



## 6. LYMINGTON HARBOUR ADVISORY GROUP (LHAG)

- 6.1 RWag had no matters to bring forward on behalf of LHAG. RWag indicated he would be arranging a meeting of LHAG in the next couple of months before the peak season started.

## 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 highlighted the drop in visitor volumes and revenues for March and April compared with last year. This was consistent with Lyminster Yacht Haven and Yarmouth who both experienced a fall in visitor numbers over the same period. Part of this was likely to be due to the adverse weather this year, but it was likely that the downturn in the economic climate was also a factor. RW indicated that the Operations Manager had reported that LHC still had a lot of empty resident moorings where owners had not returned their boats to the water. This was likely to have been reflected elsewhere, meaning that the number of active boats on the water who may consider visiting other harbours would be down.

## 8. SAFETY & PORT MARINE SAFETY CODE (PMSC)

- 8.1 Trinity House Lighthouse Service (THLS) Inspection of Marks – RW reported that on the 07<sup>th</sup> March 2023, an officer of THLS inspected the aids to navigation under the management of Lyminster Harbour Commissioners and found them to be in good and efficient order except for the two red and white ferry transit marks which were in need of repainting. These marks were due to have been replaced by Walcon Marine but they have been delayed due to adverse weather delaying other jobs and this will now be completed in June. Pending replacement of the piles, officers have installed reflective panels and the matter has been 'closed out' with THLS.
- 8.2 Port Marine Safety Code (PMSC) PMSC 2023 Compliance Audit – An external audit to verify that LHC's Safety Management System is working effectively and is compliant with the provisions of the Port Marine Safety Code (PMSC) was undertaken in April by LHC's appointed Designated Person, Mr Montgomery Smedley (ABPmer). As part of the audit, Mr Montgomery met with JM to review his induction experience and his understanding of his role as a 'Duty Holder'. JM provided an update on the areas covered in the meeting which included his onboarding and induction experience, underpinning knowledge in relation to the Boards role as Duty Holder, and consideration of safety at board meetings. Mr Smedley also asked if Commissioners were given the opportunity to have a tour of the harbour to better understand the layout and how certain aspects work. RW indicated that there was a standing invitation to existing Commissioners to have a tour but that following a recommendation in the previous audit, this had now been incorporated as a formal documented part of the onboarding process for new Commissioners.

Following the audit, Mr Smedley also met with CL in his capacity as Chair of the Safety Committee to brief him on his report findings. CL referred to the report which had been circulated and briefed Commissioners on the main points of the audit and its conclusion that LHC's safety management system has complied with the provisions of the PMSC over the previous twelve months. Mr Smedley indicated that he considered LHC to be an exemplar port in terms of how it managed marine safety and PMSC compliance. The audit report made 4 observations with associated recommendations. RW reported that two of the observations had been actioned within the review of the MSMP/SMS which will be subject to consideration under the next agenda item. The remaining recommendations will be considered and worked on in the coming months.

- 8.3 Marine Safety Management Plan (MSMP) and Safety Management System (SMS) - As part of a formal annual review and taking account of any observations arising from the PMSC audit, RW reported that the MSMP and SMS have been updated. A tracked change copy of the updated version (v17) was circulated for Commissioners to consider and approve. CL asked that where the objectives in s1.4 were

over a greater timeframe than annual, as well as quoting the frequency could they also state the year the next action was due. AT highlighted a typo in s4.7 (third bullet point). Subject to incorporating the amendments raised by CL and AT, it was proposed to accept the updates and adopt MSMP/SMS v17 dated 9<sup>th</sup> May 2023. **Proposed: CL                      Seconded: MB                      Vote: All in Favour.**

- 8.4 Solent & Southern Harbour Masters Meeting – RW reported that LHC will be hosting the next bi-annual meeting of the Solent & Southern Harbour Master Association (SASHMA) on the 6<sup>th</sup> June. The SASHMA region covers ports and harbours between Christchurch in the west and Shoreham in the east, and includes the Channel Islands.
- 8.5 New Oil Spill Response Boom – RW reported that on the 12<sup>th</sup> April, LHC took delivery of a new 150m long oil spill response boom to complement the existing Tier 1 response equipment owned by Wightlink. The new boom which cost £20,000 has a higher freeboard and deeper skirt than existing equipment making it more capable in windier conditions and in stronger tidal flows. In addition, Wightlink has purchased a Versadock pontoon to store the new boom on. This will allow for faster deployment as the new boom can be towed (or motor under its own power with a small outboard) direct to the mobilisation site.
- 8.6 Emergency Plan Exercise – RW reported that on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> April LHC undertook desk top exercises with the two separate outside teams to test LHC's emergency plan. Both exercises facilitated some useful discussion with several lessons learned being incorporated into amendments to the plan.

**9. AOB**

- 9.1 RW indicated that the latest news letter from the Hurst Spit to Lymington coast protection scheme had just been published and included details of dates for the next public exhibitions in June and July. RW to circulate. **Action: RW**

**10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

- 10.1 Monday 10<sup>th</sup> July at Lymington Town Sailing Club at 14.00 hours.