

YHAC CONFIRMED MINUTES

Yarmouth (Isle of Wight) Harbour Commissioners
Minutes of a Meeting of
The Yarmouth Harbour Advisory Committee
(Hybrid Meeting)
on 22 November 2023 at 0900 hours

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

The Chairman welcomed Commissioner Jamie Clarke to the meeting.

- 1. Apologies Absence**
Apologies were tendered as noted above.
- 2. Approval of Minutes**
The Minutes of 13 September 2023 were approved.
- 3. Matters arising**
A member requested an update on the recent MCZ Dissertation that was done by a University student – SH to update the committee at the next meeting.
- 4. Updates with latest positions from:**

Yarmouth Harbour

Safety – Additional signage has been put up around the harbour relating to swimming. The only swim areas are at Sandhard Beach and south of the southern most pontoon in the river.

YHC's designated safety person is currently working on Risk Assessments for the proposed passenger catamaran service between Yarmouth-Lymington run by Anderson Boat Cruises.

Harbour Works – Hydro dredging going ahead within the harbour – this minimises impact to the Estuary.

Performance –

Overnights are down by 2000 boat nights from the start of Jan to present. This likely to be a result of the weather. However income remains steady. Short stays have stayed constant. The tetra dock has probably helped with this.

Waterlodges – has gone really well through the season – starting to slow up now. There have a few issues with visiting boats colliding with the lodges but the maintenance team have been able to deal with this promptly.

Harbour Dues – Board Meeting on Friday so no decision has yet been made but the CE/HM is going to recommend to the Commissioners that Harbour Dues will increase by the September inflation figure of 6.7% for both visitors and resident mooring holders.

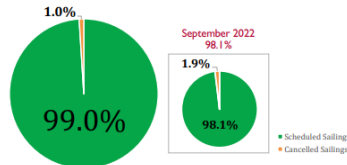
5. Wightlink

There was no representative present at the meeting. However the following report was sent:

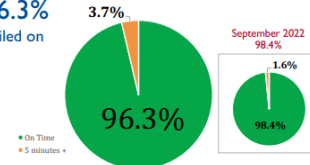
PERFORMANCE

How did Lymington & Yarmouth perform in September 2023?

Reliability 99.0%
(How many scheduled Ferries sailed)



Punctuality 96.3%
(How many Ferries sailed on time)



With refit season in full swing earlier last month Wight Light is now back in Lymington having had a propeller change, hydraulic pipework upgrades and some paintwork. Now she is completing her refit in Lymington with the most notable items being passenger area upgrades (upholstery and flooring). Wight Sky returned from her refit at the end of September having had similar levels of work done.

Our Island Link door drop, sent to all 72,000 residential addresses on the Isle of Wight landed during the first two weeks of October. The brochure was filled with company news and updates, information about ways to save on ticket prices and of course, 18 unique discount codes for Island residents to use when making a new booking with us.

Wightlink in the Community Sponsorship

Our window for applications for community sponsorship in 2024 is now open. We have a proud history of supporting Island clubs and groups dating back to 1987. Ryde Rowing Club was the first to receive its backing and we continue to sponsor the club. We are now welcoming applications from sports teams and clubs, along with groups involved in the arts and charities, for support in 2024. The focus being on helping those that enhance the quality of life for people on the Isle of Wight, especially young Islanders.

6. Clubs

YSC – Membership fees will remain the same as last year. Winter Series racing is well under way.

RSYC – Buoys and racing marks will be lifted after the Boxing Day race. The Club will be closed from 2-14 January 2024.

7. Parish Councils

Freshwater – The Colwell bay buoys are currently still out but will be coming in shortly. The toilets at the bottom of Halletts Shute have been confirmed to be on YHC land. The Albion Hotel is under refurbishment – they are looking to restrict parking at the front the hotel in order to build a terrace for dining. Access to the lifeboat and public slipway would be compromised and this could create a safety issue as such the Parish Council remain sceptical. Fort Vic planning application – may be a requirement to reapply with a new application entirely.

Totland – Totland Pier Project - YHC attended a recent meeting with the owners of Totland Pier who are aiming for 30 June opening date for both café and restaurant. They are keen to attract boat owners from the Bay as well as local residents/visitors. There have been concerns regarding maintenance any mooring buoys that they put out. The CE/HM offered to provide advice/assistance regarding this. The CE/HM was asked to make contact with Helen Gibbs – Totland Parish Clerk.

A member asked about the boat that is currently up on the rocks in the bay in terms of the wreckage. Noone present had any information on the situation.

8. Yarmouth Town Council

School site - progress seems to be slow in terms of the sale and future plans of the site. There are several organisations who have expressed interest. A member asked if the Commissioners would consider planting some trees over on the Green. The CE/HM said that he would put this to the Commissioners.

9. RYA Latest

The Dinghy show is coming up in Farnborough on 24/25 Feb 2024 - tickets are available online.

10. Boatyards

Nothing to report.

11. Events

Firework night was very well attended this year. Cash donation totals are not yet known. The Xmas tree and lights in the Square will go up as normal for the festive season.

12. Any Other Business

Flooding – there have been a few reports of flooding on the slipway leading to the new pontoons south of the river. This has been the result of a combination of unprecedented rainfall, low pressure systems, and high tides. If there is any threat to properties in the town then a flood warning is issued to residents but this has thankfully not been necessary thus far.

Several local businesses in the town are closing for the season and it remains to be seen the impact that this will have on the local residents and visitors to the harbour.

A new member has agreed to join the YHAC committee as a hospitality representative – this is Adrian from The Wheatsheaf. It is hoped that this will provide a further avenue of communication between YHC and the businesses in the town to enable harbour staff to be able to provide better advice to visitors regarding the food offerings in town and the immediate area.

A member enquired about the harbour's current waiting list and ways it which it could potentially be reduced in size. The CE/HM said that he and the DHM would give this some consideration.

A member asked about involving the youth of West Wight in sailing/sail training. Both the Sailing Club and the Yacht Club already offer this. Freshwater residents can apply for grant funding to learn to sail.

13. Date of Next Meetings –Weds 17 Jan, Weds 13 March 2024.

The meeting closed a 1015 .