



Minutes of the meeting of Commissioners held on Monday 10th July 2023 at 2.00pm in the Lymington Town Sailing Club.

Present: Alison Towler (AT) (Chair), Sarah Unsworth (SU), Philip Naylor (PN), Darren Longley (DL), Robert Willows (RWil), Chris Lisher (CL), Mike Bowles (MB), John Morrow (JM), Paul Harrison (PH)

Officers present: Ryan Willegers (RW) (Harbour Master & Chief Executive), Sarah Maynard (Administration Officer).

In Attendance: Rupert Wagstaff

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1.1 Frances Moores (Treasurer).

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

2.1 There were no new declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING (9th MAY 2023)

3.1 The minutes were agreed and signed by AT.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF 9th MAY 2023

4.1 Agenda Item 9.1 (AOB) – RW reported that the action to circulate the latest newsletter from the Environment Agency Hurst Spit to Lymington coast protection project was completed on the 10th May.

5. COMMISSIONERS

5.1 AT welcomed SU to her first meeting as Commissioner.

5.2 AT reported that JM comes to the end of his first three-year term of office as Commissioner on the 31st July. In line with constitution, JM was eligible to serve a second term of office and has indicated a desire to do so. It was proposed to reappoint JM for a three year term commencing on the 1st August 2023.

Proposed: DL

Seconded: SU

Vote: All in Favour

5.3 RW reported that SU will join the environment, moorings/business development and personnel committees. SU has agreed to chair the personnel committee, subject to a briefing after the meeting. RWil will take over as chair of the environment committee following the retirement of Jane Challener. RW will circulate a table with the revised committee membership which will also be updated on the website. **Action: RW**

6. LYMINGTON HARBOUR ADVISORY GROUP (LHAG)

6.1 RWag provided an update on representation. John Clarke has been reappointed to represent Lymington & Keyhaven Wildfowlers. Al Mackay has been reappointed to represent Lymington RNLI. Roy Froud has been reappointed to represent RLymYC, LTSC & Lymington Sailability. In line with LHAG's constitution, all reappointments are for 3 year terms. The Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust (HIWWT)

position remains vacant following retirement of the previous incumbent from HIWWT in March 2022. RW was aware that HIWWT had experienced delays in recruitment to this post and was sending out periodic reminders. The next meeting of LHAG is scheduled for the 18th July.

7. OFFICERS REPORT

- 7.1 Operations Manager - Commissioners noted the operations report. RWil noted the antisocial behaviour (ASB) incidents experienced at Town Quay and asked if they had resulted in cancellations by visiting craft. RW provided further information on the ASB experienced and confirmed that several boat owners had terminated their visit early because of their experience. RW explained that in order to protect the reputation of the quay and town as a popular destination for waterborne tourism he had taken the decision to try and fill the berths closest to the quay with longer term mooring lets where the boat owners would not be onboard during the evening and overnight when the worst problems occurred.

Currently three berths had been allocated to longer term lets for the summer season. The status of the other berths remained under review to see if the situation improves, as there was a preference to continue to use them for overnight stays to boost local tourism. RW confirmed the last report of ASB was on Friday 23rd June when two officers equipped with body worn cameras spoke to the adult individual concerning the incident that day and his behaviour the previous evening when he threatened a family moored on their boat adjacent to the quay.

RWil asked about training for staff when dealing with these difficult situations. RW confirmed that staff have received training in the use of body worn cameras (BWC) and how to engage when deployed. It is LHC policy for officers to use BWC's when entering any situation which may prove confrontational or where an intervention is made in relation to a breach of General Directions. Where officers have a concern for their safety, they should not engage but instead call the police. Wherever they do engage in potentially confrontational situations (such as asking youths to leave a pontoon), officers are encouraged to do so in pairs. RW indicated that LHC was fortunate in having three retired police officers who work during the summer seasons and bring a great deal of experience to dealing with some of the situations experienced.

CL asked if LHC should consider employing external security guards. RW indicated that at the recent public meeting with the police, the same question was asked and the feedback from the police was that in another situation where private security was used, it had not proved effective as it was cost prohibitive to be permanently present for hours at a time and so was used on a patrol basis. Then if something did occur at a time that coincided with a security patrol being present, because the security guards have no powers to intervene where the offences occur on public land, they were limited to reporting the matter to the police who may or may not have the resources to respond. For these reasons, RW did not feel this was a viable or effective option.

SU suggested asking the local police if it was possible to have a session with a local PCSO to have a briefing on their take on what the most helpful response would be from LHC officers where anti-social behaviour or trespass is occurring. There was a consensus that this would be helpful. **Action: RW**

- 7.2 Treasurer - Commissioners noted the Treasurer's report on casual income performance. RW noted that following the poor visitor numbers in March and April due to adverse weather, May and June saw a bounce back as the weather improved. Overall, year to date casual income performance was marginally (£0.7k) above budget.
- 7.3 Marketing & Communications – Commissioners noted the report from the Marketing & Communications officer.

8. SAFETY & PORT MARINE SAFETY CODE (PMSC)

8.1 Safety Committee – Commissioners noted the minutes of the officer safety review meeting for the four-month period January to April 2023 inclusive.

8.2 Oil Spill Response Plan (Notification & Boom Deployment Exercise) – RW reported that as part of the conditions for the MCA's continued certification of the joint LHC/Wightlink oil spill response plan, on the 20th June LHC undertook a boom deployment exercise using the new Vikoma boom. This was timed to coincide with Wightlink conducting a notification exercise to check all emergency contacts remain valid.

8.3 Wightlink Safety Video – Commissioners noted that in collaboration with LHC, Royal Lymington Yacht Club and Lymington Town Sailing Club, Wightlink have produced a video highlighting good and bad practice when navigation in and around the ferry. PH noted that there had been an incident between a ferry and LTSC sailing dinghies while engaged in racing and asked if the video was as a result of tensions between Wightlink and sailing club activities. RW explained that the decision to produce the collaborative video was taken some 18 months ago at a river users safety meeting with the intention of reaching those dinghy sailors who have not taken up the open invitation from Wightlink to make a river passage on the bridge of the ferry to highlight the challenges faced by bridge crews when transiting the river. The video will now be used as part of the safety training provided by RLymYC, LTSC and LARC. While from time to time incidents will occur, RW felt that the working relationship between the clubs and Wightlink was good and that this is reflected in river user safety meetings. CL concurred.

8.4 Duty Holder Training – SU and MB (refresher) attended a duty holder training webinar on the 24th May. PH indicated he will attend the 1st December webinar to refresh his training. JM indicated he will attend a webinar in November or December and will advise RW which one. **Action: JM**

SU indicated that she was experiencing difficulty obtaining the certificate of attendance from the British Ports Association. RW indicated he would chase up. **Action: RW**

8.5 Port Waste Management Plan – RW reported that following a review and update of LHC's Port Waste Management plan, the Maritime and Coastguard Agency had re-certified the plan for a further three years. Next revalidation date is 5th August 2025.

9. AOB

9.1 There was no other business in the open section of the meeting.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

10.1 Monday 4th September. Venue: The Harbour Building (top floor) at 14.00 hours. PH gave his apologies as will be on holiday.

END