



St Helier Boat Owners Association

Minutes of the 26th Annual General Meeting held at St Helier Yacht Club on 29th November 2016 at 1930 hours.

Present	The Officers, committee members and approximately 70 members.
In Attendance	Representing Ports of Jersey: Myra Shacklady, Commercial Director (MSh), Mike Tait, Leisure Manager (MT) & Phil Buckley, Harbour Master (PB).
Introduction	The Chairman (MS) opened the meeting by welcoming members and PB, MSh & MT who would answer questions directed through the chair during the open forum.
1. Apologies	Apologies had been received from Chris Gladish, Will Simpson, Lawrence Carter, Trevor Beaton, Jane Mourant & David & Janet Ballingall.
2. Minutes	MS said the minutes of the last AGM held on 9 th December 2014 had been available on the website and he proposed they be taken as read and they were approved on a proposition by N Bailhache, seconded by P Hatter.
3. Matters Arising	There were no matters arising.
4. Chairman's Report	The Chairman read his report covering the main issues and activities dealt with during the year. His report is attached to & forms a part of these minutes. The Chairman's Report was accepted on a proposition by P Mourant, seconded by C Fairbairn.
5. Hon Treasurer/ Membership Secretary's Report	Christine Gill read her report, which is attached to & forms a part of these minutes. MS called for any questions for the Treasurer & P Hatter asked why the extra donation had been given to CIAS. CG said this had been agreed by the Committee as they needed funding for a new plane. MS proposed a vote of thanks to CG and the accounts were approved on a proposition by P Hatter, seconded by N Bailhache.
6. Election of Officers	MS said it was his great pleasure to propose Will Simpson as Chairman, seconded by PDD. He added that he had first discussed the position with Vice Chairman, NW, who felt unable to consider it at present due to work commitments. He thanked the committee for their support & then read the further nominations received as follows: Vice Chairman – N Wood Hon. Secretary – P Donne Davis Hon. Treasurer – C Gill, who had originally agreed to take the position for 3 years, but was now prepared to extend for one more. He called for a volunteer to come forward ahead of the next AGM, to enable a smooth hand over. Committee Members: P Carter M Clarke K Hennelly

	<p>P Rose V Walker</p> <p>There being no further nominations, MS declared that the above-mentioned were duly elected.</p> <p>PDD then read a message newly elected Chairman, Will Simpson, sent from his holiday in Madagascar, which inter alia proposed that MS continue to chair the meeting. His message is attached to & forms a part of these minutes.</p> <p>NW then proposed a vote of thanks to MS, a founder member, for his sterling work for 14 years as Treasurer & 12 as Chairman. He commended him for his commitment & hard work behind the scenes including working on the Marine Development Group. On behalf of the committee & members he then presented MS with a tankard & Association pennant & wished him a happy retirement.</p> <p>MS thanked everyone, saying he was touched & very grateful & hoped to be able to use the tankard in a restored La Folie Inn at some time in the future.</p>
7. Election of Independent Examiner.	<p>MS thanked Tim Scott Warren, who had examined the accounts for a number of years. He proposed his re-election & it was seconded by P Donne Davis and carried unanimously.</p>
8. Subscriptions	<p>MS asked CG to speak on the subject. CG said her proposed increase in subscriptions 3 years ago had been defeated, but the views of the new chairman & committee had changed. She said that despite the increased use of emails, postage cost were likely to increase as would other expenses, such as the AGM buffet & she was sure that members would wish to maintain the donations made to RNLI & CIAS. With a looming prospect of increasing deficits, it would be imprudent not to act now bearing in mind that increases would only take effect a year in advance.</p> <p>She therefore proposed that subscriptions be increased from 1st December 2017 to £10 single & £16 joint, which would be in line with the Gorey & St Aubin associations. She also felt that banks would pay more attention to handling S/O's in these higher amounts, easing the Treasurer's workload & she said that she would manage the changes to S/O's ahead of a new treasurer being elected. The proposition was seconded by N Bailhache, who suggested that the change could be facilitated via email.</p> <p>MS called for discussion from the floor. CG responded to a question about the proportion of direct debits, saying this method of payment was not feasible for small numbers such as ours, but some two thirds paid by S/O, the rest mainly by cash or cheque, with a few using direct internet payment. She said a suggestion that postage costs be added to subscriptions would be too complicated. MS added that some had to be chased by post as much as 4 times, costing almost half their subscription. Asked if a change of email address could be notified via the website, PDD said there was a form on the 'Contact Us' page' which would be sent to him & he would forward to the Treasurer to update the database.</p> <p>MS then called for a vote & the proposition that subscriptions be increased to £10 single & £16 joint from December 2017 was carried overwhelmingly, with 2 votes against.</p>
9. Donations	<p>MS said that the committee recommended that the donations to the RNLI Jersey Branch and CI Air Search be maintained at £500 each.</p> <p>A Manning proposed that the Committee's recommendation be accepted. This was seconded by Tony Butcher and carried.</p>

