



St Helier Boat Owners Association

Minutes of a

Committee

Meeting held at St Helier Yacht Club
on the 12th November 2020 at 17.30 hours

Present:	<p>W Simpson (WS) N Wood (NW) M Peters (MP) C Gill (CG) George Gaudin (GG) K Hennelly (KH) P Rose (PR) V Walker (VW)</p>	Action
1. Apologies	M Clarke	
2. to 6. on the Agenda	<p>The Chairman proposed that items 2 to 6 on the Agenda be dropped for this meeting, in order to spend the time discussing reforms to the Constitution, including membership, subscriptions, and the forthcoming AGM. Members agreed. WS had already circulated some thoughts to Committee members and these were discussed.</p>	
7. AGM.	<p><u>Quorum.</u> The question was asked as to whether we had a quorum (25) for the AGM. CG advised that, including all the Committee, the current list of those who had indicated their wish to attend was 30. PR asked that the Hon Sec email all those who had booked, to confirm they have a place and to ask them to notify her in the event of them deciding <i>not</i> to attend.</p> <p><u>Harbour Master.</u> The meeting agreed to invite the Harbour Master, Bill Sadler, and the Marina Office Manager, Simon Porritt, as it was the only opportunity members get to address their concerns directly. In which case numbers would be 32, as things currently stood, and the maximum allowed by Covid restrictions is 40.</p> <p><u>Accounts.</u> The Chairman suggested that the format for the Accounts could be simplified, since Penny Hatter was now providing the audit, and she is not a chartered accountant.</p> <p><u>Refreshments.</u> It was agreed to “wait and see” what restrictions might be in place by the time of the AGM, before deciding exactly what should be provided. It was noted that one is not allowed to gather around the bar in the Yacht Club.</p>	<p>CG</p> <p>WS</p> <p>WS</p> <p>WS/CG</p>

<p>8. Constitution</p>	<p><u>Membership and Subscriptions.</u> There was some discussion as to whether current Rules 3. and 4. needed updating to allow for non-boat owners to be eligible to join. However, it was agreed that this would go against the concept of a Boat OWNERS association and that present rules should still apply. However it was noted that, although we have full members and associate members (who strictly do not have a vote), the difference between these people is not recorded in the membership records, nor at the time of voting at an AGM, so we do not actually know who is an Associate Member! WS questioned whether it would not be simpler just to have one category of Membership. It was agreed to leave the status quo in place for the time being.</p> <p><u>Committee Makeup.</u> The Chairman proposed that the Constitution be amended to allow a Committee of 12 members in total, i.e. 4 officers and 8 members. He noted that all current members were happy to be re-elected but he did not wish to lose the possibility of other interested members standing for election if they wished to put their names forward. The meeting agreed to invite two potential new members to join the Committee, subject to the increase being approved at the AGM.</p> <p>WS also suggested that rule 5(g) be amended so that nominations should be received not less than 14 days prior to the date of the AGM, as opposed to the current 7 days; he felt this was more in keeping with current practise.</p> <p><i>It was agreed to submit this proposal for approval (or not) at the AGM.</i></p> <p><u>Voting.</u> WS wondered if voting by email or by proxy should be included in the Rules, as there is nothing at present to allow either, and the Covid restrictions have illustrated that it could be useful in future.</p> <p><i>It was agreed to submit this proposal for approval (or not) at the AGM.</i></p> <p><u>Subscriptions.</u> The Treasurer advised that currently there are members who either have not paid at all, or who are still paying the old subscription. Even though it was increased from £5 to £8 three years ago they have not changed their Standing Orders. The Chairman questioned whether there is a continued need, or otherwise, to ask members to pay a subscription, considering that the Association does not actually need to retain a significant bank balance. On balance the meeting felt that it was necessary to continue with subscriptions but it was agreed that it should be reviewed over the course of the next year.</p> <p>Expenses generally are fairly straightforward, identifiable, administrative costs, along with the donations that are made to RNLI, CIAS and now, possibly, the JLA. There was discussion as to how an alternative system of funding might be employed, which also led on to discussion of using some up-to-date membership software for small clubs and associations.</p> <p>There was no final conclusion on this topic. The Chairman would raise it at the AGM.</p>	<p>WS</p>
------------------------	--	-----------

9. AOB.	<p><u>Maintenance & provision of ladders.</u> KH reported that the ladder on South Pier had been reinstated – today! Simon Porritt had indicated that he was grateful for the Association’s input as to how much it was valued by users of that portion of the harbour.</p> <p><u>Raising the Profile of the Association.</u> GG suggested that we hold a “Nautical Car Boot Sale”, which could be promotional at the same time as being useful to members who had equipment they wanted to dispose of, possibly in April. It was agreed that this would be a good way of advertising and hopefully attracting some new and younger members. WS would approach the Yacht Club to ensure that they were aware and that any potential conflicts could be identified & resolved.</p> <p><u>New Membership Form.</u> NW pointed out that the current method of applying for membership is very old-fashioned, one must print off the form from the website and complete it manually; it should be possible to complete and send on-line. PC asked CG to forward to him details of the website system, 1&1 IONOS and he would look into it.</p>	WS CG/PC
10. Date of Next Meeting	The meeting closed at 1830 hours. The committee would next meet immediately before the AGM on 24 th November to process the proposing & seconding documentation ahead of the elections of committee members & officers at that meeting.	