



Minutes

Name of meeting	HARBOUR COMMITTEE
Date and Time	WEDNESDAY 30 MARCH 2022 COMMENCING AT 2.00 PM
Venue	COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT
Present	Cllrs C Jarman, G Peace, D Pitcher, M Price and R Redrup
Also Present (Non voting)	J Brand, A Minns and S Newton
Officers Present	M Bartlett, S Philipsborn
Apologies	Cllrs P Jordan and J Jones-Evans

30. **Election of Chairman**

Due to the absence of the Chairman and Vice Chairman, it was necessary to elect a Chairman for the day.

Councillor Jarman was nominated and duly seconded, a vote was taken, and the result was as follows:

RESOLVED:

THAT Councillor Chris Jarman be elected as Chairman for the day.

31. **Minutes**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 12 January 2022 be confirmed.

32. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations received at this stage.

33. **Public Question Time - 15 Minutes Maximum**

Three written questions were received and read out by the Chairman

Question from Rachel Bridgeland PQ/06/22

Question from Guy Eades PQ/07/22

Question from Christopher Dodd PQ/08/22

34. Statutory Harbour Authority Activities Annual Report 2020/21

The Assistant Director of Neighbourhoods confirmed that this was a yearly report that the committee had a statutory duty to scrutinise so that the statement of accounts could be approved and sent off to the Department for Transport DFT for signing off, where they were to be then independently audited. It was explained that the accounts were presented in a slightly different way to how the council normally presented its accounts, as they had to conform to Companies House requirements.

RESOLVED:

THAT the accounts be approved

35. Finance Reports

35a 21/22 Finance Report for Newport Harbour

To consider the current accounts of Newport Harbour up to the position as of 28 February 2022, and to look at the future forecast for the rest of the financial year.

It was stated that there had been a slight increase in expenditure, but there had been an increase in leasing income.

The mooring fees at the Folly Inn had not fared so well as they were still facing repercussions from the pandemic and had not met their financial target. Despite that, the outlook was deemed as encouraging for the coming months.

RESOLVED:

THAT the report be noted

35b 21/22 Finance Report for Ventnor Harbour

It was highlighted that the greatest financial outgoings were the contracted services, in particular the removal of seaweed from the harbour. It was stated that there had been an £18,000 overspend and there were only two sources of income, the lease of the fisheries, and berthing fees.

It was forecasted that the overspend on the seaweed removal would most likely reach £23,000 by the end of the year. It was confirmed that the finance coming from the berthing fees was on track, but the removal of the seaweed was an ongoing concern.

The committee asked if officers were aware of any other parties interested in taking over the seaweed removal contract. In response it was stated that officers were

aware of interested parties, however the current contract had been extended by one more year to the existing contractor. This was seen as a holding position, and the situation might well change after that through the next tender for the management of the harbour.

RESOLVED:

THAT the report be noted

36. **Report of the Senior Harbour Master**

37. **Senior Harbour Master's report for Newport Harbour.**

The Senior Harbour Master presented a report covering navigational risk an operational Information as well as the results of periodic inspections.

It was highlighted that during the past three months, two new Duty Harbour Masters had been hired along with two new relief Duty Harbour Masters. This was viewed as positive in terms of the staffing the harbour as this enabled a manned presence either side of high water and it freed up more time for the Senior Harbour Master to attend to other duties.

It was stated that the pontoons had been prepared for the season and that the harbour launch had been inspected and serviced. The works to the Newport Harbour walls were nearly completed.

The safety incident regarding the reporting of a collision of a rib into the quay was deemed as not serious as there were no reported injuries and no damage to the harbour wall.

The functionality of the ladders was questioned, and it was explained that the ladders were of a retractable type and more awkward to use as they were more light weight, and one was slightly damaged. It was hoped that since the harbour had been recently dredged, fixed ladders could be installed.

The northern harbour car park had been closed for a week as a safety precaution because of three back-to-back storms and the roof of the Classic Boat Museum building had blown off. It was also confirmed that one boat had suffered storm damage

RESOLVED:

THAT the report be noted

38. **Get Well Plans**

38a **Get Well Plan for Newport Harbour**

The Strategic Manager Commercial Services presented a review of the 'Get Well Plan' for Newport harbour.

It was stated that a number of items had been completed and that the consultation on the General Directions had concluded.

Two responses had been received regarding the consultation, one which was positive, and the other was a query about a particular paragraph where the wording needed to be amended. Consultation with the harbour's marine lawyers and David Foster had taken place and they were now awaiting a response back to see if all parties were now happy.

It was commented on that the new staffing restructuring had freed up more time for the Senior Harbour Master to fulfil other duties.

It was stated that David Foster and Marico had been re-appointed as designated person, the process having gone out to competitive procurement.

