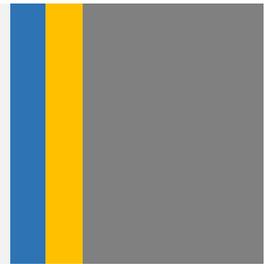


The Yarmouth (Isle of Wight) Harbour Commissioners
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of
The Yarmouth Harbour Commissioners
Held virtually via ZOOM
On Wednesday 7 October 2020 at 17:30 hours



PRESENT	Mrs B Walters (Chairman) Ms S Turvill (Vice-Chairman) Mr A Stables Mr D Tregear	Mr T Adams (Chief Executive/Harbour Master) Mr B Mitchell Mr B Sollars
IN ATTENDANCE	Mrs L Bridges Mr J Gallimore S Jenner	Miss M Wells Mr S Neill
APOLOGIES	Mrs J Garbett	Mrs S Poston
PERSONS PRESENT	M Thorpe A Sherward D Dawson L Taylor S Davies B Mayo I Pawson N Hawkes T Gregory M Whitwell P Isaacs	R Barton-Wood A Beddard-Smith J Whitehead M Marston M Dence D Fox M Paterson J Butcher P Farrell D Henderson J Minchin

Action

Chairman’s Introduction

- 653/20 The Chairman welcomed all to the Harbours first virtual AGM and explained that the meeting would be recorded. The Chairman pointed out that all participants will be muted throughout, however referred to the ‘chat’ function and invited participants to type any questions into that box so that they could be addressed during the meeting at an appropriate time.
- 654/20 The Chairman introduced New Commissioner Barney Sollars who replaces Phil Keen on the Board.
- 655/20 The Chairman also shared that Tony Stables has stood down as Vice Chairman and Sarah Turvill has taken over the position. The Chairman thanked Tony for his great service and also thanked Sarah for stepping into the position.
- 656/20 David Fox and Gill Kennett have been reappointed as Chair and Vice Chair of YHAC.

Apologies for Absence

- 657/20 One Commissioner tendered their apologies: J Garbett.
- 658/20 Due to technical issues S Poston was also unable to connect to the meeting, so tendered her apologies also.

Commissioners' Declarations of Interest

659/20 As per the Register. Nothing further to declare. The Chairman informed the meeting that copies are available to view on request to Lisa Bridges.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 7 June 2019

660/20 The Chairman shared that a question had been received from Lindsay Taylor and Sue Davies regarding the 2019 AGM minutes that would be addressed later in the meeting during the questions.

661/20 The Chairman clarified that the minutes were published in July 2019 and approved by the board.

662/20 The contents of the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 7 June 2019 were noted.

Presentation of the Annual Report and Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2019

663/20 The Chairman introduced the presentation of the accounts for the year ending 31 December 2019, which was given by the Chief Executive, Mr Adams.

664/20 In addition to providing information on the annual accounts, the CEO focussed on areas including:

- Duty of Navigation (throughout the Covid-19 lockdown)
- Priorities and risk factors

- Major company liabilities to include;
 - Climate change
 - Brexit / Recession and its impact and control measures
 - Wightlink
 - IWC Pension Fund
 - Fire
 - The Breakwater

- Profit target, cashflow & reserved funds
- Investing in infrastructure of the Harbour
- Linkspan works
- Harbour Office repairs
- Fuel Berth repairs
- Toilet / Shower refurbishments
- Visitor numbers in 2019 and mooring charges
- The dinghy park project, including additional parking facilities
- Pier Square Toilet refurbishment
- The Pandemic and its effect on the Harbour and how the Harbour has responded accordingly

665/20 The CEO shared the ways in which stakeholders are able to contact the Harbour and encouraged them to do so either by contacting himself or Scott Neill the Deputy Harbour Master directly, speaking with a member of Harbour staff, or by utilising the relevant YHAC representative.

Chairman's Summary

666/20 In summary, the Chairman reiterated her thanks to the CEO and the Harbour Staff in what has been an extremely challenging year, they have all worked brilliantly.

Questions submitted in writing

667/20 At this juncture for the benefit of new participants to the meeting, the Chairman gave a reminder that the meeting is being recorded.

668/20 The following questions were submitted in writing for presenting to the meeting.

669/20 **Robin Wall – Annual Mooring Holder**

Question: Any planned upgrade to the WiFi service as it is virtually non-existent on the permanent mooring's pontoon?

Answer: The WIFI is a known issue and there have been issues getting an engineer from Wightfibre to look into it, however it is hoped it can be improved in the future.

670/20 **Andrea Beddard-Smith & Alex Smith**

Question: We would like to ask the Harbour Commissions to look at the current residency criteria and allow for a softening of the catchment area boundaries, especially in the relation to that of current mooring holders.

Or at the least could the Commissioners allow for mooring holders like us who are so close to the criteria to use the resident's carpark?

Answer: This question had been addressed prior to the meeting by Scott Neill as the 7-mile radius is no longer applicable. Andrea confirmed that she has had a successful answer and added that it will be very useful to be able to use the Harbour carpark instead of the Council carpark.

