



VENTNOR MARINA MOORERS ASSOCIATION

VMMA COMMITTEE REPORT for 2016

OFFICERS, COMMITTEE MEMBERS and COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The following Officers and Committee Members were elected on 5 March 2016 at the first Annual General Meeting of the Association.

Article 24 of the Constitution requires the Committee to aim to meet at least every four months. The Committee met 4 times during 2016 - immediately following the AGM on 5 March, 7 May, 8 July and 6 November. The Officers and Committee Members elected on 5 March 2016 are given below, together with the number of Committee meetings they attended.

Officers

Ken Barnes – Chairman (4)
Mo Kennedy - Treasurer (4)
Gillian Chapple - Secretary (4)

Committee Members

Michelle Barnes (4)
Peter Barnes (4)
Phil Boswell (3)
Sue Boswell (3)
Chris Brown (3)
Roger Kennedy (4)
Sylvia Jimminson (2)
Jean Seager (3)

It is with deep regret that we have to report the sudden death of Committee Member Jean Seager (nb Tranquility) on Sunday 19 February 2017; Jean was a great supporter of the Association and, together with Chris, produced the tasty soups and mulled wine that were a feature of our Soup and Sparklers events. Our sympathies go out to Chris and all Jean's family and friends.

Copies of Committee Meeting Minutes which have been approved are posted in the Members' Area of the VMMA website.

MEMBERSHIP

Of the initial 77 people who joined the Association in 2015, 22 did not renew their membership. Ill-health, boat sold or moving away from the Marina were the reasons given for not renewing, when a reason was given.

During 2016, 53 new Full Members joined and 1 Social Member joined.

At the end of 2016, there were 108 Full Members representing 59 boats and 1 Social Member. At the time of writing, a further 17 Full Members (representing 8 boats) have joined.

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VMMA Committee's Report 2016 – continued

SOCIAL EVENTS

In March 2016 a Wine and Cheese Evening was held with guest speakers from the Warwickshire Astronomical Society giving fascinating overview of the night sky. They also brought along some high capacity telescopes enabling those present to have a more detailed look at the stars, and also the planet Jupiter and its moons.

The Committee organised 2 Moorers' Breakfasts – in May and September – with over 50 people attending the May event and 41 in September. In May, we were fortunate to be joined by two staff from Warwickshire Police who answered questions in relation to Canal Watch and offered helpful advice on boat security.

In July, a small group of moorers went offsite to visit Toft Alpaca Farm. There, they had an interesting tour of the alpaca enclosures, including seeing calves born only that morning, and found out how alpaca wool is used. The afternoon finished with tea and cake in the lovely tea room.

We ran a Soup & Sparklers Evening on 5 November, following the popularity of the 2015 event. 40 people attended and everyone appreciated the two delicious soups, bread, sausages, and warming mulled wine and hot chocolate. Those who ventured out into the cold enjoyed trying to write their name with a sparkler, and two groups successfully managed to spell VMMA and Ventnor.

In addition, the Committee helped the Marina with the annual Marina barbecue in September.

During the year the Committee purchased gazebos, tables and a portable barbecue for use at social events – it was felt appropriate for the Association to have its own equipment, rather than borrow equipment from individuals.

DIALOGUE WITH VENTNOR MARINA

One of the primary Objectives of VMMA is to independently represent the interests of Members as berth holders at Ventnor Marina. A number of topics were raised with the Marina on the Members' behalf during 2016 including the state of the approach road to the Marina and concern regarding drinking water and Legionnaire's Disease. Details of topics raised, and the Marina's responses, can be found in the Members' Area of the VMMA website.

Following on from the concerns raised following last year's AGM regarding the increase in mooring fees and the changes to mooring terms and conditions, discussions were held with the local management who shared some of the concerns of members regarding the changes to mooring conditions. There appeared to be a perception amongst moorers that different sets of terms and conditions applied to different moorers, depending upon what they had negotiated with marina management at various times, and also that the original terms and conditions in place when Paul Flude owned the Marina were more protective of the moorers' peace and quiet enjoyment of the Marina but that this had been subsequently been eased by Castle Marinas. However, a comparison of the original terms with the new terms indicated that the new terms were in fact more restrictive and prescriptive. Changes to the mooring terms and conditions through several iterations were reviewed – March 2003, September 2008, March 2011, January 2015 and April 2016. We understand that as far as Castle Marinas are concerned, there are no individual agreements and all moorers are covered by the latest set of mooring terms and conditions posted on the Castle Marinas website as updated from time to time.

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VMMA Committee's Report 2016 – continued

OTHER COMMITTEE ACTIONS

During the year, the Marina asked for assistance with creating a doorway through from the kitchen to the Woodland Lounge and two Committee Members undertook the work.

Towards the end of 2016, the Committee commissioned a logo for the Association with the intention of providing Members with some form of identifying fellow Members and also, potentially, to identify organisations which were prepared to offer Members discounts on services and products.

Some initial discussions have been had with local businesses regarding offering Members discounts, but these are still in their early stages. A private Facebook Group has been set up for Committee Members to facilitate exchanges of information and also to keep track of which businesses are approached to try to ensure efforts are not duplicated.

At the end of 2016, a private Facebook Group for VMMA Members was created with invitations to join being sent out in 2017 as membership fees are paid.

Unfortunately, during 2016 several members of the Committee experienced health problems either themselves or of immediate family members and, as a result, several projects were not progressed as quickly or as originally intended.

FINANCES

The main source of income during 2016 was Membership Fees (£545. 2015:£385) and a donation from the Marina of £46. Costs of Social Events (£173. 2015: £104) exceeded income (£128. 2015: £87) from them as some events were provided free of charge to Members.

Public Liability Insurance cost £78 (2015:£78) and IT costs were £76 (2015:£57) covering the renewal of the domain name registration, hosting and back-up facilities. Logo design work cost £40 and the equipment purchased through the year a further £391. In 2016, expenditure exceeded income by £39, compared to a £310 excess at the end of 2015.

At the end of 2016, the Association had cash at the bank of £326 (2015:£310) including £55 of pre-paid 2017 subscriptions plus non-monetary assets of 2 gazebos with fixings, a Cadac barbecue with accessories and stocks of consumables for future social events.

COMMUNICATION WITH MEMBERS

The primary method of communicating with Members is by e-mail. In addition, information is posted in either the public areas of the VMMA website or in the Members' area and in future, will be included on the VMMA Members Facebook page. Also, posters are put up around the Marina. A Newsletter was sent via e-mail at the end of the year, as well as being posted on the VMMA website.

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COMMUNICATION WITH MEMBERS – continued

There is post box for VMMA in the Woodland Lounge. Surface mail may be sent to the Committee using the Marina address. Members should be aware that any communications sent by post or left at the Marina will only be seen by the Committee once a Committee Member has been to the Marina to collect the post. Members are encouraged to use e-mail where possible to communicate with the Committee.

for & on behalf of the VMMA MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

GILLIAN A CHAPPLE

Secretary

3 March 2017