

YHAC CONFIRMED MINUTES

Yarmouth (Isle of Wight) Harbour Commissioners
Minutes of a Meeting of
The Yarmouth Harbour Advisory Committee
held virtually via Zoom
on 17 November 2021 at 0900 hours

PRESENT	David Fox – Chair Anne Bamford Ginny McKee Louisa Mamakou Martin Palmer John Howe Martin Gulliver Peter Spink	Royal Yachting Association Freshwater Parish Council YHC Staff Representative Marketing & Communications Officer/YHC Staff Rep Yarmouth Sailing Club Totland Parish Council Wightlink Representative Isle of Wight Council
IN ATTENDANCE	Tim Adams Sarah Judd Brian Mitchell Scott Neill	Chief Executive/Harbour Master Minutes Commissioner Deputy Harbour Master
APOLOGIES	Bill Attree Martin Palmer Katie Davies John Medland Lee Hall Jamie Sheldon Jamie Allen – Vice-Chair Sue Hawley Danny Arthur	Commercial Fishermen’s Association Yarmouth Sailing Club Royal Solent Yacht Club Isle of Wight Council Commercial Operators Representative Country Landowners Association Yarmouth Town Council Estuaries Officer Yarmouth Business Association

The Chairman welcomed Commissioner Brian Mitchell and YHC’s newly appointed Marketing and Communications Officer Louisa Mamakou to the meeting.

1. **Apologies for Absence**
Apologies were tendered as noted above.
2. **Approval of Minutes**
The Minutes of 22 September 2021 were approved.
3. **Matters arising**
 - Tidal platform update – The tidal platform is now to be located in an area that is outside of YHC’s jurisdiction and as such YHC will no longer be involved.
 - New ‘Waiting Pontoon’ by Yar Bridge – In order to install a waiting pontoon for boats wishing to transit the bridge, no MMO Licence is required for this south of the bridge.

However, a new pontoon north of the bridge will involve a licence application to the MMO to obtain permission. Once installed, these pontoons may be utilised as an emergency mooring area.

- Members were keen for a 'bridge user guide' to be sent out to all harbour and River Yar Boatyard customers in order to clarify/remind users of the correct way to transit the bridge. The DHM confirmed that this will be done. This will also be highlighted in the new harbour guide.

The CE/HM asked the RSYC to liaise with YHC regarding the start times of races and tying this is accordingly with bridge opening times.

4. Yarmouth Harbour

Safety

YHC have recently had a dredging survey undertaken of the harbour. Other than a slight build up close to the entrance to the RYB there has not been much build up and as such no dredging will be required.

Harbour Works

The soakaway area by the fisherman's pens at the back of the Harbour Office has always been prone to gathering water in heavy rain. This now has a new drain which it is hoped will alleviate this issue.

The fencing around the green needs replacing and YHC are currently in the process of sourcing an external contractor to this work. The current wooden posts may be replaced by metal ones if these are more durable over the long term.

Resurfacing work to the Dinghy Park will commence on 1 December 2021. An email has been sent to all DP licence holders to inform them of this.

The pink pontoon needs replacing asap but there have been delays both with Walcon – the company that install them and the materials needed to do the job. YHC are constantly monitoring its condition and are carrying out repairs as and when needed whilst we await the replacement pontoon.

The outside 24-hour toilets at the back of the Harbour Office will be refurbished in February of next year.

The walkway from the Wightlink ferry terminal to the ferry also needs refurbishment and YHC are currently looking for an external contractor to undertake this work.

A member mentioned a broken drain cover at the front of the harbour office parking area. The DHM asked the location of this and the maintenance team will seek to replace it.

Harbour Development Concept

YHC are now going to apply to the MMO for the appropriate licence required in order for the development south of the bridge to proceed. The Estuaries Officer is currently working on the habitats regulation assessment prior to submitting the licence application to the MMO.

Performance

Following four almost loss-making months YHC are now catching up financially. Sept and Oct were good months for short stay numbers – and Nov also looks good so far. A member enquired as to when online bookings would open for next year and the CE/HM agreed that this would go live once pricing had been agreed – see below.

Harbour Dues & Charges

Sept. RPI is currently 4.9% and CPI at 3.1%.

The CEO will recommend to the Board of Commissioners a 3.1% increase on harbour dues and mooring fees across all sectors. The harbour did not increase harbour dues this year but, in light of the of general operational costs increasing it is necessary to raise harbour dues this year. The CE/HM asked members their views on this. The Yacht Club confirmed that they had unfortunately had to put increase subs for next year also in order to cover the increasing costs of energy and materials. YHAC members were in agreement that this seemed a sensible way forward in order to ensure that the harbour continue to cover their costs.

5. Wightlink

Ferry bookings remain strong. There is currently a slightly revised timetable in operation on this route with an extra sailing being put in on weekend mornings. Unfortunately, there won't be three vessel service in 2022 and the latest sailing from Yarmouth will be no later 21:30 if schedules change. Wightlink also plan to have more back up staff available should there be staff shortages due to people having to isolate etc and it is hoped that this will reduce the requirement to cancel sailings due to a lack of staff.

6. Clubs

Yarmouth Sailing Club – The winter sailing program is now in full swing. It is hoped that there may be some additional events taking place over the Queen's Platinum Jubilee weekend in June 2022.

Royal Solent Yacht Club – The dates of the Taittinger Regatta next year have been confirmed as 22-24 July. Racing will commence a little earlier at the start of the season on 16 March 2022.

7. Councils

Freshwater PC – The buoys that were out in the summer have now been taken out and cleaned. The PC have now arranged for a company to undertake the lift in/lift out and maintenance program with it is hoped will help a lot next year. The boat park in the Bay will be expanding next year as there have been more enquiries than spaces available. The ongoing issues with sewage being discharged into people's homes, around the town and out into the sea remains ongoing. A member suggested that residents keep a diary of when/where they see any pollution (along with photographic evidence if possible) as this may prove useful further down the line.

Totland PC – The buoys at Totland and Colwell Bays worked well throughout the season and the Parish Council thanked the Harbour for their assistance with this. The café at the land end of the pier is being well received, half of the pier work has been completed and the remainder will be undertaken next year. A member voiced concerns over the impact of anchoring on seagrass which

it is understood is present in the bay. The chairman informed the group that the RYA have carried out several seagrass studies which may be useful to read.

Yarmouth TC – There was no representative at the meeting.

8. RYA Latest

There was nothing to report.

9. Boat Yards

There was no representative present at the meeting.

10. Events

- Ice rink in the Square – 11-22 December 2021
- Carols in the Square – 18 December 2021

11. Any Other Business

Louisa Mamakou introduced herself and outlined some of the things that she will be focusing on over the coming months in her role as YHC's Marketing and Communications Officer. She highlighted improvements to the website, increased focus on lifestyle and tourism, a greater social media presence and strengthening links with the town's businesses and residents as priority areas.

The Chairman, on behalf of the entire committee, thanked Ginny McKee for attending YHAC meetings as the YHC staff rep. This would be her last meeting as she is retiring at the end of the year. She will be replaced by Louisa Mamakou.

Date of next meeting: 19 January 2022.

The meeting closed at 1010.