Wightlink also saw a decrease in passenger numbers in June largely due to the weather. However early reports already show an increase for July against last year.

The Wight Sun is now back in service on the Yarmouth-Lymington route, which means that there is now a relief boat should it be needed.

Barry also informed members that one-off additional sailings were added to the timetable recently, and more may be added now that the Wight Sun is back in operation.

4. Port Marine Safety Code

The Chief Executive updated YHAC members about bridge maintenance works that have been proposed by Island Roads.

The Chief Executive is continuing to work closely with Island Roads to ensure that the schedule of works adheres to Open Port Duty Legislation, and that timescales are realistic and reasonable for affected Businesses, Annual Mooring Licence holders and all other affected stakeholders.

Suggestions have been put forward to Island Roads to look at rescheduling work to later in the year after the peak tourist season, also to give the businesses affected the opportunity to plan for minimal disruption. The Chief Executive has offered ways to support the project, such as a night watch person and thermal imaging, to allow them to use heaters overnight in the cooler months to dry the paint without the risk of fire if left unattended.

Members thanked the Chief Executive for all his efforts and support to the local businesses that will inevitably be affected by the maintenance works to the bridge.

B. ADVISORY ISSUES

1. Matters Arising from 13 March 2019

No outstanding matters.

2. Pier Project

Sue Hawley has recently met with the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) to discuss the surplus funding, and they have agreed that the monies can be spent on the completion of the roundhouse and website development, to include an interactive children's page. Sue Hawley reported that the HLF are very pleased with the project.

The underwater camera has now been installed and is feeding live footage to the new screen inside the roundhouse. It is anticipated that the roundhouse will be open throughout the Summer season, but closed throughout the Winter, although it can be opened by arrangement.

The pier plank sponsorship has been extremely popular, and whilst the original waiting list was cleared it has been necessary to start a new one. The process of making the personalised planks is lengthy, and the maintenance team are working through the requests as and when they can.

A member commented on the ongoing issues of anglers casting off the pier, creating hazards for those sailing close by. The Chief Executive reported that there is new signage on the bait boxes on the pier, and CCTV is also directed at the area. Should anyone witness any issues, it would be helpful when reporting it to have made a note of the time so that CCTV footage can be reviewed.

3. Harbour Works

Commissioner Don Tregear spoke about an idea bought to himself and the Chief Executive to erect flagpoles along the Quayside, flying flags such as the Union Jack, the IOW flag and the Yarmouth flag. They could also be used to fly courtesy flags such as a national or rally flag of visiting groups to the harbour.

All members agreed this was a lovely idea. The Chief Executive agreed to move forward with getting quotes with a view to budgeting for the flagpoles in 2020. **Action TA**

4. Environmental Matters

- The Chief Executive reported that a pollution plan is in place with regards to the bridge maintenance works.
- A member reported that there are issues with sandbags that have been left on the bridge at the causeway to stop flooding. The bags are plastic covered, and as the plastic has perished it has been found floating in the river. Island Roads have been contacted by Freshwater Town Council and they have provided more plastic bags to replace those that are breaking down. Members agreed this did not appear to be a good solution, and the Chief Executive agreed to have a look at the issue and contact Island Roads to discuss. **Action TA**
- A member informed the meeting that signs and fences have been installed beside the estuary of the river, in a bid to stop the public launching boats in the area at nesting time, as it is impacting on the local wildlife.
- A member asked about recent news that Yarmouth has become a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve and what impact that would have. Sue Hawley responded that it is in fact the whole of the Isle of Wight not just Yarmouth, and that the impact will certainly be positive. Sue offered to send members further information on the subject. **Action SH**

5. Events

- **Funfair on the Green - 8-21 July 2019:** The funfair has arrived and will open this coming weekend. Any issues with noise should be directed to the residents rep.
- **RSYC Tattinger Regatta – 26-28 July 2019:** Currently 154 boats are scheduled to attend this event that has become one of the most popular sailing regattas. Wightlink are working alongside the event organisers to ensure they are aware of the ferry times and are able to plan accordingly. Barry Whately will share planning information with the Chief Executive. **Action BW**
A member added that the Solent Swim will take place on the 27 July, although the swimmers should be clear of the area early in the morning.
- **Carnival Week – 17-24 August**
- **YSC Golden Anniversary weekend – 28-30 June 2019:** Liz Mead from YSC reported that the event had been fantastic success. Liz thanked Harbour staff for their co-operation throughout the event.

6. Any Other Business

- The Chairman raised the issue of the silting up of Newtown Creek. Members discussed the issues and Sue Hawley agreed to contact the Natural Trust. **Action SH**
- The Chairman informed members about the MCA Consultation on Yacht & Powerboat Safety and the RYA's plea to members to take part in the consultation. The Chairman forwarded the email to interested members.
- A member asked for a progress update with regards to The Royal Terrace after noting signage for the new venue has been put up. The Chief Executive reported that significant works are being undertaken, and it looks as though the opening will be Spring 2020.

7. Date of next meetings

11 September and 13 November 2019.

The meeting finished at 09:55am.