

YHAC CONFIRMED MINUTES

**Yarmouth (Isle of Wight) Harbour Commissioners
Minutes of a Meeting of
The Yarmouth Harbour Advisory Committee
held virtually via Zoom
on 22 September 2021 at 0900 hours**

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

The Chairman welcomed Commissioner Sue Poston to the meeting.

- 1. Election of Chair & Vice-Chair** – Members proposed David Fox continue as Chair, and proposed that Jamie Allen become Vice-Chair. This was unanimously agreed.
- 2. Apologies for Absence**
Apologies were tendered as noted above.
- 3. Approval of Minutes**
The Minutes of 21 July 2021 were approved.
- 4. Matters arising**
Harbour Development concept – the Chair enquired as to whether the presentations on the proposed harbour development project south of the bridge had taken place since the last meeting. The CE/HM confirmed that he had shown this to YTC but was awaiting an invite from the Clerk of Freshwater Parish Council. The feedback has so far been very positive with all of YTC unanimously in support of the proposed project. Other Stakeholders have also been consulted and the majority

of feedback has been in support of the project going ahead. There were one or two concerns regarding the importance of the harbour still being to offer a variety of different moorings and their associated costs in order to maintain its use and enjoyment by as many people as possible which the CE/HM confirmed it would continue to do. The Commissioners will decide at the next Board meeting whether or not to proceed with the necessary MMO applications.

5. Yarmouth Harbour

Covid Restrictions

The harbour continues to encourage people to wear face coverings indoors although this is not being enforced. Harbour staff are advised to have a mask on them at all times so that they are able to wear them should either a customer or colleague request that they do so. Both harbour staff and customers will also be encouraged to observe social distancing and will continue with hand sanitising for the foreseeable future.

Safety

A stakeholder recently highlighted that some of the harbour taxis were on occasion travelling a little fast creating increased wake within the harbour. This has already been brought to their attention.

YHC are currently awaiting a quote from Walcon for introducing a 'waiting pontoon' by the bridge. This will greatly improve safety in this area as it will provide a place to tie up whilst waiting for the bridge to open.

Harbour Works

The pink pontoon has almost reached the end of its useful life and will be replaced by a more heavy-duty alternative.

Harbour Development Concept

This item was dealt with under Matters Arising – see above.

Performance

The number of overnight boat visits for August was 3800 which is an impressive tally given that there were at least two weeks of bed weather during the month. Other harbours have been reporting a drop in visitor numbers compared to last year so this is encouraging for Yarmouth. The number of short stay boat visits reached 1187 which is a record breaker. The number of LTV's has now reached capacity.

6. Wightlink

The Wightlink representative was not present at the meeting.

7. Clubs

YSC – The number of people visiting the club and utilising the bar area seems to have risen which is good news. The Club are hoping to have an open day and some other events during the Queen's Jubilee weekend.

RSYC – Wednesday night racing has now come to an end. Sunday racing continues. The CE/HM requested that the club liaise with the harbour regarding start times of races to enable smooth operations within the harbour. Folk Boat Week went very well and the club extended their thanks

to the HM and his team for their assistance in berthing boats together etc. The Club will be reducing its opening hours moving into the winter period.

A member commented that some people still be unsure of the correct way to transit the bridge, especially when it is being used by emergency vehicles. A suggestion was made to clarify this in next year's Harbour Guide as well as perhaps including some information by way of an update when all annual mooring invoices are sent out to resident mooring holders. The CE/HM agreed that this was a good idea.

8. Councils

Freshwater PC – The swimming area marker buoys that were put out for the summer period seemed to work very well. The Council are currently investigating the installation of a safety rail on the way down to the beach at Colwell Bay. Meetings with Southern Water regarding the issue of raw sewage being pumped into Colwell Bay are ongoing.

Totland PC – the swimming buoys at Totland appeared to work well over the summer. The Parish Council continue to work with the owners of the Pier regarding the construction of the restaurant at the end and its associated pontoons. The rep asked if the CE/HM would be able to potentially advise on how this could best work and work safely. The CE/HM confirmed that he is already liaising with the pier owners and is more than happy to assist in any way he can. The Parish Council are also looking at putting on some sort event on The Green for the Queens Jubilee weekend.

Yarmouth TC – The refurbished toilets seem to have been very well received by the town. The Town Council are looking at doing some maintenance work at the Rec and at the possibility of putting in some new amenities – perhaps a zip line or a new outside Gym/climbing area. Members were encouraged to put forward any suggestions they may have. YTC are going to be lighting a beacon on the Green as well as holding some sort of event at CHOYD for the Jubilee weekend.

Several members suggested that it would make sense to organise a meeting between the Town and Parish Council's to discuss the Jubilee celebrations so that plans can be coordinated.

9. RYA Latest

A member enquired as to when the wave turbine platform would be installed near the harbour. The CE/HM reported that this had been slightly delayed but that it is actually outside of YHC's jurisdiction. He did however confirm that the installation should not cause any problems for anyone in or around the harbour and that YHC were benefiting from various surveys/data gathering projects that have been carried out as part of the project.

The DoT have recently launched consultation regarding the use of Personal Watercraft (PWC's). The link to this will be sent out to YHAC members.

10. Boat Yards

The RYB confirmed its support for the harbour development concept south of the bridge should it proceed.

11. Events

- The Sea Shanty Event seemed to go very well.
- Ice rink in the Square – 22 December 2021

Date of next meeting: 17 November 2021

The meeting closed at 1005.