

# GREAT YARMOUTH PORT COMPANY LIMITED

## Community & Marine Liaison Committee

Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2015  
Conference Room, EastPort UK House

Acting Chair: Bruce Coupland, General Manager, Great Yarmouth Port Company Ltd (GM)

Present: David Broad, Cruising Association (CA)  
Richard Card, Norfolk & Suffolk Boating Association (NSBA)  
Adrian Vernon, Broads Authority (BA)  
Tony Wright, Gardline  
Pat McNamara, Harbour Master, Great Yarmouth Port Company Ltd (HM)

Secretary to the Committee: Cheryl Hughes, Great Yarmouth Port Company Ltd

Apologies: Eliza O'Toole, Great Yarmouth Port Company Ltd (Chair)  
Miles Hubbard, UNITE  
Paul Smith, Petersons  
Brian Wilkins, RYA Great Yarmouth

The GM conveyed the Chair's apologies and undertook the role of Acting Chair.

### 1. Minutes & Matters Arising from Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the meeting of 6<sup>th</sup> October 2014 were agreed and signed by the Acting Chair and Secretary.

ACTION: None.

### 2. Update on Port Activities

The GM gave a brief report on activities during 2014.

**Health and Safety** – The overall number of reportable accidents and incidents showed a positive decrease over a comparable level of activity. The Port was not complacent and the programme of workforce inclusion and increasing safety awareness continues.

**Vessel Numbers** - Mainly as a result of the slow start to the year, the vessel call numbers were slightly lower than 2013 but business improved later in the year. One encouraging sign was the increased use of the Outer Harbour by larger vessels such as jack-ups and dive support vessels.

**Cargo Figures** – With the exception of fuel-related cargoes, figures compared favourably to 2013 as they also picked up well in the latter half of the year. Due to a good harvest, there was an increase in grain exports and, driven by local infrastructure projects, aggregate volumes also showed improvement.

**Dudgeon Offshore Windfarm O & M Base** – Statoil are to set up their Windfarm Base in the river and they are anticipated to take occupation of the site in the second half of 2015.

**Port Estate** - Several demolition projects had been completed during 2014, including the former Omnipac factory site.

**Bridge Lifts** - The Report (attached) showed an overall 32% increase in bridge lifts for 2014 over 2013.

**Seafarers Centre** – The former amenity block on South Quay had been handed over to the Port Chaplain in May for use as a Seafarers Centre. The building is currently being upgraded as and when funds are available and it is hoped that the Centre will be open by Easter 2015 at the latest. Gardline reported that although the Centre is primarily for use by seafarers who are far from home to provide them with a place to meet and relax, it would be open to all who wished to visit. It will be an unlicensed and well-positioned amenity on the quayside which will be trialled for approximately two years. There would be an opening ceremony at a later date to show appreciation to those companies that had donated equipment etc. The CA suggested that it may be something which they wished to support and were advised to keep a watchful eye on the Seafarers Centre website.

## **Looking Ahead to 2015**

It was reported that this time of year is traditionally slow and with predictions from the oil and gas industry not being particularly optimistic, coupled with further delays to some of the major windfarm projects, it will be another challenging year for the port. It is hoped that there will be another good harvest to boost grain and fertiliser cargoes and that with the expanding economy, more infrastructure projects would create a greater need for aggregate.

**Haven Bridge** - The maintenance works at Haven Bridge continue and should be complete early in the second half of April.

ACTION: None.

### 3. **Update on Navigational Safety**

The HM updated Members on navigational issues.

**CERS & FAL Directive** - There is currently ongoing dialogue between the Ports Industry and Government, on this proposal which most ports believe is fundamentally different from the present system. The issue should be addressed between Government and ship owners. The information currently received from ships is in PDF format but the proposal would require all information for each vessel to be in HDML format which would necessitate a substantial requirement for keying in data. The Minister has been approached to request that he re-looks at this issue. In addition the FAL Directive which is a reporting form system, is designated to be introduced by June 2015 and it is quite apparent that both the FAL and CERS projects should have been combined. The HM explained that FAL requirements originated with the IMO and are put into force by an EU Directive. The HM has written to the Minister and the UKHMA has written a group response to the MCA, DfT and Minister to address the issues, presently without success. The HM felt that the CERS project information should have been fed direct to HM Coastguard.

The CA and NSBA requested that the Committee records its support of the negotiations on this matter, as it is a complicated and time-consuming reporting system imposed upon the Port by the UK Government.

**Quay Works Adjacent to River** - The Environment Agency has now completed its flood protection works at Berth 28 and are now looking at the next phase which will start later this year.

**Haven Bridge** – Work which is the responsibility of Norfolk County Council is behind the planned timescale and other works have now been identified, which will follow on. There will be a period before April, when there will be either no, or restricted, lifts between the hours of 1900 and 0600 hours, to carry out work on the wooden decking.

**Website Passage Information** – This has been re-drafted to provide navigators of smaller vessels, particularly those that may not be familiar with the river, with additional information as to the river passage to enable better passage planning. This information will be available on the website in the normal way before the commencement of the season. HM read the re-draft to the Members present. The NSBA suggested that that reference to the toll and different navigational systems of the Norfolk Broads could be made and the HM confirmed that the re-draft contained a link to the Broads Authority.

**Port Marine Safety Code** – Following an independent Audit, a good report in terms of compliance has been received, although some issues remain to be addressed.

ACTION: None.

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**4. Matters Raised by CAMLC Members**

Attendance was raised and whilst disappointing, it is understood that there are competing priorities and commitments on attendees' time. The Port also engages with leisure users directly and this is working positively.

**5. Date of Next Meeting**

The date of the next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> May. It was noted that this date has been proposed by the attendees at their request to avoid the weeks of the main summer season.

Signed .....  
Chair (Acting)

Signed.....  
Secretary