

YHAC CONFIRMED MINUTES

Yarmouth (Isle of Wight) Harbour Commissioners
Minutes of a Meeting of
The Yarmouth Harbour Advisory Committee
held virtually via Zoom
on 20 July 2022 at 0900 hours

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| PRESENT | David Fox – Chair Jamie Allen – Vice-Chair Jamie Sheldon Louisa Mamakou Peter Spink John Howe Martin Gulliver Daniel James | Royal Yachting Association Yarmouth Town Council Country Landowners Association Marketing & Communications Officer/YHC Staff Rep Isle of Wight Council Totland Parish Council Wightlink Representative Freshwater Parish Council |
| IN ATTENDANCE | Tim Adams Sarah Judd Don Tregear Scott Neill | Chief Executive/Harbour Master Minutes Commissioner Deputy Harbour Master |
| APOLOGIES | Sue Hawley Danny Arthur Martin Palmer Tom Symes | Estuaries Officer Yarmouth Business Association Yarmouth Sailing Club Royal Solent Yacht Club |

The Chairman welcomed Don Tregear (Commissioner) to the meeting.

1. **Apologies for Absence**
Apologies were tendered as noted above.
2. **Approval of Minutes**
The Minutes of 18 May were approved.
3. **Matters arising**
There were none.
4. **Yarmouth Harbour**
 - **Safety**
A member suggested adding a reminder of the speed limit to the outer mooring buoy to the sign as you leave the harbour that currently says 'Don't forget to wear your kill cord'. All members and the CE/HM agreed that this was good idea.
 - **Harbour Works**

The fenders at the ferry berth have now been replaced. A drain blockage that was caused by a fat berg just outside the ferry terminal has necessitated some work by YHC, Southern Water and The Terrace who have worked together to re-route some pipework. It is hoped that this will resolve the issue. The wooden planks on the side of the Hailing Station need to be replaced. This is going to be far more costly than first thought with the price of materials having risen so sharply. The MMO Licence for the project south of the bridge have now been received. YHC have now put down deposits on two water lodges. It is hoped that they will arrive sometime in January 2023.

➤ **Performance**

June – overnight stays have been average – 2754. Short stays have been above average at 929 for the same time period. Long Term Visitor numbers are stable.

➤ **Marketing & Communications**

The new Yarmouth Harbour website has been very well received. Between 29 March 2022 and 29 June 2022 there was a 418% increase in visitors compared to the same time period last year. YHC continue to utilise social media increasingly and this seems to be going well with over 300 people subscribing to the e-newsletter so far. YHC are currently investigating a potential new income stream which could see small high end cruise ships docking at Yarmouth. Much research still needs to be carried out around this project and it will be some time before this gets up and running. The next stage is to liaise with the decision makers to see if they would consider adding Yarmouth to their itineraries. YHC are now a member of Cruise Britain. A member raised concerns about the importance of ensuring that if extra people are going to be visiting the town, then facilities for them need to be available at the appropriate time. Another member highlighted the importance of considering the impact on local housing.

➤ **Review of YHAC Constitution Document**

The Chairman highlighted the proposed changes to this document to members and these were approved by the Committee.

➤ **General Directions Consultation**

Government guidance recommends that the harbours legislation, including the Harbour's General Directions be reviewed periodically to ensure that they are fit for purpose. YHC are proposing some minor amendments which are in the main focused on issues surrounding the new GDPR regulations in relation to CCTV. Some vessels in the harbour have CCTV onboard and this in itself is not a problem but it becomes a problem when people are recording both video and audio of other people when they are not aware of it. The new rules aim to tackle this issue. Another proposed update will be in introduction of some rules surrounding nuisance and noise on visiting vessels.

Members will be sent the original General Direction document, the draft of the proposed updated document and some notes highlighting the proposed amendments so that they are easy to locate. The CE/HM asked for comments from members by the date of the next YHAC meeting.

➤ **Harbour Revision Order Pre-Application**

YHC have drafted an update to the existing Harbour Revision Order document which is currently with the MMO. Once this has come back from them along with their comments, it will go to YHAC for informal consultation. The CE/HM will also speak individually to local landowners before it goes out for ~~general~~ formal consultation.

5. **Wightlink**

WL are trying to organise some dates for the 'Meet the Manager's' events which will take place at each island port. Details to follow. A member mentioned the possibility of a member of WL attending Parish/Town Council meetings in the future. The WL rep said that he would be happy to do this and will await an invite.

6. **Clubs**

RSYC – Taittinger Regatta is on this coming weekend so the harbour will be super busy.

YSC – YSC passed its Training Centre annual recertification. The club continues to thrive.

7. **Councils**

Freshwater PC – the marker buoys are back in the water in the bay and seem to be working well. The fence on the Causeway has now been repaired.

Totland PC – There still seems to be an issue with boats coming ashore in the bay and causing a potential safety issue with swimmers. A member asked how this could possibly be policed. The CE/HM informed him that he had already been in touch with the Parish Clerk who he has put in contact with the Marine Police Unit. If anyone has concerns, they should call 101 and report it.

Yarmouth TC – The Council are currently having a 'Character Appraisal' undertaken of Yarmouth and its conservation areas. It is hoped that this will aid decision making in the future in relation to planning applications etc. Cllr Gillian Head has been appointed to join YHAC as the new representative for YTC.

8. **RYA Latest**

The RYA have just published a report on Water Sports Participation. This can be viewed by clicking on the link below:

<https://assets.rya.org.uk/assetbank-rya-assets/action/directLinkImage?assetId=55877>

9. **Boat Yards**

Things are fairly quiet as the majority of boats have now all gone back into the water.

10. **Events**

- 22-24 June – Taittinger Regatta
- 7-13 August – Carnival Week

The Commissioner in attendance provided some feedback on the Yarmouth Sea Songs Weekend. The event was bigger and better than last year and was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Next year's dates are 26-29 May 2023 and this is the same weekend as the Old Gaffers Rally to Yarmouth so promises to be a great event once again.

11. **Any Other Business**

A member enquired as to whether the anchoring of cruise ships outside of the harbour would cause harm to seagrass. The CE/HM said that this wouldn't affect the seagrass as they would need to anchor quite far out where it is deep and this is not where seagrass grows.

The CE/HM encouraged all members to please pass on all information from YHAC meetings to their relevant organisations.

12. Date of Next Meetings - Weds 14 Sept and Weds 9 November 2022.

The meeting closed at 1020.