

**Minutes of the Meeting of Cowes Harbour Commission held at
Harbour Office, Cowes on 10 June 2022**

Present: Phil Hagen – Chairman (PH)
James Evans – Deputy Chairman (JE)
Vanessa Clifford (VC)
Ra Hennessy (RH)
Jason Losty (JL)
James Evans (JE)
Steve Sheridan (SS)
Fiona Fitzherbert-Brockholes (FF-B)
Clive Blount (CB)
David Riley (DR)
Gary Hall – Chief Executive (GH)

In Attendance: Harbour Master – Ed Walker (ED)
Finance Officer Theresa Dunford (TD)

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Declarations of Interest and Declarations of Related Party Transactions for Cowes Harbour Commissioners are on the CHC website.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence received.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting held on Friday, 29 April 2022 having been sent out it was resolved that they be signed as a true and complete record of business transacted.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

(a) Reconvening the Kingston Sub-committee - GH reported that ECOSA Ltd had been appointed to complete the HRA. Planning permission is not expected to be received by the time of the next Board meeting in July, but it is envisaged that the sub-committee can be reconvened ahead of the Board meeting in September.

5. SAFETY

The CEO/HM report was circulated with the papers for the meeting and was fully considered by the Board. The safety topic covered was 'Don't' Drink and Boat'. EW highlighted the following:

- (a) The May analysis shows an increase in the number of incidents including breakdowns and propulsion failures. A large number of incidents relate to boat maintenance and new boat owners not understanding generally how to use the boats. The RNLI are towing in several boats a week. Two boat maintenance campaigns have been undertaken over the last six months but the main concern is if boats break down when large sailing events are underway which can cause

heightened safety issues although for these events there will be patrols on the start and finish lines.

- (b) So far, there have been no issues with jet skis although this is becoming a problem for both Portsmouth and Southampton. Discussion took place around the impact of the consultation on personal watercraft from the MCA and the outcome of this is awaited.
- (c) Regarding swimming in the harbour, there have been two swimming incidents this year. EW confirmed that appropriate signage is up.

6. ENVIROMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY

FF-B updated the Board and confirmed that work was continuing on the various projects highlighted to the Board last month.

- (a) Results are awaited of various bids and work continues on the finer details on the carbon management plan. We are also looking at how we might change some of our fuel suppliers and how the fuel barges are powered.
 - i. Water quality has been highlighted recently and people are keen to monitor the water quality in the harbour, given that there is a problem with Southern Water and the pumping of sewage. We will continue to push for what we can do for people on the water, including encouraging the use of the CHC pump-out station.
 - ii. Whilst it is possible to monitor the water, it is hard to get tests assessed and up to five locations are needed in order to get useful data. There are some backers who are potentially willing to pay although the Environment Agency are responsible for the monitoring. Work is in progress on looking at ways to monitor the water quality, as to who would undertake it and how much it would cost.
 - iii. CB asked about the scope of the problem, whether it was coming from the river, or a wider Solent issue, and suggested that before large amounts of money were spent, CHC needed to scope out where the flows are and what the problem is as it might not necessarily be a long term problem.
 - iv. Following discussion, the feeling was that there should be something much more visible on this subject on the website.
- (b) EW confirmed that he is contacting the HVO30 supplier as there is now an empty tank on the fuel barge that can be used.
- (c) EW reported that he has been to the mainland to see a trial for screw anchors being put in and the company that will instal them underwater also joined him. It is hoped they will be in within the next few weeks and the first one will go at the end of the Shrape. They are identical to those that have been put used in Studland.

7. FINANCE REPORT – MARCH 2022 and Year End

The Commissioners noted the financial management report for May 2022 had been considered in detail in the 'In Committee' section of the meeting. The Commissioners noted that the accounts as presented in the management report had been in order and agreed.

8. CEO/HM REPORT

The CEO/HM report was circulated with the papers for the meeting and was fully considered by the Board. GH highlighted the following:

- (a) CHC is supporting UKSA campaign for the next couple of weeks and UKSA flags will be outside the Harbour Office, on Trinity and in Shepards.
- (b) Stakeholder survey – 209 responses. All customers received a letter advising of the survey, and it was covered in social media posts and newsletters. The survey responses will be analysed and a report prepared by September.

9. MATTERS FOR CHAC

CB attended the meeting which was the first meeting chaired by the new chairman Mark Southwell. The Minutes have not yet been distributed but CB reported there wasn't anything raised that needed to be discussed at this board meeting.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) JL reported that he has reviewed the Port Safety Code and he highlighted recording any visits that Commissioners undertake. EW confirmed that there is a training log where everything that Commissioners do is recorded and for audit purposes the Board needs to show that they understand their role as duty holders. Commissioners are therefore asked to record any appropriate visits.
- (b) JL asked about outside contracts and whether this was an upward trend or circumstance. EW responded it was an upward trend but not guaranteed for future years. GH highlighted that these contracts show that CHC has developed a good reputation for this type of work which is being noticed.
- (c) JL also reported on his visit to Kingston and said he was pleased with the enormous improvements since the last time he was there.
- (d) PMSC – CB reported that the letters have gone out to stakeholders. It's been a good exercise and seems to be getting a good message out there.
- (e) EW updated on the Audit. There were twelve actions to complete of which there are four left which are big overhauls so will take longer. Flares amnesty and Safety Week has now been announced for 3 -10 July which mirrors last year but instead of taking six flares we will take four. Last year we removed a good proportion of flares from the island. Ocean Safety will have a presence to sell replacements this year which they will do through Joliffes. The cost of disposing up to four flares per person is covered by a CHC Stakeholder Benefit. If anyone wishes to dispose of more than four flares, the charge will be £2.10 per flare.
- (f) GH reported that Sea Cloud Spirit will be arriving today on its inaugural visit and there are a further five inaugural visits this year, towards the end of June.
- (g) PH reported that the CHC safety exercise undertaken on the 11 May was very successful and excellent to watch. He also reported that 21 people attended the AGM which was a good meeting with a very different feeling from previous AGMs. He put this down to the hard work over the last year by GH, EW, DR and everyone around the table who has worked hard to change messaging.

As there was no further business the Chairman formally closed the meeting at 12.00pm

Date of next meeting: Friday 22 July 2022