

YHAC CONFIRMED MINUTES

Yarmouth (Isle of Wight) Harbour Commissioners
Minutes of a Meeting of
The Yarmouth Harbour Advisory Committee
held virtually via Zoom
on 9 December 2020 at 0900 hours

PRESENT

David Fox – Chair	Royal Yachting Association
Gill Kennett – Vice Chair	Freshwater Parish Council
Jamie Sheldon	Country Landowners Association
Danny Arthur	Yarmouth Business Association
Katie Davies	Royal Solent Yacht Club
John Howe	Totland Parish Council
Nick Whittle	Commercial Operators Representative

IN ATTENDANCE

Tim Adams	Chief Executive/Harbour Master
Sarah Judd	Minutes
Sue Poston	Commissioner
Scott Neill	Deputy Harbour Master

APOLOGIES

Tom Gregory	Yarmouth Sailing Club
Bill Attree	Commercial Fishermen's Association
Martin Gulliver	Wightlink Representative
Lee Hall	Commercial Operators Representative
Stuart Hutchinson	Isle of Wight Council
Ginny McKee	YHC Staff Representative
Sue Hawley	Estuaries Officer
Jamie Allen	Yarmouth Town Council

The Chairman welcomed Commissioner Sue Poston and Nick Whittle (who was attending in place of Lee Hall as the Commercial Operator representative)

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were tendered as noted above.

2. Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of 7 October 2020 were approved.

3. Matters arising

- Beach safety – both Freshwater PC and Totland PC continue to liaise with local businesses on the subject of beach safety – specifically relating to the safe use of PWC's. The CE/HM said that he would be more than happy to assist in any way and outlined what the harbour were currently doing – namely putting up signage at various locations including Norton Spit and the fuel berth. This signage is provided by the RYA's Personal Watercraft

Partnership project and is free to members. The CE/HM said that he would send this out to YHAC as many members were RYA members either in a personal capacity or as an organisation. The Marine Police are also trying to educate those businesses that rent out jet ski's and boats in order to raise awareness.

A member said that there had recently been a briefing on this subject circulated to both local Parish Council's to bring them up to date.

Updates

4. Yarmouth Harbour

- **Lockdown Restrictions**

The harbour is now open once again to both short stay and overnight visitors from both Tier 1 and Tier 2 areas. The CE/HM told the committee that he had recently been sent some guidance for tourists visiting the Island from Visit IOW and the Isle of Wight Council which YHC will circulate to members.

- **Safety**

Following a couple of near misses and one collision in the main fairway as a result of blind spots created by several high sided vessels in or around berth 65, some boats have been relocated in order to improve navigation. There was a recent Port Marine Safety Code audit and YHC passed this successfully without any non-conformities.

- **Harbour Works**

The ladies showers are in the process of being completely renovated. The disabled toilet outside of the office has been made into a unisex toilet and shower so that the harbour are able to offer 24 hour facilities. The harbour's winter maintenance program is continuing as normal.

- **Performance**

Despite the drop in numbers over the past few months as a result of the lockdown YHC anticipate meeting their financial target. There have been around 50 boat visits so far during December.

5. Wightlink

MG was not present at the meeting. The CE/HM said that he would liaise with Wightlink in order to check their availability to attend future YHAC meetings and also to ask whether they could consider organising a virtual 'Meet the Managers' event.

6. Clubs

RSYC was closed during lockdown but is now reopen and has many social events planned for the coming weeks. They are still holding training weeks for youngsters during the Easter and Half Term holidays and Dinghy Week and Laser week will also be taking place in 2021.

There was no representative present at the meeting for YSC.

7. Councils

Freshwater Parish Council have taken over responsibility of the boat park in the bay along with the revetment. They are planning to renovate the railings and are working closely with the Freshwater

Independent Lifeboat and the Isle of Wight Council. They are planning to issue permits for those people that wish to keep their boats there.

Totland Parish Council are working closely with local businesses such as The Hut and the proposed new café and restaurant on the pier on making the beach safe to use and they hope to be able to use the area for various events in the future such as firework displays and Regattas.

8. Yarmouth Town

The representative for YTC was not in attendance so there was nothing to report.

9. RYA Update

The RYA are making good progress with their beach safety campaign. Signage and leaflets have been produced for local harbours and beaches to display relating to the importance of the safe use of PWC's. They are trying to target rental/hire companies encouraging them to issue guidance where possible.

10. Boat Yards

A member enquired on behalf of a local commercial operative whether or not YHC were able to issue further commercial licences should anyone wish to have one. The CE/HM confirmed that there is a commercial waiting list and YHC encourages commercial operators who require a berth speak to the CE/HM direct.

11. Events

A member asked whether or not YHC would be holding their Spring Festival in 2021 and the CH/HM reported that at this stage this was unknown.

12. AOB

Several members thanked YHC for successfully guiding the harbour through the past year in what have been quite strange circumstances.

13. Date of Next Meeting

Date of next meeting – **Weds 13 January 2021**

The meeting closed at 09:50am.