

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 14 November 2018 at 0900 hours

PRESENT

Liz Mead	Yarmouth Sailing Club
Jamie Allen	British Marine Federation
David Fox – Chair	Royal Yachting Association
Sue Hawley	Estuaries Officer
Bill Attree	Commercial Fishermen’s Association
Derek Graham	Wightlink
Gill Kennett	Freshwater Parish Council
Nick Whittle	Commercial Operators Representative
Nick Measor	Royal Solent Yacht Club
Jamie Sheldon	Country Landowners Association
Jenny Jackson	Yarmouth Town Council
John Howe	Totland Parish Council

IN ATTENDANCE

Tim Adams	Chief Executive/Harbour Master
Sarah Judd	Admin Assistant
Don Tregear	Commissioner
Sue Poston	Commissioner
Scott Neill	Deputy Harbour Master
Lisa Bridges	HR/Admin Manager

APOLOGIES

Ginny McKee	Yarmouth Harbour Staff Representative
Stuart Hutchinson	Isle of Wight Council
Mike Wheeler	Yarmouth Business Association
Phil Keen	Commercial Operators Representative

The Chairman welcomed Commissioners Sue Poston and Don Tregear to the meeting along with Nick Whittle was attending as deputy for the Commercial Operators in place of Phil Keen. He also introduced the new Admin/HR Manager Lisa Bridges to the Committee.

1. **Approval of Minutes**

The Minutes of 12 September 2018 were approved.

A. **OPERATIONAL UPDATE**

1. **Matters Arising from 12 September 2018**

- SJ to provide the Wightlink rep with the contact email address of all YHAC members so that the notice for the next meeting can be distributed to all local community groups. This action was completed but it was noted that there was a recent ‘Meet the Managers’ event held at the Harbour Office which was only attended by local Councillors as no one had received notification. The CE/HM

offered to send out an email to YHAC members to notify them of future events if they are scheduled to take place at the Harbour Office. The Wightlink representative also said that he would make contact again with the meeting organisers to ensure that they have members' email addresses to add to the distribution list.

The Chair raised the subject of Mobile Banking in West Wight. It was noted that there has been a survey undertaken recently on both bank and cashpoint usage in Freshwater and that a meeting has been scheduled at which the closure of the bank is to be discussed. The CE/HM confirmed that he has been in touch with both Natwest and Lloyds and has offered the use of YHC property to site their mobile banking vans. He also highlighted that Cashback is available from both the Harbour Office Reception and Harwoods.

2. Boat Numbers:

Year to date Summary

Overnight visits	+ 2%
Short Stays	+ 5%
Sailing School Visits	+ 17%
Long Term Visitors	+ 19%

3. Wightlink

Statistics for September 2018:

Reliability 97.8% - this was lower than previous months due to high winds

Punctuality – 96.3%

There are maintenance works scheduled for the Linkspan which are likely to take place early next year. All 3 boats have either undergone or are in the process of undergoing a refit. The MAIB are currently investigating the fire incidents that happened onboard recently and have already published one report. A further report is pending.

A member told the group that a meeting has been scheduled between local residents and Wightlink to discuss recent service levels in particular in relation to ferry cancellations on the Yarmouth – Lymington route based on weather forecasts.

Wightlink confirmed that the W class vessel with four engines can operate in wind speeds of 42knts average and 47knts gust. Other factors of wind and tide direction are also considered by the master on the day which may affect his decision to sail.

4. Port Marine Safety Code

There has been a recently audit by the MCA on YHC's Oil Spill Response Plan which went very well. The MCA are using Yarmouth Harbour as an example of a model facility for Oil Spill Response.

B. ADVISORY ISSUES

1. Matters Arising from 12 September 2018

- Feedback on YHC proposals to make the harbour taxi free for resident mooring holders – this is going to be implemented. YHC are also going to purchase 6 new tenders for use by

annual mooring holders which will be stored in the tender area within the harbour. YHC staff will maintain these.

2. Harbour Dues and Charges 2019

The CE/HM showed members a presentation on market research that YHC have undertaken which compared berthing fees at Yarmouth to other marinas/harbours along the South Coast. YHC remain very competitive on price. The proposed charges for 2019 reflect inflationary increases only (averaging 4%) with the exception of the river walk ashore and river non-walk ashore pontoons which have increased by around 6%. This is to reflect the additional costs associated with maintaining the infrastructure on these pontoons. The Commercial berthing fees have increased by approx. 8% to bring them further in line with residents mooring fees – albeit slowly.

3. Pier Restoration

The restoration of the pier's structure is now complete. The underwater cameras to go into the Round House will be installed in the Spring of next year when the weather and visibility has improved. YHC are keen for the education element of the project should continue with schools and community groups and in the early part of the year a Pier Archiving project will commence. The county Archaeologist will coordinate this and will be encouraging local residents to share any old photographs or other information that they have about the pier so that this can be logged and archived in order to preserve it. A member mentioned that the Town Council had recently acquired the telephone box in Pier Square and that they plan to use it to display old photographs of the town. She suggested that it would be good to have some pictures of the Pier in there for everyone to see.

YHC now need to raise £15000 as part of the HLF award in order to demonstrate local community support for the project. It is hoped that this can be raised through the pier toll, the selling of souvenirs and pier plank sponsorship. A policy on future sponsorship and maintenance of the planks is currently being drawn up. This will consider both the initial and ongoing costs of maintaining the names on existing planks as well as the costs associated with future plank sponsorship.

4. Harbour Works

YHC recently conducted a bathymetric survey of the harbour. This identified some areas on the approaches to the harbour entrance that if left untreated could cause a potential hazard to the navigation of larger vessels, in particular the Wightlink ferry. The decision has been taken to target the areas north and south of the Yar Bridge that require attention at the same time as the barge is on site.

5. Environmental Matters

The Estuaries Officer explained to members that photographic monitoring of the salt marsh is carried out in June of every year to allow comparison against previous years and highlight areas where salt marsh is disappearing and may be expanding. A member said that he would be interested in having a look at some of these photos/comparisons.

6. Events

- Carols in the Square – 8 December 2018
- Needles Relief – 15 December 2018
- YHC Spring Festival – 4 May 2019
- YSC 50th Anniversary celebration 28-30 June 2019

7. Any Other Business

A member mentioned the long term sustainability of the crane and raised concerns that harbour equipment was not readily available or had been replaced by alternatives. After some discussion it was decided that this subject would be discussed in private at a separate meeting between the member and the CE/HM.

There is a drop-in session from 3pm at YSC on Thurs 15 November to find out more about the Southern Inshore Fishery and Conservation Authority's (IFCA) plans for the management of netting around the Island. All stakeholders with an interest in the Island's coastal waters are welcome to go along and find out more. The consultation will close on 7th December and members can visit www.southern-ifca.gov.uk for more information.

A member commented on how well the Remembrance Service went in Yarmouth on Sunday.

A member asked if the CE/HM could circulate the dates of the linkspan works to YHAC when known.

A member asked why the car park barrier was not working. The CE/HM said that some replacement parts were needed and had been ordered.

A member asked whether anyone had heard anymore about the proposed 'HGV Tax' that was to be put onto HGV's in Southampton. Members thought that this was still under discussion and had not yet been implemented.

A member asked whether visitors to The Hut had affected harbour business at all and the CE/HM reported that this has not been the case thus far. Members felt that it was good for West Wight. The restaurant operates a pick-up service from the harbour in their jeep for customers that are staying in the harbour which is often the case if the weather is bad and they are unable to moor off of Colwell Bay.

8. Date of next meetings

16 Jan 2019, 13 March 2019.

The meeting finished at 1010.