

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 13 November 2019 at 0900 hours**

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

The Chairman welcomed Commissioner Phil Keen to the meeting.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were tendered as noted above.

2. Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of 11 September 2019 were approved.

A. OPERATIONAL UPDATE

1. Matters Arising from 11 September 2019

- **Ladders** – Grab ropes have now be installed.

2. Boat Numbers

- **October Boat Numbers**

Overnight visits were down on the same month last year by around 22%. This is not surprising when factoring in the poor weather conditions throughout the month.

Shorts Stays show a decrease of 36% largely due to a long span of inclement weather during October.

Long Term Visitors remain unaffected by weather and show an increase of 11% at 2,432 nights.

Sailing school figures grew by 7% compared to the previous year amounting to a total for the month of 161 nights.

Boat numbers to date, up to and including 31 October.

- Overnights (Jan – Oct) show an increase of 0.3% at 17,336 overnight stays.
- Short Stays (Jan – Oct) show an increase of 13% at 6,019 visits. This figure is highest on record for the period.
- LTVs (Jan – Oct) show an increase of 12% at 20,635 boat nights. This figure is the highest on record and has already exceeded the total number of visits for all previous years.
- Sailing Schools numbers (Jan- Oct) totalled 1233 visits. This figure is the highest on record and has already exceeded the total number of visits for all previous years.

3. Wightlink

Martin Gulliver was not present at the meeting and no report received.

A committee member requested that that we ask Martin Gulliver to provide YHAC members the dates of the Wightlink customer meetings, so that they may attend if they wish.

4. Port Marine Safety Code

No new matters to raise.

B. ADVISORY ISSUES

1. Matters Arising from 11 September 2019

- **Causeway Bridge** – Jason Boulter, our previous contact has now left Island Roads. The CE/HM is meeting with Island Roads today, on another matter, but will raise the issues with regard to sandbags and state of railings. **Action TA**
- **UNESCO Biosphere Reserve** – Sue provided a leaflet to the committee. Yarmouth has been designated as part of the 'Biosphere Core Zone'.
- **Silting of Newtown Creek** – Sue has a meeting with Natural England on the 9 December where the issue will be raised. **Action SH**

2. Harbour Dues and Charges

The CE/HM presented slides to the committee. These showed annual mooring rates and price comparisons with other harbours. He also presented to the meeting the purpose behind the profit targets and how YHC are planning for future expenditure.

Annual mooring fees will increase in line with RPI at 3% except the commercials that benefit from grandfather rights. These moorings will be increased by 6% with a view to slowly bringing these fees in line with the non-commercial rates. Despite the increase, the discount to these harbour users is significant at £327 per metre on the standard tariffed rate. The river Pontoon (non-walk ashore) will increase by 6% to differentiate from the pile mooring rates.

A member questioned the increase in fees, in particular with regards to the percentage of the fees which is contributed to local community funds. Whilst another member believed this was an important part of the Harbour and Town working together for the benefit of the area.

3. Harbour Works

- **Bridge Works Update** - Notice to Mariners has been issued advising of the swing bridge closure, to marine traffic, from 18 November for approximately 5 weeks. Additionally, the bridge will be closed to road traffic for one week from 16 December, whilst the bridge is partially opened so that 'hard to reach parts' can be painted. The CE/HM informed the meeting of issues encountered with noise levels and paint overspray. A member recommended that the IOW Council are kept informed of any issues with Island Roads.
- **Linkspan** – the Wightlink barge is currently in use whilst repairs to the linkspan take place. The repairs will ensure it is fit for use for many years to come.
- **Shower Refurbishments** – works to improve the facilities will commence this year. Feedback from customers has confirmed the need for more than just an 'annual refresh'. Recurrent drainage and rising damp problems will be addressed.
- **Dredging** – There is not a requirement to dredge this year following results of the annual bathymetric survey. The Sea bed levels continue to be monitored, allowing nature to do things naturally, where possible.
- **Pontoon Extension** – Natural England have been consulted on proposals to extend the river pontoon. There is no environmental impact. YHAC representatives were asked to comment on the proposed development and provide the CEO with feedback.

4. Environmental Matters

Following a concern raised by a committee member, the Estuaries Officer advised of a project to re-seed oyster beds, run by the Blue Marine Foundation in the Solent area.

5. Yarmouth Business Representative

YHC have approached Nick from Wightlink and will arrange a meeting to discuss this opportunity.

6. Events

- **Powerboat Classic Offshore Event** – was well attended, despite bad weather. The event will run again in 2020 – the dates are 24-27 September 2020.
- **Fireworks** – the event went well
- **Carols in the Square** – will take place on the 7 December. May be starting a little earlier (5.30pm instead of 6pm) to tie in with the school Christmas Fayre.
- **Bird Aware Event** – the Estuaries Officer informed the meeting of this event taking place on the 5 December. Wardens will be present, near the overflow car park, providing information.

7. Any Other Business

- **7 mile limit** – the Commissioners have decided to drop the current 7 mile limit restriction on annual mooring applicants and it will now be open to the whole of the Isle of Wight. It will benefit those, whom we have had to turn down in the past, who fall just outside the

7 mile area. The harder to fill, larger berthing spots will more likely be filled. Those already on the waiting list will remain in their positions.

- A member commented that it would be nice to see the new pontoon being used for residents.
- A member asked whether anyone could be approached to run a boat service from the pier to Bournemouth.
- A member asked when it would be considered that the river is full. The YSC are noticing it can become crowded when launching from the public slipway.

8. Dates of next meetings

22 January 2020 (John Howe gave his apologies), 18 March 2020

The meeting finished at 10.25am.