There was an acknowledgement of just how much hard work had been carried out in getting the 'Get Well Plan' to the stage it was at now.

RESOLVED:

THAT the plan be noted

38b **Get Well Plan for Ventnor Harbour**

The Strategic Manager Commercial Services presented a review of the 'Get Well Plan' for Ventnor Harbour.

It was stated that Ventnor Harbour reflected the general approach undertaken at Newport Harbour but not so many items had been completed as the Senior Harbour Master had been without other support.

Now that there had been new staff recruited, this would free time up for him to get the documentation up to date. It was hoped that by the next time the committee met, most, if not all of the plan, would be completed.

It was stated that improvements would mirror the Newport plan.

RESOLVED:

THAT the plan be noted.

39. **Members' Question Time**

Cllr Price raised a question about the private unadopted road (Folly Lane) and its maintenance as it had recently come into his ward boundary. He asked if the Council had previously contributed towards its upkeep along with the other residents/stakeholders.

It was believed that the Council had made a small contribution to the upkeep of the road in the past, although this would be looked into by the Council's legal team.

A question was asked about the expected visitor numbers at Newport Harbour in the coming summer. In response, it was stated that historic visitor numbers remained static and now that the harbour had more staff, it would likely attract more visitors, so the outlook was optimistic.

CHAIRMAN

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Public Question time

To view any public questions that were put to this committee, they will be listed as an additional PDF document below the public question time section within the online minutes, an example is displayed below:

32. [Public Question Time](#) PDF 87 KB

Questions must be delivered in writing
later than 5pm on Friday, 15 January 20

Additional documents:

- [PQ 11-21](#)  PDF 85 KB
- [PQ 12-21](#)  PDF 90 KB

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Harbour Committee – 30 March 2022

Written question from Rachel Bridgeland to the Chairman of the Harbour Committee

It seems the foreshore and banks of the river from the Medina Way flyover to the Cinema are being counted as the Harbour, which means that nearly 2km of crumbling walls are the responsibility of the Harbour to keep in good repair. In case of partial collapse, and consequent closure of Coppin's Bridge roundabout, the Harbour account would be held responsible. As the flyover prohibits any harbour activity south of the flyover, and therefore no income is generated, why has the Harbour Committee allowed this, and included the foreshore and banks of the river in the Harbour Order?

Response

The southern extent of the harbour is shown on the attached plan which formed part of the 1988 Harbour Revision Order, and as stated, this extends South and East of Medina Way ending in the vicinity of Cineworld.

This reflects the councils ownership of the river bed and walls land and pre-dates both the harbour committee and the Newport (Isle of Wight) Harbour Revision Order 2021; indeed the southern extent of the harbour is referenced in the Pier and Harbour Order (Newport Isle of Wight) Confirmation Act 1954.

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Harbour Committee – 30 March 2022

Written question from Mr Guy Eades to the Chairman of the Harbour Committee

The Newport Harbour Estate generates annual income from charges levied on persons choosing to park their motor vehicles on Harbour land. Please can you confirm whether this income is attributed annually to meeting the Harbour Estate operating and maintenance costs. Please can you confirm what the income has been for the financial years 2019 - 2020 and 2020 - 2021. After overhead costs for servicing the collection of this income please can the Harbour Commissioners identify what activity this income has been used to address Harbour Estate operating and maintenance costs.

Response

The Council is the statutory harbour authority for Newport Harbour; accordingly harbour legislation requires the Council to prepare an annual statement of accounts relating to the harbour activities and any associated activities for each harbour for which it is the statutory harbour authority. The income received for the two car parks situated within the harbour (Harbour North and Harbour South) forms part of the harbours annual statement of accounts; the income for the last two financial years was as follows: -

- 2019/20 - £1,811.22
- 2020/21 - £353.08

No overhead costs are apportioned to the harbour for the collection of this income; the income does not directly address any specific operating or maintenance costs but form part of the overall account.

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Harbour Committee – 30 March 2022

Written question from Mr Christopher Dodd to the Chairman of the Harbour Committee

I refer to a copy of part (attached) of the plan in the 1912 Deed of Transfer of the Medina Estuary, it's creeks & inlets, comprising Newport Harbour, from the Crown to the then IOW Authority. Can this Committee please let me know - when was the paddle-steamer moored in the inlet of the Harbour shown on that Plan, close to the South boundary of the Island Harbour; what is the annual mooring charge for this large vessel, when was the last payment made & where is that shown in the harbour accounts; as the steamer is now severely decayed can you state when the last water pollution test was carried out in its vicinity and was that test satisfactory; & why was this arm of the Harbour not included in either the 1988 or the 2022 HRO's?

Response

The council's legal team are currently reviewing the original deed of transfer and title deeds; once ownership of the area in question is confirmed a formal written response will be issued

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