

ORWELL YACHT CLUB MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY 13th JANUARY 2025 at 7.30 PM
OYC CLUBHOUSE

Those present: John Hazelton (JHn): Jim Howard (JGH): Samantha Mills (SM): Julia Norman (JN): Fred Codling (RC): Phil Naylor (PNr): Jenny Naylor (JNr): Paul Belton (PB): John Ling (JL): Peter Hibberd (PH): Andrew Witherley (AW): Mike Fry (MF): Jill Howard (JHd): Terry Mills (TM) Peter Parker (PP)

Trustees: Robert Jones (RJ): Steve Gilson (SG)

1. Apologies for absence

Mark Wilson (MW)

2 Approval of minutes – Management Committee Meeting held Monday 9th December 2024

All agreed and signed off

3. Matters arising:

Electrical report/work party

The cable has now been laid up through to the workshop. MF's first work party was very successful with the fence being cleared and the cable was put in. PNr and JNr provided much welcomed bacon and burger rolls, tea and coffee.

JGH has been in contact with Mark Woods, the electrician, who will come down to advise on laying the cable around the Causeway but we need to work on what boxes we will install on there and costings. There will need to be another work party organised to remove vegetation etc.

We received a bill for helping with the work party from one of our members for £1,000 which included £400 for two days labour plus the hire of the digger. As this was a voluntary work party, JGH was surprised at being charged for his labour especially as work parties are always done voluntarily but also stated that there was a MC rule on how much any Committee member can spend on projects/expenses for the Club without authorisation from the Committee. JN confirmed this and said the limit that could be spent without needing authorisation from the Committee was up to £100 maximum. Any higher amounts had to be presented to Committee for their approval first. The idea of a volunteer work party was to keep costs down.

OYC Limited Company

Another meeting will be held on Wednesday whereby the subcommittee hope to get all the Articles and Byelaws agreed. This will then be sent to the MC for approval/thoughts. If agreed, we will hold a consultation meeting before then going for an SGM.

Gig Rowing – update from sub committee meeting
possible visit from Felixstowe Ferry Gig rowers in May

PH has done a lot of work on the Sports England grant and we were waiting to hear

back whether it had been successful. Committee were updated from the previous subcommittee meeting about the progress of the last meeting and the work involved in trying to get funding. In essence, it came down to the fact that we need to buy a gig first before we could advertise further. We could then advertise a taster session to entice the public to try gig rowing with the outlook of them joining the OYC. There are still various routes to go down but we can offer nothing until we actually get a boat.

JGH asked Committee if Felixstowe Ferry rowers could row up here, park one gig for one night and park the other one here for five days. There were no objections to this.

Peter Evans

We will need to arrange a SGM if PE wishes to pursue his appeal further.

TPO tree pruning (CC)

JHd received an email from a concerned member regarding the significant amount of suckers that are producing sharp thorns on the Acacia tree at the front of the Clubhouse and becoming a hazard not only creating serious injuries but preventing a couple of the tender racks spaces unusable.

As this tree has a TPO attached to it, we will need to seek permission from the local Authority to remove these suckers.

PH agreed to write to them.

4. Management Action Plan – none from previous meeting.

5. Reports:

5.1 Treasurer

The accounts have been sent round with nothing unusual to report. JN is looking to open (with Committee's approval) another 32-day deposit account when fees are in at the beginning of February with the Cambridge account as they hold better interest than Lloyds and Bank of Scotland. JHn agreed.

As our electricity contract is up this September, Rik Codling was advised it was better to sort it out sooner than later so we have gone for a 3 years fixed rate.

RC asked if it could be minuted a vote of thanks to Richard Codling for all he does for the Club which involves getting us good utility deals, renewal forms and doing a lot of work in the background. This was agreed.

JN suggested it might be worth looking at modernizing our online payment system on our website as this is something that Woolverstone uses and it works well.

5.2 Membership Secretary

RC has processed 127 renewals so far so well over half way. He has experienced a few problems asking for vessel insurance from members. A short discussion ensued regarding whether this included dinghies, sailing dinghies and if they haven't got insurance for dinghies, do they still receive membership. RC mentioned he felt that there needs to be a lot more thought put into this.

We interviewed two members last year who said they wanted to join in 2025. RC has re-sent them renewal invitations, one has declined, he has yet to hear from the other one.

RC mentioned that one member must launch this coming spring, but he has put down for summer layup. Another problematic situation we have is a member who lives abroad but still hasn't sold his boat so obviously is not caring for it. JGH asked if both boats fall under the abandoned boat policy. It was mentioned that if both boats are not launched by May, then they will be charged the Causeway lay up of £50, increasing to £100 the second month.

Another discussion took place regarding a member with his request that he shouldn't pay for a dinghy space as he has an inflatable dinghy. There followed a lot of pros and cons regarding this with JN and JHn saying let it go. A member, three months ago, was informed that her cradle had been sitting abandoned in the car park. To date it is still there. Committee advised to send her a removal date as she will be incurring monthly abandonment fees.

5.3 Bank Master

Nothing to report.

5.4 Social Secretary

Thanks to Emma for organising hobby night on 19th December.

Thanks also to Richard Harris for the sewing sessions – last Thursday attended by 4 Members.

Hypochondriacs live music night on Saturday 14th December –

Chili con-carne served at £5 per head with takings of £125 and costs of £50 50. A lot of work preparing food and unsure if this attracted more members to attend.

New Years Eve Party

Thanks to Terry Mills for DJ'ing with visual clips which must have taken a lot of preparation. Around 25-30 attended for an enjoyable evening. £70.20p. spent on party food.

