

YHAC CONFIRMED MINUTES

Yarmouth (Isle of Wight) Harbour Commissioners
Minutes of an Additional Meeting of
The Yarmouth Harbour Advisory Committee
held virtually via Teams
on 17 May 2023 at 0900 hours

PRESENT	David Fox – Chair Peter Spink Tom Symes Sue Hawley Martin Palmer Gillian Head Daniel James Jamie Sheldon John Howe Danny Arthur	Royal Yachting Association Isle of Wight Council Royal Solent Yacht Club Estuaries Officer Yarmouth Sailing Club Yarmouth Town Council Freshwater Parish Council Country Landowners Association Totland Parish Council Yarmouth Business Association
IN ATTENDANCE	Tim Adams Sarah Judd Anne Kyle	Chief Executive/Harbour Master Minutes Commissioner
APOLOGIES	Scott Neill Jamie Allen Martin Gulliver	Deputy Harbour Master Boat Yards Wightlink Representative

- 1. Apologies Absence**
Apologies were tendered as noted above.
- 2. Approval of Minutes**
The Minutes of 22 March 2023 were approved.
- 3. Matters arising**
Gas canisters – the Chairman was pleased to report that thankfully there has been a change in policy. 3.5 & 4.5 litre gas canisters will still be able to be used for calor gas if they are already owned. The RYA have published further information on this and it will be shared with members in due course.

The Informal meeting of the Commissioners on 29 March was very poorly attended.

YHC are proposing to hold several free berthing training sessions at Yarmouth Harbour for those who are keen to improve their skills.

Updates with latest positions from:

4. **Yarmouth Harbour:**

1. **Safety** – YHC received numerous plaudits from the MCA for their performance during a recent Tier 2 Oil Spill exercise which combined both a desk top/admin and an outside practical exercise.

Anderson Boat Cruises have purchased a new 15m catamaran to run a scheduled ferry service over to Lymington in the morning and evening along with a sunset cruise late afternoon. YHC are working closely with them to draw up the necessary RAMS etc and consideration is being given to issues such as where the vessel can dock (as there is no dedicated/exclusive dock) and passenger waiting areas. The proposed start date is April 2024.

2. **Harbour Works** – The piles on the southern most pontoon have now been replaced with metal ones. The gate on the pink pontoon is being replaced.
3. **Performance** – Boat numbers were 50 % down in April compared with the same period last year. It is likely that this is down to the wet weather.

5. **Wightlink**

There was no representative at the meeting. WL are currently updating their CCTV. They held a 'Meet the Managers' event on 27 April - the Chair has requested the Minutes of the meeting which will be shared with members once received.

6. **Clubs**

YSC – there have been some concerns about some of the large motorboats that are close to the clubs mooring buoys. The CE/HM said that staff would keep an eye on this and that if some vessels need to be moved elsewhere then this can be looked at. At the Club's recent open day, 38 new members signed up which is brilliant news.

RSYC – Racing has started on Weds and Sun. 44 new members joined at the recent open day which is very encouraging. The Contessa Regatta is coming up on 9-11 June. Entry numbers for Taittinger are ahead already – the club are anticipating up to 200 boats overall. The Regatta will be filmed for the first time this year – this will involve drone footage etc. It is hoped that this will help to raise the profile of the club and Yarmouth as a destination generally.

7. **Parish Councils**

Freshwater – DJ has just ended his two year term as Chair of the Parish Council but remains a Parish Councillor at present. Following a dog attack on one of the swans at the causeway it is hoped that some signage will be put up warning the public not to feed the swans. As it is the IWC that owns the land, PS kindly offered to liaise with DJ regarding the details and discuss further with Isle of Wight Council.

Totland – a member enquired about the potential effects of dredging in the Solent on local harbours i.e. Lymington, Yarmouth, Newtown. There have also been concerns about Hurst Castle. The Chairman informed the group that there are several meetings coming up regarding the 'Hurst to Lymington Strategy'. SH has a recent EA newsletter which has lots of information in it on this subject which she will kindly share with members. PS offered to try to attend one of these meetings and share updates with the committee.

8. Yarmouth Town Council

YTC would like to say a massive thankyou to the Carnival Committee for organising such a successful coronation event. Options for the school site continue to be investigated. A local resident has raised concerns about some potholes in the path from the overflow car park to the Mill. YHC have put some money into the budget to carry out repairs to this. GH will continue to be the representative for YTC on YHAC, however, Peter Spink is joining the Town Council and will continue with his role on the committee as Isle of Wight Council rep.

9. RYA Latest

Trinity House is currently upgrading the Needles Lighthouse. Traditional wooden boat building is now becoming an endangered craft. This may mean that there could be government funding available for businesses that teach this. UKSA now offering half day sailing days to Year 6 children. Beaulieu have now installed a web cam at the entrance to the Beaulieu river – further info on this will be shared with members.

Catchwise - a survey of recreational sea angling is taking place across England & Wales in 2023 & 2024. See [Catchwise](#).

10. Boatyards

There was no representative present at the meeting.

11. Events

- Coronation event was hugely successful – approx. 1000 people attended. Great for the town and especially the pubs.
- Sea Shanty's weekend – 26-29 May 2023.

12. Any Other Business

Commercial operators – have asked why they do not have a representative on YHAC. DF is the member that they should liaise with. They are also encouraged to attend the informal meetings held twice per year.

Water lodges – both lodges are now fully furnished and the roofs have had teak deck laid. The plan is for them to go live on Air bnb next week.

SH has had an enquiry from MSc student who is doing some research on the MCZ. Members were asked if they could kindly assist by completing a questionnaire that he has compiled.

13. Date of Next Meetings – Weds 19 July, & Weds 13 Sept 2023.

The meeting closed at 1005.