



**COWES HARBOUR
COMMISSION**

**Minutes of the Meeting of Cowes Harbour Commission held at
Harbour Office, Cowes on Friday 9 September 2022**

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

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

The Commissioners and Cowes Harbour Commission staff are all saddened by the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. We have been privileged to have such a great monarch for the past 70 years and we are grateful for all that she did to lead our country. Our thoughts are with the Royal family at this sad time.

The Commissioners held a one minutes silence at the start of the In Committee meeting in memory of Queen Elizabeth II.

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

There were no apologies for absence.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting held on Friday, 22 July 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

None.

5. SAFETY

The CEO/HM report was circulated with the papers for the meeting and was fully considered by the Board. The Board thanked EW for the information on the safety topic of 'Swimming within Cowes Harbour'. Referring to the Monthly Incident Analysis, it was noted that overall, for the year, there has been an increase on last year on incidents and intervention. The incidents are propulsion failure, usually

due to lack of maintenance from new boat owners. Interventions are the usual speed and wash, and again mainly new boat owners who do not necessarily know the speed limits. The repeat incidents are very small and so the message is getting across through education. Those who continue to repeat now receive a letter instead of a second warning, which seems to be solving the issue. There were very few issues with events happening over the summer.

There have been repeat issues with swimming off Trinity Landing. The marine police have been helpful and EW will also be exploring physical deterrents such as anti-climb paint and reported that Hamble have had similar issues. He highlighted that there are two distinct groups of swimmers; those who are genuinely wanting to swim for exercise but are unaware, so that's an education issue, and those who just want to jump off the structures, which is the bigger worry. CB asked if it was possible to close the gate at Trinity Landing but EW advised that it is designated a public pontoon and cannot be shut.

DR asked if it is possible to charge owners of those boats that are being towed in. EW advised that it is possible to charge repeat offenders and recently did this with a houseboat that was towed in, as despite giving safety advice, this was ignored, and it broke down again. The guidance is to get a boat to safety, which is usually Trinity, but if they then want to be taken to the berth or marina they will be charged.

CB asked whether there is CCTV off The Green. EW replied that there are two cameras at the Royal Yacht Squadron which covers an arc from the breakwater to the east of the Beaulieu entrance, and a third one will be installed this year that will have coverage from Egypt Point round to the breakwater.

6. ENVIROMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY

GH highlighted that the Environment and Sustainability report is now included in the main CEO/HM report enabling Commissioners to read it in advance of the meeting. He confirmed that the Carbon Management Plan has just been circulated to Commissioners following a meeting with Cedar Marine. The key target to reduce the carbon footprint would be the use of HVO30 but that is not available at the moment as it is very costly, the tax subsidy having disappeared in April. The next big target is solar panels which is proving to be as challenge as solar panel companies are now very busy.

SS asked about the cost of the advanced mooring systems (AMS) compared to the traditional moorings and was advised that there is no difference in costs.

7. FINANCE REPORT – JULY 2022

The Commissioners noted the financial management report for July 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. SS asked if an update had been received from IWC regarding Kingston and GH advised that further information is expected imminently regarding the planning applications by the end of October.

Regarding the stakeholder survey, 210 responses were received so a report will now be produced and published on the CHC website. It hoped that the survey can now be repeated on an annual basis and will be shared at the AGM.

9. MATTERS FOR CHAC

PH attended the meeting, along with FF-B, GH and EW. He reported that the presentation from FF-B was outstanding and that the meeting was well run and managed by the Chair. There was a good attendance and GH reported that the main item that came out of the meeting was dredging and EW had responded to this. GH had advised that now the Carbon Management Plan has been completed, there is

a baseline and at the beginning of next year he will provide Cedar Marine with updated information from which they will update the report, hopefully with improvements, although initially these changes will be small, and this will be reported as part of the CHC's Annual Report.

The next CHAC meeting is on 11 January at 1000 at Cowes Yacht Haven and items for the CHAC meeting will be discussed at the next Board meeting.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

GH reported that the electric chargers have now been installed at Trinity Landing and Shepards Marina but are not yet connected as we are waiting for the electricity supplier to connect them up.

Plans for CHC 125-year anniversary – this is now planned for December, together with the official launch of new apprenticeship and bursary schemes (although this will be highlighted at the RYS Careers Fair beforehand).

As there was no further business the Chairman formally closed the meeting at 1216.

Date of next meeting: Friday 28 October 2022 at 1000