10. Changes to Constitution and Rules	MS reported that no propositions had been received.
11. Open Meeting	<p>MS invited MSh, PB & MT to come forward, adding that they had kindly accepted invitations from the Committee. He asked for questions from the floor & the following matters were raised (responses shown in italics):</p> <p>Are pot markers in the Small Roads policed? A recent incident caused £15k damage & there was risk of serious accident. <i>PB: The area is policed as part of routine passages by Ports' vessels, but he accepts that they cannot catch all offenders.</i></p> <p>P Mourant commended the staff for their help, particularly in checking moorings during the recent storms. <i>MSh: The praise is much appreciated & will be passed on.</i></p> <p>The 2nd pontoon on New North Quay is cluttered with debris – can it be cleared? <i>MT: Yes, he will arrange to have it removed.</i></p> <p>MS referred to the recent notice about repairs to the St Helier Marina storm gate. <i>MT: Reference to 'storm gate' was an error on their part. Commencing 5^h December for 3 weeks, comprehensive works would be carried out on the marina gates & mechanism, limiting access to one hour either side of high water. If this restriction caused anyone difficulty they should contact the office. He added that the Elizabeth Marina gate hydraulics are due to be updated next Spring. The tide speed meters, currently out of sync, would also be repaired.</i></p> <p>What is the situation with Port Galots? <i>MSh: Currently working on plans for a 2 storey building on stilts to be shared by the rowing club & sea cadets, with the cadets having a room that can be let for marine purposes to provide them with an income. The cadets parade ground would be on the roof. There would be no apartments or commercial restaurant.</i></p> <p>What news on La Folie development? <i>MSh: Ports are in discussion with interested parties prior to producing plans, which would then be open for consultation.</i> MS quoted from a member's letter suggesting that the land should be sold, rather than developed by PoJ. <i>MSh: PoJ have no intention of selling any land, in any case the land around the harbours is on a long lease, so cannot be sold, but could be developed under a joint venture.</i></p> <p>How will the intended joining the Passeport Escale scheme work? <i>MT: a card will be available from the office for €20, providing 2 free consecutive nights in member marinas, including the majority of ports in Brittany, subject to a total of 10 nights p.a. In response to a claim that Granville offered 5 nights to every Brittany port & 10 to UK ports he said he had discussed the scheme with two French marina managers, who had indicated that his proposal was generous. Full details would be available next Spring.</i></p> <p>N Bailhache pointed out that the card equated to just €2 per night & MS added that it seemed a welcome start.</p> <p>What is being done to clear rubbish from the La Colette area? <i>PB: Much is down to the Fishermen's Association, which is being pressed for action. MSh added that cleaning PoJ areas had been changed from the Infrastructure Dept to the Parish & private contractors.</i></p> <p>In view of recent thefts, are the CCTV cameras in Elizabeth operating? <i>MT: Yes, but were not trained on all the relevant areas. He had been impressed by the police interest</i></p>

	<p><i>in what seemed to be targeted thefts & they were still reviewing CCTV footage.</i></p> <p>The bins area in St Helier Marina is untidy, can it be cleaned up? <i>MT: Noted & will be attended to.</i></p> <p>MS said there was a proposal to remove the recycling bins from South Pier. The committee's view was that the oil bin could go, as it was misused by some garages & was a pollution risk and it was unfortunate that it was advertised as a public recycling location, but the facility was needed by owners in the old harbours. He added that the Yacht Club was taking a different view. <i>MSh: There is a need to stop fly-tippers & the facility is little used by boaters. MT asked for a show of hands in favour of removing the oil facility, which showed a large majority.</i></p> <p>Now that Barraques users were paying rates, will the Parish empty a dustbin left outside? <i>MSh: PoJ are now rate payers and are discussing with relevant Parishes what services are available.</i></p> <p>Can the recycling facility at Elizabeth marina be extended, as currently only bins for glass & general rubbish are available? <i>MT: Is looking into this overall as more than one contractor is involved & the Parish currently charges for removing the glass.</i></p> <p>MS said he would normally be in a position to advise next year's fee increases, but PoJ was proposing to move the date of increase to 1st April & base it on the September RPI rise of 2% instead of June. <i>MSh: The proposals had been submitted to their regulator, CICRA & she will advise us as soon as the outcome is agreed.</i></p> <p>There being no further questions, MS thanked PB, MSh & MT for their time & a useful Q&A session.</p>
Termination	<p>MS thanked the Commodore for the use the Club, Matthew for the buffet & everyone for attending.</p> <p>The meeting closed at 2055.</p>

Addenda:

Chairman's Report 2016

As I sat down to write this report I questioned myself where the last 26 years have gone. That's how long I have been involved with your association. 14 years as Treasurer and membership secretary and the last 12 years as your Chairman. However you may be pleased that this will be my last report. It is with some pride but also with some sadness that I write it.

