

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 11 September 2019 at 0900 hours**

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

The Chairman welcomed Commissioner Sarah Turvill to the meeting.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were tendered as noted above.

2. Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of 10 July 2019 were approved.

3. Membership

David Fox and Gill Kennett have been re-elected as Chair and Vice Chair respectively.

A. OPERATIONAL UPDATE

1. Matters Arising from 10 July 2019

- **Harbour Works - Flagpoles** – The idea has been approved by the YHC board and will be incorporated into next year’s budget.

Martin Gulliver arrived at this point.

- **Ladders** – A member highlighted a potential danger of someone getting trapped under a pontoon, even with a lifejacket on and proposed grab ropes be installed. The committee agreed this was a good idea. **Action TA.**
- **Carnival 2019** – During this event, it was noted, some children attending YSC watersports activities did not wear buoyancy aids. Although participants need to take some responsibility for their own safety, it was felt children should always wear them.

2. Boat Numbers

Year to date, up to and including 31 August.

- Overnights (Jan – Aug) show an increase of 2% or 331 boats at 14,693.
- Short Stays (Jan – Aug) show an increase of 19% or 790 boats at 5,056. This figure is highest on record.
- LTVs (Jan – Aug) show an increase of 14% or 2,067 boat nights at 16,356. This figure is the highest on record.

In light of the increase in boat numbers, some discussion took place around visitor surveys, and how we can determine why visitors are choosing to come to Yarmouth. The Harbour have run surveys in the past. Response rates are generally low. Wightlink do their own surveys, again, a low response rate. They have noted a significant increase in foot passengers. Worth encouraging local businesses to run their own surveys.

3. Wightlink

Martin Gulliver reported that the LED screen has been removed, as not safe.

Martin informed members that there will be additional night sailings running from 30 September to 1 November 2019 as a result of night sailings being withdrawn temporarily from the Fishbourne - Portsmouth route.

In a response to a members' question, investigations are still ongoing in relation to the engine room fires.

The Chairman praised Wightlink and their captains for keeping the ferries running during periods of strong winds.

4. Port Marine Safety Code

No new matters to raise.

B. ADVISORY ISSUES

1. Matters Arising from 10 July 2019

- **Causeway Bridge** – contact Island Roads (again) regarding perished plastic sandbags – **Action TA**
- **UNESCO Biosphere Reserve** – Sue to provide further information to members - **Action SH**
- **Silting of Newtown Creek** – **Action SH**

2. Harbour Works

- **Bridge Works Update** –The swing bridge section will result in closure to marine traffic affecting customers and businesses. The Chief Executive has requested that works start no earlier than end November 2019. Negotiations with Island Roads are continuing. The exclusion zone remains in place, restricting marine traffic in the area of the works. The Chief Executive will provide an update to members. **Action TA**
- **Fuel Availability** - YHC petrol supplies ran out during a busy bank holiday weekend in August. Stocks delivered on Friday were used by Saturday. Likely to have been as a direct result of Lymington and Cowes also running out and coincided with the Powerboat weekend.

3. Environmental Matters

- Bill Attree voiced his concerns to members in relation to fishing stocks (the lack of) and believes this is linked to the Portsmouth/Southampton dredging that has taken place.

4. Events

- **RSYC Tattinger Regatta Update – 26-28 July 2019:** Katie reported to members that this was a good event with 214 boats attending. Thanks conveyed to Wightlink and compliments to Harbour staff in ensuring this event went well.
- **Guy Fawkes night Fireworks** – business as usual – nothing to report at this stage.
- **Folk Boat Week** – The Chairman offered his thanks to the Harbour for the help received during this event. The proposed dates for next year's event is **22nd to 29th August 2020**.

5. Any Other Business

- Scott notified members of a Powerboat event run by Classic Offshore Powerboat Club, taking place off the green on 28-29 September 2019.
- A member shared an issue with regards to some inappropriate mooring (due to differing boat sizes). SN and TA are already aware and have a meeting planned with the boat owner.
- Free Harbour Dinghy – this is being used, but not a lot. In contrast, the harbour taxi is very busy. A member had received complaints about the length of time waiting for the harbour taxi. Member also reported that at times it would appear the taxi is going too fast. The Harbour will licence additional vessels utilizing the use of the Berthing Masters boats at these busy times.
- Red/White Diesel HMRC Consultation – The consultation period ended on the 9 September 2019. YHC are waiting on the result of the consultation. It is possible that YHC will be forced to sell only White diesel, but a decision will not be reached until all information has been assessed. This may have an impact on pump prices for both commercial and pleasure craft.
- The Chairman informed members of the temporary closure of Bucklers Hard, Beaulieu. This will be for six months from October 2019.
- Cruiser Racing, new this year, takes place on a Sunday – a member requested, if possible, an additional bridge opening could be scheduled, tying in with the finish time. **Action SN**
- The Chief Executive suggested approaching Destination Yarmouth for a business association representative. **Action TA**

6. Date of next meetings

13 November 2019, **22 January 2020** (this meeting has been changed from 15 January).

The meeting finished at 10.10am.