



# Minutes

Name of meeting	<b>HARBOUR COMMITTEE</b>
Date and time	<b>WEDNESDAY, 25 SEPTEMBER 2019 COMMENCING AT 2:00 PM</b>
Venue	<b>CONFERENCE ROOM 4, COUNTY HALL, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT</b>
Present	Cllrs John Hobart (Chair), Andrew Garratt, Stuart Hutchinson, John Medland, Matthew Price, Shirley Smart.
Officers	Jennifer Armstrong, Jonathan Brand, Lawrence Edmonston, Helen Miles, Alex Minns, Joseph Rennie.
Apologies	Cllr Ian Ward, Mr Sean Newton.

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1. [Minutes](#)

RESOLVED:

THAT the Minutes of the meeting held on 27 March 2019 be confirmed.

2. [Declarations of Interest](#)

No declarations were received at this stage.

3. [Public Questions Time](#)

Mr Christopher Dodd of Newport questioned whether all defects and repairs recommended in the Consultant Engineer's Survey of so called 'Newport Harbour Walls' would be included in the forthcoming contract to repair harbour walls at the harbour's expense. The Assistant Director of Neighbourhoods responded that the consultants engineering report was completed in 2014 and that discussion were taking place with the consultant engineers to identify the most urgent repairs so that works can be prioritised. The current funds allocated will not be sufficient to complete all the repairs further funds will need to be identified.

Mr Dodd asked a supplemental question regarding walls on private property and the works. The Deputy Leader responded that works to private properties were not expected to be under taken but that the owners of the properties would be consulted with to ensure the most efficient use of the monies available.

4. **Harbour Revision Order**

The Assistant Director of Neighbourhoods provided a verbal update on the status of the Harbour Revision Order, which remained unchanged. The request for the revision order had been lodged with the Marine Management Organisation in January 2019. The decision had been delayed as a result of the reallocation of civil servants in relation to Brexit. A new case officer had now been assigned and a decision was expected in September/October 2019. The board agreed that representations would be made to the relevant secretary of state regarding the impact of further delay on the harbour, possibly with assistance from the MP.

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) THAT the update be noted
- (b) THAT representations be made to the Secretary of State regarding the impact of the delay should no decision have been received by 30 October 2019.

5. **Senior Harbour Master Update**

The Senior Harbour Master presented a report which provided an update on the Harbour for the period 1 June 2019 through 31 August 2019. Members were advised the summer had been busy and several points from the report were highlighted.

Members asked a number of questions in relation to the removal, storage and disposal of unauthorised and abandoned vessels. The issue of unauthorised and abandoned vessels was expected to be ongoing, taking action on an annual basis was leading to a reduction in incidents and acted as a deterrent. Members noted that the sale of seized vessels contributed towards transportation and storage costs and that removing the vessels, in addition to improving the aesthetics of the harbour, increased potential income as fees could be charged for the berths which became available.

Discussion took place in relation to the harbour toilets and a suggestion was made that opening the toilets for events such as Armed Forces or the Classic Car event should be explored. Members were advised that certain works needed to be undertaken in order for the facilities to be insurable. Further details of works required would be provided to inform a proposal, by the relevant board member, to Newport and Carisbrooke Parish Council to undertake a joint initiative to open the facilities for events.

**RESOLVED:**

THAT the update be noted

6. **Get Well Plan - Update**

The board considered the updated on the “Get Well Plan”. Members noted that the majority of outstanding items were linked to the proposed Harbour Revision Order.

Discussion took place regarding communication with Cowes Harbour. The harbour commission had been contacted in relation to emergency plans and work towards a joint approach was being undertaken. Reassurance was provided that the relationship with the commission was good with representation for the respective harbours on each’s user groups.

Members noted that there was concern regarding the impact of the delays to the decision regarding the Harbour Revision Order on development of the general directions. Clarification was provided that the general directions were the operational procedures under which the harbour operated. Should the Harbour Revision Order be granted, the general directions would be drafted and a consultation would be undertaken.

An update on the progress in relation to dredging and works on the walls would be provided by the Strategic Manager for Commissioned Services at the boards December 2019 meeting.

**RESOLVED:**

THAT the update be noted

7. **Exclusion of Public and Press**

**RESOLVED:**

THAT under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business, namely minute number 8, on the grounds that there is likely to be disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1 and 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act and in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

8. **Harbour Staffing**

Consideration was given to the report of the Director of Neighbourhoods regarding the structure of the service. Following discussion, several recommendations were made.

**9. Members' Question Time**

Councillors John Medland and Andrew Garratt asked questions regarding Ryde and Ventnor Harbours. A report would be taken to the December 2019 meeting to provide further information.

CHAIRMAN