As a founder member I am pleased in what the association has achieved over the years. Most noticeably was our stand against the ill thought out idea of flooding the old harbour to turn it into a marina, and voicing objection the luxury flats on the Port Gallo site. Both of which were dropped after public objection.

But where are we today? Ports of Jersey are about to unveil their Master Plan which I understand is based on a three phases, which I am certain, will raise some concerns. Your committee will need to do there home work and will need to be fully involved in the consultation process as each phase comes into play. I am not currently any more in the picture than you but I wait with interest, as I am certain you will.

Mooring Fees 2017.

Normally following consultation I am in a position to inform you what the next years fees will be. Previously the current years June RPI has been used for the increase to commence on January the 1st. However Ports of Jersey are looking at changing it to an April 1st increase using the September RPI. This would amount to a 2% increase across the board but this has to be approved by the regulator. At this time Ports have no knowledge as to what the outcome will be.

Ongoing Issues

Fendering South Pier Blocks This is being addressed by Ports

Rubbish bins and fly tipping South Pier, this matter is under discussion and consideration.

General untidiness and rubbish around all the harbour areas.

Car Park Barrier La Collette . This is a major issue but work in progress.

I have stated at least the last two AGMs it time for me to step down. I am pleased to say I have proposed someone to take the helm that I believe will serve the association well.

Finally I can't close without thanking all the staff at the Ports Of Jersey that I have worked with over the years for their cooperation. I strongly believe that success comes by consultation and I have no doubt that your new Chairman will continue to work in a similar manner.

Lastly you have a very hard working committee and I have had the pleasure to work them and I can't thank them enough for all their support given to me.

Mike Stevens Honorary Chairman

Message from new Chairman, Will Simpson

First, my apologies for not being present at this AGM, but unfortunately we had booked a vacation off the island long before the date of this meeting was set.

Second, I know that I will not be alone in wanting to publicly thank Mike Stevens for the excellent job that he has done for so many years as Chairman of this association. No one should underestimate the degree of commitment and sheer hard work that he has put into the role, but he has always used his sense of humour to bring a little levity into the often quite serious & difficult issues that he and the association have had to confront on behalf of you, the boat owners in St Helier Harbour. We all owe him a debt. Furthermore, his truly detailed insight into the workings of the harbour and the various organisations, interests and personalities that make it tick, has always impressed me. On a personal note, I have always found him to be good fun to work with, and our committee meetings, which could easily have been dull affairs, have always in fact combined serious business with an agreeably light touch. The committee and the association will be poorer without him. Thank you, Mike.

I am very flattered to find myself as Mike's successor, and not a little concerned that I somehow will have to learn how to fill his shoes. I will certainly give it my best shot, and I start with the benefit of a really excellent committee to keep me on the straight and narrow. In the meantime, I am making a slightly ignominious start by not being with you tonight. At this stage I should of course be taking over the Chair, but my first act is to ask Mike to continue for the rest of the meeting in the role that he thought he had finally retired from! At least I know he will do it well!

Will Simpson

Treasurer's Report 2016

Accounts

- At the end of the 2015 season we had 472 members which had reduced to 462 by April of this year, mainly due to people selling their boats. Since then, there have been gains and losses in equal measure so that, as of today, we still have 462 members. That number will no doubt fall during the next couple of months as there are 43 memberships (i.e. single and joint) that have not yet been paid for 2017 and no doubt some of those will resign in due course.

The result of all this was a drop in subscription income for 2016 from £2,204 to £2,074.

- However, the expenditure has also fallen, due to the increased use of emails, which has meant that postal costs have halved, from £564 to £237. With other minor difference, this has meant that expenditure for 2016 was £1,030 against £1,321 in 2015.

The donations to RNLI and CIAS remained the same at £500 each, although we gave CIAS an additional £70 which were subs that we received from members who resigned but failed to cancel their standing orders.

The result is a very small surplus of £12 against a deficit last year of £167. The Prepayment of £10.86 shown in Current Assets was for the website for the months of October and November.

There are no creditors and the Accumulated Fund is therefore £7,046 compared to £7,034 last year.

Membership

Apart from general resignations I should just like to mention the loss of Don Filleul, Keith Livesey, and Bill Sugden - all founder members who passed away during the year and to whose families we have sent our condolences.

The Committee would still like to see more members completing the Membership Details Form. I continue to send them out with other mail to those who have not yet sent them back. We still have 123 households who have not sent them back, and since that figure was 134 this time last year, it is not very encouraging.

Christine Gill