

GREAT YARMOUTH PORT COMPANY LIMITED

Community & Marine Liaison Committee

Minutes of meeting held on Monday 3rd February 2014
Conference Room, EastPort UK House

Acting Chair: Jamie Frater, Great Yarmouth Port Company

Present: Richard Card, Norfolk & Suffolk Boating Association (NSBA)
Mike Gouldby, Great Yarmouth Port Users Association (GYPUA)
Adrian Vernon, Broads Authority (BA)
Tony Wright, Gardline
David Broad, Cruising Association (CA)
Jamie Frater CEO, Great Yarmouth Port Company (GYPC)
Pat McNamara Harbour Master, Great Yarmouth Port Company

Apologies: Eliza O'Toole, Great Yarmouth Port Company
David Beckett, GYPUA
Glenn Hurren, ASCO
Colleen Walker, NCC

Secretary to the
Committee: Jill Hardy, Great Yarmouth Port Company

The meeting commenced at 1800 hours with the Acting Chair passing on the Chair's apologies and welcoming returning attendees.

The Acting Chair confirmed to the Members he had resigned as CEO of GYPC and would be leaving at the end of February. GYPUA wished it recorded that there had been a tremendous improvement in the port since the CEO had joined. The NSBA and CA on behalf of amateur boaters wished the CEO every success and thanked him for his hard work. Gardline agreed there had been a significant improvement in relationships and wanted it on record that this had been a Team effort led by the CEO.

1. Minutes & Matters Arising from Previous Meeting

The NSBA asked if the RYA had put forward a new representative following the tragic loss of Mr Martin Broom. The Acting Chair advised no contact had been made. The NSBA will forward details of the new representative to the Secretary.

The CA asked if there was any merit in bringing forward the May meeting in view of the Acting Chair's imminent departure. Agreed the date will remain unchanged with the Acting Chair arranging for GYPC's new General Manager to meet with Members prior to the May meeting.

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed and signed by the Acting Chair and Secretary.

ACTION: NSBA to provide RYA contact details.

Acting Chair to arrange meetings with CAMLC Members to introduce GYPC's General Manager.

2. Update on Port Activities

The Acting Chair provided Members with an overview of 2013 a copy of which is attached and will be posted on the Community page of GYPC's website.

The CA asked the Acting Chair if in view of the UK seeing some growth in the economy he forecast any growth on general cargo. The Acting Chair advised that with timber and fertiliser cargoes being weather dependent, it was difficult to predict. New cargo opportunities are being pursued as are other market opportunities for the Port.

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The Acting Chair also provided attending Members with a graph detailing bridge lift activity during the year noting the August spike was due to leisure craft.

The Acting Chair advised that Breydon Bridge is currently inoperable and pending the Highways Agency's instructions. Initial investigations suggest the bridge will remain out of order for at least 5 weeks pending detailed fault investigation and the Acting Chair will keep members informed via the bridge lift notifications. The NSBA advised these notifications had ceased before Christmas.

The NSBA advised the review meeting had not been scheduled as previously agreed by the Acting Chair and felt it advisable to wait until the new RYA representative is confirmed. The BA confirmed Mutford Lock will be out of operation for circa 8 weeks.

ACTION: Acting Chair to include Breydon Bridge status updates on reinstated bridge lift notifications.

3. Update on Navigational Safety

3.1 Security

The Harbour Master confirmed the inaugural meeting of the Port Security Authority (PSA) took place on the 21st January 2014 with the MTSD Maritime Transport Security Division (formerly TRANSEC) in attendance to oversee the process for establishing the PSA and appointment of its Chairman and PSO.

3.2 Outer Harbour Navigation Marks

The installation of the navigation lights is complete with a tidal flow meter scheduled for installation during the coming weeks.

3.3 Dredging

No dredging has been undertaken since the October CAMLC meeting.

3.4 Tidal Flooding – 5th December 2013

The Harbour Master advised the port had recorded the highest tidal levels in the past 60 years at 4.92m which was 2.24m above prediction. Flood defences around the Port generally held up well under the circumstances although there was some water ingress in the areas of Southgates Road and a failure of a sewage pumping facility on South Quay which resulted in the quay surface lifting in some areas.

Shipping was well prepared and there were no incidents recorded despite an estimated 8 knots flood tide recorded in the river.

Advance warnings worked well including a pre-notification from the COBRA Committee.

The CA asked if there had been any movement in the sandbanks following the high tide. The Harbour Master advised this would not be known until the MCA carry out a survey in April.

3.5 Environment Agency Flood Wall Works

Works have commenced by the EA to re-pile the flood wall level on berth 28 as part of a larger project to re-pile a section of the quay from berth 27 to 30.

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4. Matters raised by CAMLC Members

4.1 NSBA – Bridge Lifts

Discussed and recorded under Item 2.

4.2 CA – River Signage

The CA advised signs had been erected where the port ends and the Broads begin to welcome visitors and wondered if GYPC would consider erecting signs welcoming visitors to the port. The Harbour Master felt this would add no value to the Ports offering as the majority of users were our regular resident users from the Broads.

With no further items on the Agenda, the Acting Chair asked Members present if there was anything further they would like to discuss.

Members present registered their disappointment that attendee numbers had declined and also that GYBC did not attend on a regular basis, particularly as a closer working relationship with GYBC to promote the area was desirable. As CAMLC Members have the opportunity to nominate a representative to attend, it was felt more effort should be made to encourage attendance.

5. Date of Next Meeting

The Acting Chair thanked all for attending and advised the date of the next meeting as Tuesday 6th May 2014 commencing 1800 hours.

Should any member wish to raise any item prior to the next meeting, or advise items for inclusion on the next Agenda, please do so through the Committee Secretary.

The meeting closed at 1916 hours.

Signed

Chair

Signed.....

Secretary