Work Party Saturday 4th January

Burgers from stock (£15 worth) and bacon rolls provided.

Cost of additional £31.17p including bar tab.

Worthwhile to reward work party participants with hot food and refreshment for their labours.

Upcoming events

Sewing nights on Thursdays

Saturday 15th March – Quiz night hosted by Quiz Mistress Katrina Howard.

A ploughman's supper will be provided and members asked to book to plan catering requirements

Saturday 12th April - Fitting Out Supper with Fish & Chips

Summer barbecues – potential dates in June: Saturday 7th / Sunday 8th or Saturday 14th June then after 14th September unless a volunteer to organise the barbecue is available. Also consider barbecue on gig hosting day.

Saturday November 22nd – Laying Up Supper with Fish & Chips

Live music sessions - thoughts?

“Painting the Silence” were very well received

“Handle with Care” band have performed in the past and were actually booked but cancelled due to Covid – will perform for £260.

Irish band Caracleibh no longer perform.

Talk by Harwich Haven Authority and a visit to Harwich VTS

I have been in touch with Evelyn Voaden, Assistant Harbour Master who are happy to arrange a visit for a marine safety presentation Evelyn says “It's usually a very friendly chat, with myself, a pilot and (if available) the Harbour Master. We present some safety info, harbour updates and a 'day in the life' of a pilot and then take general Q&A. We normally do a weekday evening (except Tuesday) but can do the odd weekend if needed. If you can provide a few date options - I will check availability of pilots etc.

I can also arrange a VTS visit for small groups (6 or 7) at a time, 2 visits in one evening might be ok. Can you provide a couple of date options, confirm numbers and we will see if that fits in here. If possible, a weekday afternoon would work best (as we have more people available)“.

Any other suggestions for events?

Trinity House?

Horse racing?

Bingo?

Cruising Association talks?

SM said she would be happy to be the bingo caller, with a few of the Committee stating that they thought bingo would be a good event to hold.

5.5 House Secretary

JL had no issues, the leak in the cellar via the heating system has now been resolved.

Rudi's mince pie run on the 5th got cancelled but 20 people turned up and Rudi still paid £60.

Chris Codling has said the Club could have his dishwasher for a spare at £50.

5.6 Mooring Master

Main Pontoon

Hangers are good, not rotten, just need to put two more runners down each side and put new decking on.

The chains are here, ready for the Felixstowe man to do the moorings. However, we do have issues with our self-owned moorings as PP is not going to be able to service them as he has done in the past, so if we do them, they will be charged. It was decided to

send these members a letter explaining the situation and informing them that part of the conditions of having their own moorings are that they have to be maintained by a competent person and if they are done by Andy, from Felixstowe, they will have to pay.

5.7 Sailing Secretary

On 29th December 22 sailors took part in the Frostbite race, despite the light airs all boats managed to complete the course. The size of the fleet meant that we sent both safety boats out on the water. I'd like to thank the volunteer safety boat helms and crews, OOD team and catering team with some individuals undertaking more than one role on the day. All competitors and volunteers retired to the clubhouse after the race and the addition of a number of non-sailors meant that 42 sat down to a hot two course meal where prizes were awarded and everyone was able to enjoy the afternoon socialising. £75 was raised for the RNLI.

The Sailing Committee met last week to start planning the programme for the coming season and came up with a number of ideas to tackle the challenge of finding volunteers to run the events. I've scheduled another meeting for the end of the month to shape up the programme.

5.8 Maintenance

JGH explained that we need somebody to be in charge of the maintenance side of the Club and really need a point of contact. JHn said he would do it.

5.9 Correspondence

A member of our Club sent in a request to be allowed to organise a trip from the Ipswich and Woodbridge Canoe Club to the OYC in the Spring with other kayakers. This was agreed.

One member wrote in regarding the success of the Frostbite race on 29th December. He commented that the downside to this was we have no pressure washer to clean off the birds mess and asked Committee if they could sort it out.

Committee discussed this as we cannot extend the hose down to the bottom of the hard to alleviate this problem. It was decided to look at getting a portable pressure washer, JGH proposed, JHn seconded, all were in favour of this option. RJ to look into this further.

It was asked whether PP would allow a member to store his outboard in PP's workshop for another week until he could get a friend to drive him to the Club. PP agreed.

6. Membership

New members and applicants

Sarah Watson was recommended by JHn and SM to be allowed to join the Club. All agreed.

The next big project to be tackled will be the lockers. MF said he is happy to arrange the work parties/skips but not the actual projects. This was agreed.

7. AOB

PB – re Social Secretary post

PB raised the issue of PNr and JNr volunteering to stand in for Social Secretary as they

are already committed to their elected positions on the committee of six and he wished to propose that we ask the membership for expressions of interest in this role.

However, although the previous applicant was a strong contender, she didn't put her name down til quite close to the AGM and we had no interest from any of the members before or after she put her name forward. As PNr and JNr have previously fulfilled this role and were happy to volunteer to stand in for the position, it was felt it best to leave it as it stood considering we have a couple of more pressing matters to sort out.

Appending – Matters arising still ongoing

- Lockers
- Updating Club's heaters
- Abandoned boats
- Changing combi door into wheelchair friendly access
- Online payment system
- Redevelopment of ladies changing facilities (deferred)
- Repairs to Club Wall (deferred)
- Dredging
- Dolphin (deferred)
- RYA affiliated

Date of next MCM: Monday 10th February 2025

Time finished: 22:07