LYMINGTON HARBOUR ADVISORY GROUP

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 18th JULY 2023
At 1700 hrs at RLymYC

PRESENT:

Rupert Wagstaff (Marinas), Chairman
Roy Froud (Recreational users – RlymYC, LTSC, Sailability)
Cllr Barry Dunning (Lymington & Pennington Town Council)
John Clarke (Lymington, Keyhaven and District Wildfowlers Association)
Steve Avery (NFNPA)
Al Mackay (RNLI)
Peter Ferguson (NFDC Coast Protection)

ATTENDANCE:

Ryan Willegers (Chief Executive and Harbour Master)
Alison Towler (Chair, Lymington Harbour Commissioners

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Rob Thompson (Commercial boat owners)
Don Mackenzie (Lymington Society)
Guy Standley (local businesses)
Peter Lock (Recreational users – LARC, L&DSFC, LSS)

Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 11th May 2022 previously approved by email and published on LHC website along with LHAG response to the Strategic Plan 2022 - 2032 discussed at an extraordinary meeting on 07Th November 2022.

1. Matters Arising From meeting of the 11th May 2022

1.1 Town Quay Washrooms (Agenda Item 1.1) – The refurbished washrooms reopened on the 8th June 2022. A number of snagging items which arose during last summer were attended to in November 2022 when the visitor facilities at Town Quay were closed to facilitate relocation of resident boats for dredging. Customer feedback has been very positive.

1.2 Commercial Fishing Quay (Agenda Items 6.1 & 6.2) – In January 2023, LHC were notified that their application to the Marine Management Organisation (Fisheries and Seafood Scheme) for grant funding to install an electric davit on the commercial quay had been successful. LHC have been awarded a grant of £50,195 towards the total cost of the works which is expected to be £70,000 (includes a £3,000 contingency for unforeseen events). Contracts have been awarded and works are due to commence w/c 2nd October to avoid doing the trenching works to install a new electrical supply over the busy tourist season.

Works to install safety fencing and a lockable gate on the commercial quay to enable fishermen to secure the area from members of the public prior to commencing hazardous activities were completed in June 2022.

Rob Thompson provided feedback prior to the meeting that the fence and gate was working well and allowed some segregation when catch was being landed or works undertaken on the quay and then when not in use the gate remained open and other users could access the quay wall as before.

1.3 Harbour Development Plan (Agenda Item 7.1) – On the 7th of November the LHC Chair & Ryan Willegers met with LHAG members to present the 2022 to 2032 Harbour Development Plan (HDP) in its final form prior to adopting at their meeting on the 14th November. The HDP is published on LHC's website.

In November/December 2022 works to renew all mooring piles in the Railside area were completed. At the beginning of May 2023 works to install two new pontoons behind the northern wavescreen were completed. Since April, works have been ongoing to convert and refurbish the top floor of the Harbour Office (previously leased out) to a training room / emergency response room / meeting room / board room. Works are almost complete with the room expected to be ready for service from August.

2. LHAG Membership

2.1 The Hampshire and Isle of Wight Trust (HIWWT) position on LHAG remains vacant following the retirement of Bob Chapman. It is understood the delay is due to the time taken to recruit a replacement.

John Clark has been reappointed as Lymington, Keyhaven & District Wildfowlers representative on LHAG for a three year term commencing 16th May 2023 following renomination in line with LHAG constitution requirements.

Roy Froud has been reappointed to represent the interests of RLymYC, LTSC and Lymington Sailability on LHAG for a second three year term commencing 7th September 2023.

Alastair Mackay has been reappointed to represent the interests of Lymington RNLI on LHAG for a second three year term commencing 7th September 2023.

Peter Lock's current three year term of office as the representative on LHAG for Lymington Amateur Rowing Club, Lymington & District Sea Scouts and Lymington Sea Scouts expires on the 29th July 2023. LHC have written to Peter to enquire if he is prepared to continue for a further term If so, then in line with LHAG's constitution, LHC will ask the represented organisations to confirm if they are happy for Peter to be reappointed or would like to nominate an alternative.

LHC have written to Peter Ferguson to ask if he is prepared to serve for a 2nd three-year term representing NFDC's coastal interests on LHAG for a further 3-year term backdated to the 1st October 2022. Peter confirmed at the meeting that he has made this proposal to his colleagues and is awaiting a response.