671/20 **Lindsay Taylor & Sue Davies**

Question: We have read your attached Minutes from last year's AGM and have to say that we do not consider them to be an accurate reflection of the points we raised at the meeting. The formally submitted questions regarding the former Deputy Harbour Master Jeremy Butcher were not submitted by one single "author" but "authors." Those authors were myself and my partner Sue Davies. We both signed the letter. While it is the case that we attended a meeting with Chief Executive Tim Adams, prior to the AGM, we think the form of words used in the Minutes gives the impression, wrongly, that we were satisfied with the responses received. This was not the case. We were not at all satisfied, which is why we felt the issues had to be further raised directly at the AGM. We agree that we asked for verification that all the commissioners had received the questions. Furthermore, in the questions-from-the-floor session of the AGM, I specifically re-iterated some of those questions publicly, as we felt these issues were very important and were matters which should be in the public domain. None of these questions have been minuted. The AGM Minutes should accurately reflect what occurred.

Answer: On the basis that the minutes were published and adopted by the Commissioners in July 2019, the chairman suggests that it is noted in the 2020 minutes that the authors of the set of questions want it noted that the questions were asked by 2 people.

Secondly, that the authors have told us that they were not satisfied with their response ahead of the AGM, they therefore raised a number of these questions at the 2019 AGM.

Thirdly, the decision was taken by the Harbour not to include in the AGM minutes details of the questions, they related to an individual who was not present and related to matters that were personal to him and the authors told us they were not acting on his behalf, However it is noted a number of questions regarding the disciplinary process and the decision to dismiss Jeremy Butcher were asked and answered.

672/20 Mr Taylor confirmed that he felt the Chairman's response was a reasonable way forward, and that their concern was that any criticism was attempted to be shutdown.

673/20 **Lindsay Taylor & Sue Davies**

Question: What were the Harbour's total legal costs, - including hearings, appeals, tribunal attendances, legal advice and any settlement costs - in pursuing the case against the former Deputy Harbour Master, Mr Jeremy Butcher? As stakeholders, it is only right that we should know how much money is spent and on what?

Answer: The Chairman agreed that any expenditure should be shared with stakeholders. The Chairman first of all clarified that the Harbour did not pursue a case against Mr Butcher, only defended a claim in the tribunal.

The Harbour spent almost nothing on the disciplinary or tribunal proceedings as the Harbour is fully insured. Furthermore, this demonstrates that the advice received and how the case was handled by the Harbour was deemed appropriate.

For the 2 years during which the case was active total expenditure for ALL legal costs was as follows:

- In 2018 the budget for legal expenditure was £65,200 and actual spend was £62,733.
- In 2019 the budget for legal expenditure was £96,400 and actual spend was £68,775.

674/20 **Andy Matthews**

Question: With regard to the recent Police child assault investigation, combined with various theft issues over the years - is the case for a CCTV installation on Sandhard pontoon now more pressing?

Answer: The issue with CCTV in that area is there is no power to link to and solar panel powered CCTV was unsuccessful, however night security has access to spin a nearby camera which they do regularly to monitor the Sandhard Pontoon.

675/20 **Martin & Marian Stevens**

Question: The harbour dinghies on the river pontoons have had frequent use by mooring holders this season, and we ask if at least one can be left in the water for our use during the coming winter.

We wish to add that the provision of these dinghies and the new car park, has made life considerably easier for us and is much appreciated.

Answer: The CEO confirmed that 3 will kept available for use, and more can be made available if needed.

676/20 A compliment was received by Chris Waddington, who due to technical issues was unable to join the meeting, and was read out by the Chairman.

I have no problems and so no questions, hope the meeting goes well.

Many thanks to all, the harbour lads are a jolly good bunch. As is everyone else.

Questions taken from the floor

677/20 A question from Mark Dence via the chat function: Thanks for the refurb of the gents showers the ladies are very envious – will you add basket for shower gel etc?

Answer: The CEO is liaising with Acorn (the company undertaking the project) to come up with a solution.

678/20

Sue Davies

Question: The public have been wondering onto the pontoons whilst the gates have been opened (to stop the keypads having to be used), however we now feel the advantage of keeping the gates open for this reason are outweighed by the risks of people wandering onto the pontoon.

Answer: Covid-19 is very much a learning curve for the Harbour. The gates have now been closed, and with regards to people accessing the beach and pontoons, this is not necessarily an issue as the pontoons are not exclusive to berth holders, however it must be done safely and so appropriate signage for next Summer will be considered.

679/20

Lindsay Taylor

Question: Could we encourage berth holders to inform the Harbour when their berth is vacant so it can be utilised by visiting vessels, by perhaps introducing an incentive or reward?

Answer: A good point made that will certainly be considered. The new parking permits allow for longer stays and so it is much easier for berth holders to be away for longer.

680/20

Patrick Farrell

Question: Does the capital expenditure plan concerning the crane mean the crane will continue to operate?

Answer: Yes and if another is purchased, it will be an upgraded one.

681/20

Bruce Mayo

Question: Regarding the number of berths and the percentage utilised in the CEO presentation, is that assuming maximum rafting?

Answer: Figures are based on 2014 figures which to date is the Harbours most successful year and this includes rafting and finger berths.

682/20

There being no further business the Chairman thanked members of the public for attending, and declared the meeting closed at 18:34 hours.