



**COWES HARBOUR
COMMISSION**

**PUBLIC REPORT
COWES HARBOUR COMMISSION
8 March 2024**

Present: Phil Hagen – Chairman (PH)
James Evans – Deputy Chairman (JE)
Vanessa Clifford (VC)
Fiona Fitzherbert-Brockholes (FF-B)
Clive Blount (CB)
Jason Losty (JL)
Steve Sheridan (SS)
Mark Bew (MB)
Rupert MacInnes (RM)
Gary Hall (GH) – Chief Executive

In Attendance: Jon Kidd (JK) - Harbour Master
Roger Parrott (RP) - Finance Manager

PH officially welcomed Rupert MacInnes to the meeting, as one of the new Commissioners.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Declarations of Interest and Declarations of Related Party Transactions for Cowes Harbour Commissioners are documented 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, 26 January 2024 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) Island Ribs – there has been a slight delay but they are expected to vacate by 18 March.
- (b) Dredging plans – there are significant delays with the MMO applications and nobody in Cowes, as yet, has a valid license to dredge which means there will be no dredging this year in Cowes. Cowes Yacht Haven may have some dredging undertaken at the end of the season possibly giving the option to have the dredging at Kingston undertaken at the same time, but most stakeholders JK has spoken to are happy to wait until February/March of next year and are aware that the difficulties are beyond the control of CHC. The problems with the MMO are across the country and are mainly due to labour and skills shortages which will likely result in a large backlog of applications.

- (c) Annual Report – Nosy Creative Agency have been appointed to produce the AGM film. Filming is scheduled to take place in the first two weeks of April. Video should be ready for the beginning of May to coincide with the normal AGM date. The public will be invited to send through any questions online through the CHC website where the video will be visible. Whilst the cost is higher than a physical AGM, the reach is likely to be much higher and eight additional videos will be made as part of Nosy's contract that will be used for promotional activities. RM asked for confirmation that the format satisfies any legal obligations and JE confirmed that it does.
- (d) Cruise ship moorings – JK confirmed that he has received confirmation from Trinity House to move their buoy further to the east. No date has been confirmed but JK will keep the Board updated. Positive feedback has been received from the clubs who are mainly interested in where Snowden will be located.
- (e) Sugar Store – a grand opening is planned for the Easter Weekend. The new branding has also been completed.

5. HARBOUR MASTER'S SAFETY REPORT

The HM report and safety analysis was circulated with the papers for the meeting and was fully considered by the Board. JK highlighted the following:

- (a) The safety topic this month offered advice on General Directions and Collision Regulations, including Rule 9 which JK has highlighted to race officers and clubs.
- (b) Incidents and Enforcements – six reports were logged on HAZMAN in January and February.
- (c) Pilotage – 13 acts of pilotage in January and February and on par with the last couple of years.
- (d) A navigation light review has been undertaken. Some improvements can be made and progress is being made on this. The EMWB at the RORC steps has now been replaced with a starboard lateral buoy. Investigations will take place to see how the post stump might be removed and ultimately replaced.
- (e) PMSC audit – awaiting a date for this and likely to be towards the end of March.

6. CEO REPORT

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

- (a) A considerable amount of maintenance work has been ongoing at both Kingston and Shepards over the winter, ready for the season ahead.
- (b) The Flying Fish pontoons have been installed and the jet skis are due to arrive any day.
- (c) Main Harbour moorings – these have all been removed, resurveyed and re-laid.
- (d) Williams Shipping – they have expressed an interest in buying Seamark and are waiting feedback from the survey. GH and JK have looked at a boat for the maintenance engineer to use and have agreed to buy this, subject to survey and sea trial. It may also be used as an escort vessel instead of using Seaclear which is costly in terms of fuel.
- (e) Tide and Time booklet – the last advert has now been secured and should be available within the next ten days. The Cowes Harbour Handbook is likely to still be produced in conjunction with the Town Council.
- (f) WebApp stats are being recorded and gathering momentum. Adverts will be placed with Red Funnel during the summer which should increase usage.

In relation to the main harbour moorings, JL asked about the system for recording them after installation as there have been incidents in the past. GH responded that once the ground chain is in place GPS readings are taken. JL asked about the supply of the riser – JK will check on this but it is understood that it is owner supplied.

F-FB referred to the WebApp which shows a log-in for an account. This only relates to those advertising on the site and GH will look at this with a view to placing a note on the page making it clearer.

7. FINANCE REPORT FOR JANUARY 2024

Copies of the Financial Management Report for January 2024 were circulated with the papers for the meeting and fully considered by the Board.

8. ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

The Environment and Sustainability Report was received by the Board and F-FB reported that frustration with the MMO delays is deep rooted across the entire sector. She has attended sustainability groups and reported that there is no real overarching theme with everyone trying to do similar things, being open and sharing information. FF-B asked about the sustainable buoy and whether these were more or less likely to last longer than any other buoy. JK confirmed it has been in the water for about two years and was not designed to last as long as a chain. The cost of the buoy is much cheaper but cost of installation is much higher.

9. CHAC MEETING 17 April 2024

It was agreed to provide the normal update for the CHAC meeting, including sharing information on the AGM video and filming, and that the Board was not seeking any advice specifically on this occasion. CB explained the background between CHC and CHAC for the benefit of the two new commissioners and that CHAC members are there to represent a stakeholder community.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- a) Commissioner re-election – Two commissioners are coming to the end of their first term, F-FB and JL. Both confirmed they would like to sit for a second term. F-FB and JL left the room so the Board could have a discussion and raise any comments before accepting their applications for standing for a second term. PH reiterated that it is not a given that a commissioner who chooses to stand for a second term is automatically re-elected. No comments were raised and all commissioners agreed unanimously to approve the applications for a second term. PH said that on behalf of the Board he was delighted that they would continue and that both had brought a huge amount into their specialist areas.

- a) IOW Council Floating Bridge Report – GH advised that he and JK had collated the Board's recent comments to them so JL will produce a response stating that following receipt of the Council's report we have noted some anomalies that need clarifying. SS pointed out that the draft report does state that in 7.2 of the report, it is to ensure that the Cowes Harbourmaster should be consulted as a key stakeholder.

- b) CB asked if any statistics were available on the electric chargers usage. GH will seek this information from Aqua Superpower but as yet has no evidence that the chargers have been used.

- c) PH – Commissioners need to ensure that their Declarations are up to date and

sent to GH.

Date of next meeting: Friday 26 April 2024 at 1000, Harbour Office, Cowes, Isle of Wight