



Minutes of the meeting of Commissioners held on Monday 14th November 2022 at 2.00pm in the Lymington Town Sailing Club

Present: Alison Towler (AT) (Chair), Jane Challener (JC), Philip Naylor (PN), Paul Harrison (PH), John Morrow (JM), Darren Longley (DL), Robert Willows (RWil), Chris Lisher (CL)

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

In Attendance: Rupert Wagstaff (RWag) (LHAG)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1.1 Mike Bowles (MB)

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

2.1 There were no new declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING (12th SEPTEMBER 2022)

3.1 The minutes were agreed and signed by AT.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF 12th JULY 2022

4.1 There were no matters arising from the public section of the previous meeting that are not reported on separately.

5. COMMISSIONERS

5.1 AT reported that it was with great sadness that the Commissioners had learned that Tim Harford, a previous Chair and very recently retired Commissioner had passed away. The Commissioners and Officers expressed their sincere condolences to his wife Ann and family.

5.2 DL and RWil will attend an online Duty Holder Course organised by the British Ports Association on the 5th December 2022.

6. LYMINGTON HARBOUR ADVISORY GROUP (LHAG)

6.1 RWag reported that LHAG had met on Monday 7th November to review the document summarising consultation feedback on the draft Harbour Development Plan and the Commissioners conclusions. AT and RW attended the meeting and answered questions. RWag indicated that it was a good meeting and that LHAG felt that it was a well put together document. RWag indicated that LHAG supported all of the Commissioners conclusions in the document albeit noting that the Lymington Society Representative expressed a different view on the timing and funding arrangements in relation to the Bath Road Slipway improvements.

7. OFFICERS REPORT

7.1 Operations Manager - Commissioners noted the operations report.

7.2 Treasurer - Commissioners noted the Treasurer's report on casual income performance. RW noted that although overall YTD casual income for the year was up on 2021, visitor volumes and revenue were down for September (-27.3%) and October (-28%) on last year. While the October fall was in large part explainable by the closure of Town Quay visitor berths and moorings (and partial closure of Dan Bran) from the 10th October to accommodate relocated resident boats to facilitate dredging and mooring renewal work, there was no clear explanation for September other than 2021 had been a very good year. Visitor revenues for both September (+14.1%) and October (+61.8%) was above revenues for the same months in 2020 when the harbour was not affected by pandemic 'lockdowns'.

8. SAFETY & PORT MARINE SAFETY CODE (PMSC)

8.1 Oil Spill Response Exercise - Commissioners noted RW's report setting out details of a desktop exercise and boom deployment held on the 25th October to test the joint Wightlink/LHC oil spill response plan for the harbour.

8.2 Breach of Lymington Harbour General Directions (2014) – Commissioners noted RW's report setting out details of the outcome of the first prosecution for a serious speeding offence. Commissioners were pleased that the Magistrates recognised the seriousness of the offence through the levy of an appropriate fine and full award of LHC's costs which amounted to a total sum of £4,042.60. The second prosecution is due to be heard on Friday 18th November.

9. ANNUAL PUBLIC MEETING

9.1 The 2022 annual public meeting will be held on Thursday 1st December 2022 at Lymington Community Centre (Gates Hall) at 19.00 hours. RW reported that to date 80 persons had registered to attend.

10. AOB

10.1 There was no other business in the public section of the meeting.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING & 2023 MEETINGS

11.1 The following meeting dates were agreed for 2023: 16th January (next meeting), 13th March, 9th May [Tuesday], 10th July, 4th September, 13th November.