



Minutes

Name of meeting	HARBOUR COMMITTEE
Date and time	WEDNESDAY, 24 JUNE 2020 COMMENCING AT 2.00 PM
Venue	<u>MICROSOFT TEAMS ONLINE</u>
Present	Cllrs Stuart Hutchinson (Chair), Andrew Garratt, Steve Hastings, John Hobart, Matthew Price, Shirley Smart
Officers	Sarah MacDonald, Jonathan Brand, Alex Minns, Sean Newton, Joe Rennie
Other	David Foster

1. Election of Chairman

Apologies had been received from Cllr Ward. Cllr Hutchinson was elected as Chairman for the day and took the chair.

2. Minutes

RESOLVED:

THAT the Minutes of the meeting held on 18 December 2019 be confirmed.

3. Declarations of Interest

No declarations were received at this stage

4. Public Questions Time

None received.

5. Harbour Committee Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference had been updated to include Ryde and Ventnor Harbours.

A query was raised as to whether the membership should comprise up to seven elected members rather than five, as stated in paragraph 3.1. The Assistant Director of Neighbourhoods would discuss the issue with the Monitoring Officer outside of the meeting. It was thought that the membership should be proportional but that seven members would help to avoid the Committee becoming inquorate.

The Committee was otherwise happy with the content for recommendation to Full Council.

RESOLVED:

THAT the matter of membership number be discussed with the Monitoring Officer and the document updated as required.

THAT the updated document be recommended to Full Council for approval.

6. Finance Report

The Financial Statement for Newport Harbour as at 31 March 2020 was presented. It was noted that the next finance report would include Ryde and Ventnor Harbours. Members were satisfied with the layout and content of the statement. This was the first opportunity for members to look at the end of year report. Public consultation would take place in July and comments brought back to the Committee before publishing.

RESOLVED:-

THAT the document be noted at this stage.

7. Reports of the Senior Harbour Master

(a) Get Well Plan

The Senior Harbour Master reported that the Emergency Plan was being updated, a working draft had been shared with Cowes Harbour Master for his input. David Foster added that the Get-Well Plan was almost complete.

The council was experiencing difficulties with the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) and objectors but had taken action even though some objections were still outstanding. Some lines may need to be added to the plan with regard to Ryde and Ventnor Harbours.

The council was still in discussion with Ryde and Ventnor Town Councils regarding both harbours. There had been no movement recently due to the coronavirus lockdown. If the harbours were transferred to the Town Councils, they would require a baseline audit as part of the governance transfer. In addition, Ventnor TC wanted to negotiate the inclusion of other matters.

(b) Senior Harbour Master Report

The SHM reported that the period from December 19 to February 20 had been reasonably busy. The Folly visitors' berthing supervision contract had been advertised. The boats moored up along the wall near the Bargeman's Rest in a state of disrepair had been removed and some others had been taken to the Council depot.

The Safety Management system had been published on the council's website.

All pontoons, including the Folly, had been power washed.

The Chairman queried whether the hand crane issue had been resolved and was informed that the issue was still ongoing but had been held up due to COVID 19. The maximum lifting weight had already been reduced but it would be resolved with the person affected. Consideration would be given whether to continue with the service.

During the period from March 20 to May 20 staff had been requested not to come into the office as it could put them at risk. They had been redeployed to other areas of the council. A lot of information had been put on the website to keep the public informed of the current situation and emails had been sent to berth holders and houseboat owners. Showers and hospitality suites had been locked down and there were no visitors permitted at present.

Renewal letters had been sent to berth holders in early March and a phone payment system had been set up.

A boat which had been in a bad condition had sunk on the Folly mooring and the owner had been invoiced for its removal.

RESOLVED:

THAT the report be received and noted.

(c) Harbour Revision Order

The Committee were updated on the status of the Harbour Revision Order. There was to be a meeting later in the week with the Marine Management Organisation to complete the Order. Agreement had been reached between the council's legal team and marine lawyer and the Order had been redrafted. An objection had been received from the DfT and the wording altered. It was believed there were other objections but these had not been forwarded by the MMO. The draft HRO had been passed to their lawyers and there were some minor points and legal issues to be discussed at the meeting later in the week. A written update would be provided to the Committee at the next meeting. The Director of Regeneration had also been involved in pushing the matter ahead. The Chairman asked whether all the objections were on a similar theme and it was noted that they were and had all been dealt with, which was encouraging.

RESOLVED:

THAT the update be noted and the Committee to receive a further written update at the next meeting.

8. Newport Harbour Masterplan

The Director of Regeneration had produced a brief overview of the plan. It was noted that the plan was due to be considered by Cabinet on 6 August 2020. Cllr Price was concerned that comments he had previously made in relation to the proposed housing at the entrance to Seaclose Park had not been taken into account. He had no issues with the rest of the plan. The Director of Regeneration had been called away and was late joining the meeting. He had hoped to share his presentation with feedback that had been received including concerns relating to flood risk and aesthetics.

With regard to the Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) there had been 46 responses to the consultation. The Environment Agency wanted more work done to the document to avoid them objecting. Seaclose plans had been revised twice already as a result of feedback received. It needed to feed into the Housing Needs Strategy and had been a challenge as regards the loss of some green space.

It was confirmed that local people would be involved in the finer design details.

The DoR would share the presentation with the Committee and meet with Cllr Price and Cllr Smart outside of the meeting.

9. Members' Question Time

There were no questions from Members, however David Foster made members aware of the proposal by Vestas to bring larger vessels up the river Medina.

The MCA had identified as an issue the fact that there had been no proper harbour master for Newport in the last three years and that this should now be taken forward. The Assistant Director of Neighbourhoods would ensure this was actioned.

More directives and guidance were expected soon from government with regard to recreational boating in the current circumstances.

CHAIRMAN