

BRIGHTLINGSEA HARBOUR COMMISSIONERS

COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 02 Jul 2025

AT THE WRECK HOUSE COMMENCING AT 1830hrs

Present:

Andrew Scott – Chairman

Owen Evans - DHM

Rob Dorey - RD

Daniel Stoker – DS

Ali Johns – AJ

Karl Lumbers – KL

ITEM	NOTES	ACTION
5469	<p>Apologies James Thomas – HM/CE Patric Foley-Brickley - PB Colin Watkins – CW Tony Curzon Price - TP</p>	
5470	<p>Minutes of Meetings held on 5 May 2025 were approved. Proposed, DS Seconded, KL</p>	
5471	<p>Matters Arising from those minutes Nil</p>	
5472	<p>Harbour Master Report Shipping May 4 x Ships: 3 x Cement 1 x Scrap Jun 3 x Ships; 2 x Cement, 1 x Scrap.</p> <p>Marketing Brightlingsea Harbour 4,801 followers (40 since May), Foot Ferry 6,526 Followers (469 since May). Harbour App 2500 + cannot exceed the amount. TikTok 214 Harbour Entry video 3405 views up 155 since May. Foot Ferry Video 9398 up 300 since May. Harbour Instagram 1446. Foot Ferry Instagram 1070. LinkedIn 133.</p> <p>PMSC Accidents and Incidents <i>Resident boat collided with a berthed resident boat, insurance details exchanged.</i> <i>Visitor fell on Jetty during the Blessing of the Waters, OK now.</i></p> <p>PMSC online which is hosted on Microsoft Teams PMSC Duty Holder Awareness Friday 24 October 2025 10:30 - 12:30 PMSC Duty Holder Awareness Monday 8 December 2025 10:30 - 12:30</p> <p>Commissioners reminded of the Safety Management System annual awareness signing required CCTV new installations</p>	

	<p>Fire UCSC update Light No13 light replaced Speed sign up at Priors wharf installed at paid request of Colchester City Council.</p> <p>Maintenance Electric Boat. Resolving some electrical control issues Pump Out. Only used a couple of time each year., which is insufficient for the installed equipment to work reliably. Repair cost over £1,500. DHM proposes to fit a lower cost manual pump out facility New marina entrance lights installed Yard security improved Office outside painting contract placed</p> <p>Operations Windy weather in June resulted in several weather cancellations for tours and ferry operations. Charters and tours now underway for the season Schools' week seems to have gone well Blessing of waters took place in June. Chair, HM and staff assisted. Various staff members attended the Seawork show in Southampton. DHM reported it was a useful update. He had identified some ideas that may help at Brightlingsea.</p> <p>Budget Increase Sponsoring Pyefleet week £1000. Approved 2025/6 Budget has £1500 for Donations. HM had requested that Commissioners increase that budget to £2,000 . – Request approved by Commissioners present.</p> <p>Purelake / Management Group DHM provided an update on noise from a boat in the marina resulting in complaints form neighbours. New CCTV cameras installed, overlooking the marina and also the showers & toilets.</p>	
5473	<p>May Strategy Day Follow Up.</p> <p>PMSC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New code and guides now issued • No significant concerns. DHM and HM expect BHC will be able to comply. • Need to draw the attention of other harbour business and organisations to the code, alerting that they may have responsibilities. BHC will not advise those organisations on compliance. HM to write to those business and organisations <p>Finances</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HM working on charging plan, for the town jetty. Will consult with stakeholders. • Harbour dues discussed • Discussions were had around pontoons and marina occupancy rates, noting that both had a healthy occupancy with waiting lists. • A discussion was had around if there was a need to advertise berth availability for the vacant part drying moorings on the harbour. HM to consider <p>Bathymetry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spit has moved 15m in last 7 years; curving east 	<p>HM</p> <p>HM</p>

- Neck of the spit is eroding
- Creek entrance has depths of 0.6 m. compared to 1m target.
- Oyster beds appear stable
- It would be helpful if the annual drone survey was undertaken at, roughly, the same height of tide each year. This would aid Commissioner understanding of any changes. Action HM
- It would also be useful if a drone survey could take place around low water, again the aid Commissioner understanding, Action HM

HM
HM

Local Government Reorganisation

- Commissioners need to keep watching the brief and maintain contact with our CCC and Tendring contacts.

Strategic issues that Commissioners believe need to be considered.

- Increased severe weather - though we currently seem to be seeing fewer storms during the season
- Increased flood risk, possibly combined with impact of weather induced tidal surge
- Movement of the spit
- Silting across the harbour; ensuring our dredging approach remains appropriate
- Change on boating user profile, activity and types over next 10 years.
- Managing end of life vessels
- Fall off in demand for drying / part tide berths and increased demand for pontoon / marina berths.
- Consideration on types and number of moorings offered.
- **BTC** waterfront development: **BHC** involvement
- The future of commercial entities in the harbour.
- Future charging facilities for electric boats
- Gunfleet sands windfarm; evolving support requirements.
- Review of ATON placement.
- **Colchester City Council** strategy for, and management of, the Hythe and River Colne

Other items

10 years of BHC: Formed 1927

Key strategic issue for BHC focus

1. Study to understand the feasibility (and costs) of increasing pontoon berths, making use of lower demand drying / part tide berths
2. Continue work on understanding movement of the spit and how to may impact the harbour.
3. Continue with dredging. Consider if a different approach is needed to meet our depth aspirations.
4. Small team to review harbour entry and exit pilotage and navigation aid needs for both large and leisure vessel, given the movement of the spit and leisure user issues and provide recommendations.
5. Engage with **BTC** on their waterfront development plans and decide how **BHC** might be involved in both their creation and future delivery.
6. Continue to monitor changes in boating user profile and their requirements and consider how **BHC** may need to adapt.
7. Support **HM** in his approach to managing end of life vessels
8. Continue current level of support for **CCC** in their Hythe and River Colne activities. Encourage **CCC** to develop a strategy for these

	areas, then see if BHC can play a part in helping deliver that strategy.	
5474	<p>Pilotage update</p> <p>DHM gave an update on the current pilotage situation and progress with Harwich Harbour Authority Contract.</p>	
5475	<p>Dredging Plan Update</p> <p>DHM gave an update on proposed dredging plans for winter 2025/26, with a plan to open it to tender in the coming weeks. Any contractor would have to be fully compliance with the Port Marine Facilities Safety Code to be considered.</p>	
5477	<p>Matters Raised by Members</p> <p>DS stated that a stakeholder had commented on the amount of mud built up on the lower posts on the hard. DHM said he would look into having it cleared.</p> <p>KL would like further clarification from HM on two balance sheets presented on the May Strategy Day. HM / KL to discuss.</p> <p>AS stated, that there will not a Commissioners meeting in August.</p>	<p>DHM</p> <p>HM / KL</p>
Next Meeting	<p>Time 1830hrs, 3rd Sep 2025</p> <p>Venue Wreck House</p>	Next meeting biscuits;
Time Ended	2015 hrs	

Approved
 Andrew Ford
 3rd Sep 2025