3. Commissioners

3.1 Since LHAG's meeting last May, the following changes to the Commissioners have taken place:-

Reappointments/New Appointments
Sarah Unsworth appointed for a 1st term - ends 31/05/2026
John Morrow reappointed for a 2nd term - ends 31/07/2026

Retired Commissioners
Jane Challener retired on the 31/05/2023.

4. Strategic Plan

4.1 To support the meeting LHAG members were supplied a copy of the most recent report to Commissioners (July) setting out progress to date on the Strategic Plan 2023 objectives.

4.2 Transparency & Accountability - LHC are soon to undertake a review of stakeholder engagement processes to ensure they remain effective and in line with Ports Good Governance Guidance. LHC and LHAG are confident that they are compliant with or exceeding the requirements of the Ports Good Governance guidance.

5. Environment

5.1 Saltmarsh Replenishment Trial - Work continues to obtain a marine licence for a new trial to relocate dredged mud that has previously been beneficially placed in Boiler Marsh higher up in the tidal frame, with the aim being to achieve the level needed to allow new saltmarsh to colonise. More information on this was provided at the May 2022 meeting. Subject to obtaining the necessary consents, LHC are now aiming to undertake the first phase of the trial in the second two weeks of September 2023.

5.2 Climate Change Commitment & Policy – In May 2022, LHC adopted a Climate Change Commitment & Policy. As part of that commitment, LHC undertake to publish progress on its efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions annually. The latest iteration which publishes details of emission reductions achieved in 2022 is published on the LHC website. This shows that by the end of 2022, the annualised emissions for a full year have reduced from 46 tonnes per annum to 25.8 tonnes per annum. This was largely achieved by converting all of LHC's electricity supply contracts to be sourced from renewable energy sources.

Going forward, reductions will be slower to achieve as most relate to the provision of supplies and services by third parties where LHC must rely on providers reducing greenhouse gas emissions associated with their products and services. In LHC's case the biggest outstanding source of greenhouse gas emissions is associated with the provision of dredging services. It is anticipated that it will take some time before the providers of dredging services reduce emissions through using biofuels or converting to full electrification.

Rupert Wagstaff undertook to investigate the potential of biodiesel and if this was a potential fuel source for the Yacht Havens dredging equipment and if there were associated environmental benefits.

During February and March 2023 the small harbour launch was converted to electric power. Feedback thus far is that it has proved to be very successful. Over the next 12 months or so, LHC will continue to evaluate its performance with a view to developing a medium-term

strategy to replace other craft as technology improves. Currently, technology is not quite there to power faster patrol craft for the required duty cycles for the size of craft needed.

6. Safety & PMSC Compliance

6.1 PMSC 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 2023 by our appointed Designated Person, Mr Montgomery Smedley (ABPmer).

Ryan was pleased to report that Mr Smedley again concluded that LHC's safety management system complied with the provisions of the PMSC over the previous twelve months. The result of the audit was noted at the Commissioners May 2023 meeting and a copy of the audit report is published on LHC's website.

6.2 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, the MSMP and SMS has been updated (v17) and adopted by Commissioners at their May 2023 meeting. A copy is published on the LHC website.

7. AOB

7.1 Barry Dunning made the group aware of a navigational hazard in Oxey lake that had been hit by numerous XOD's while racing in this area. It was thought that the receding intertidal area has made this obstruction more pronounced. It was uncertain if this was part of an old sewage pipe or the wreck of a concrete barge known to be in that area. As this area of seabed falls outside the jurisdiction of LHC Ryan suggested contacting Trinity House to see if they would be willing to mark this hazard. It was also suggested that members of the clubs were made aware of the lat/long of the obstruction.

7.2 John Clarke informed the group of the use of plastic floating pontoons, often known by the brand name Versadock, in West Bay and Lyme Regis for the temporary location of pontoons in the summer to aid small craft moorings. It was discussed if this could be a good addition to the northern side of the slipway to help dinghies during busy periods. Roy Froud undertook to take this to the yacht clubs to see if there was consensus to explore the possibility further.

Minutes taken by R. Wagstaff