

YHAC CONFIRMED MINUTES

Yarmouth (Isle of Wight) Harbour Commissioners
Minutes of a Meeting of
The Yarmouth Harbour Advisory Committee
(Hybrid Meeting)
on 13 September 2023 at 0900 hours

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

The Chairman welcomed Commissioner Brian Mitchell to the meeting.

- 1. Apologies Absence**
Apologies were tendered as noted above.
- 2. Election of Chair/Vice Chair**
A member nominated David Fox to continue as Chair and Jamie Allen as Vice-Chair. This was seconded. All members were in agreement.
- 3.**
- 4. Approval of Minutes**
The Minutes of 19 July 2023 were approved.
- 5. Matters arising**
Members were thanked for completing the recent survey undertaken by an MSc student on the local MCZ. Once her dissertation/report is completed it will be circulated to the committee.

Rats/swans on the causeway – Cllr Medland has referred this to the IWC as it is Council owned land as such requires permission from them to install a sign asking the public not to feed. SH to make further enquiries.

A member noted that there no longer seem to be Shell ducks breeding on the Estuary. An increase in Canada Geese in the area could be a factor.

The addition of a slipway barrier is still under discussion.

6. Updates with latest positions from:

Yarmouth Harbour

Safety – Anderson Boat Cruises have now produced a risk assessment for their proposed passenger ferry operation to Lymington. This will be reviewed by both YHAC, Wightlink, the RNLI, YHC and Lymington Harbour. There may be safety concerns relating to the size of the vessel and potential congestion in the harbour during the summer months. Proposed start date is 24 April 2023.

The Security gate south of the bridge has now been finished and will be installed imminently.

Harbour Works – The bridge is currently undergoing works for two days. A member asked if YHC had any idea on future bridge works as some of the structure seems to be aging quickly. The CE/HM said that he would liaise with Island Roads to try to find out what is proposed in the coming months/years.

Performance –

Overnight stays are down by around 2000 boats.

This is likely largely due to the weather. It is difficult to say whether the cost of living crisis is also having an impact.

Short stays are also down but not as much as overnights.

Water lodges – so far the lodges have received great reviews. There have been no issues with noise pollution etc. There were lots of bookings over the summer period and multiple bookings have already been made for the latter part of the year.

7. **Wightlink**

There was no representative present at the meeting. A new timetable has been introduced. Wightlink are currently trying to actively promote the Yarmouth-Lymington route. A member asked if Wightlink could provide a short report to the Committee if they are unable to attend YHAC meetings. The CE/HM said that he would speak to the representative and try to organise this.

8. **Clubs**

YSC – The club passed on their thanks to YHC for the use of the green for parking for a recent Dementia Choir event that went very well.

7 October 2023 – Junior IOW Championships (Lasers racing from RSYC). Special car park arrangements are required for visitors and trailers on the day.

17 September 2023 - YSC Open Day.

RSYC – are now approaching the end of the season. Weather has been an issue for the main regattas this year. The Yacht Club would like to congratulate the Sailing Club for putting together the recent Quest event.

9. Parish Councils

Freshwater – A group of jet skis recently encroached onto the swimming area in the Bay. This was videoed and it is hoped that further action can be taken regarding this. FPC have officially responded to the Fort Victoria planning application. No structural engineering report has been done on the pier which is extremely old.

A local resident has correlated rain fall and sewage spill data. The BBC has also undertaken an in depth investigation into the water companies spilling sewage on dry days– this can be viewed here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-66670132>

Totland – There is an event on Saturday 16 September 2023 at Totland Rec – everyone is welcome.

10. Yarmouth Town Council

Yarmouth School site - A Steering Group was formed with the aim of retaining the site as a community educational resource for generations to come, and Yarmouth Town Council and the Group have been consulting residents in recent months. As a result of those consultations, the Steering Group presented a bid for the School premises to the Site Agents on 16 August 2023, and the proposals underlying that bid can be found on the YTC website.

11. RYA Latest

Southampton Boat Show dates are 15-24 September 2023.

12. Boatyards

Nothing to report.

13. Events

5 Nov – Fireworks in Yarmouth

14. Any Other Business

The Waverley recently moored overnight on end of the Pier. There has been some minor damage caused by the paddle steamer whilst berthing. Trips on the vessel still seem to be very popular. A member thanked harbour staff for being so prompt in clearing rubbish and cutting grass over on the Green during the season.

There is new website which logs sewage spills have occurred near you – visit www.wheresmypoo.com.

15. Date of Next Meetings –Weds 15 Nov 2023, Weds 17 Jan 2024.

The meeting closed a 0950 .