

BRIGHTLINGSEA HARBOUR COMMISSIONERS

COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 03 Sep 2025

AT THE WRECK HOUSE COMMENCING AT 1830hrs

Present:

Andrew Scott – Chairman - AS

James Thomas – HM/CE

Patric Foley-Brickley - PB

Colin Watkins – CW

Tony Curzon Price - TP

Rob Dorey - RD

Ali Johns – AJ

Karl Lumbers – KL

ITEM	NOTES	ACTION
5478	Apologies Daniel Stoker – DS	
5479	Minutes of Meetings held on 2 Jul 2025 were approved. Proposed, PB Seconded, CW	
5480	Matters Arising from those minutes Nil	
5481	Financial Report FY 2024-25 The HM gave an appraisal of BHC's financial performance for the current financial year; the harbour is close to the overall budget, with a surplus in line with expectations. The year had been impacted by poor summer weather as had the ferry and charter experiences. A discussion on presentation of the data took place. The HM stated he would, for future reports, emphasise the requirements for reserves and how they will be spent long term.	
5482	HM Report Shipping Jul 3 x Ships: 2 x Cement, 1 x Scrap. Aug 3 x Ships; 2 x Cement, 1 x Scrap. In comparison: 2024 Jul 2 x Ships: 2 x Scrap. Aug 2 x Ships: 2 x Cement. Marketing Brightlingsea Harbour 4,876 followers (75 since Jul). Foot Ferry 6,526 Followers (400 since Jul). Harbour App 2000 + cannot exceed the amount. TikTok 274 Harbour Entry 3405 views up 329 since Jul. Foot Ferry Video 10066 up 668 since Jul. Harbour Instagram 1463. Foot Ferry Instagram 1082. LinkedIn 142.	

Port Marine Safety Code (PMSC)

Accidents and Incidents

- Marine Incident – Nordica Hav report to follow.
- Incident Jet ski recovery – Recovered 3 x persons that fell off Jet Ski whilst off point clear, Ski had capsized.

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

A letter is being prepared regarding PMSC compliance, this will be sent out as per MCA direction to all appropriate stakeholders.

Pilotage Update

Harwich Haven Authority (HHA) are now providing, when required, pilotage services to the Harbour. There are 3 x qualified HHA pilots, with 3 more undertaking training and familiarisation trips. In addition, BHC still has our 2 original pilots.

Maintenance Jun-July


- Colne leader steaming light issue rectified and rewired
- Multiple repairs to HM1 engine gear links, lifting latch
- Colne explorer gearing issue resolved
- Multiple ferry fenders replaced and bow line replacement
- Community reach isolators changed for battery switch
- Shower and toilet drains all cleared out and resealed
- Dredging boat cleared and cleaned all new hoses and fittings installed
- Resolved Colne Cook running issues
- Colne Innovation belt replacement
- At Colchester City Council's request, welded 5 knot signs to Prior's Wharf, close to Wivenhoe
- Replaced old ferry berth signs with new ones and added an extra one. Added more "no mooring" and "no crabbing signs" on hammer head
- All broken pontoon cleats replaced
- Bin store gate issue resolved
- All tide gauges cleaned
- Broken shower heads replaced
- Office toilet door handle replaced

Maintenance July-August

- New LEDs and new chart fitted to office chart light
- Fuel barge fuel filters changed
- Wharf/ biz anchor chain replaced
- Colne Ranger new door latch fitted, and new Stern tube greaser fitted
- Buoy 13 broken light replaced
- St Osyth fore and aft no 13 popped buoy replaced
- Buoy no 9 swapped out and brought in for repairs
- Buoy 9 new mould made for uprights, with uprights made now. Currently in refurb stage
- Office decking repaired after being driven into
- Colne Leader's propellers refurbished, new ones being machined as spares
- All pressure washers built up and serviced
- Wet room door issue resolved

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • East basin marina new soft close ram fitted. This includes a new door stopper and a new latch with cushioning • Office toilet electrical issue rectified + new lighting switch • Office external trunking fitted alongside new tide gauge aerials • Fisherman's lifting plank issue rectified • 4 tyres and bundle of chain lifted out of marina <p>Operations RYA Visit – Sat 26th by Mel Hide (a RYA Director) and Alice Davies (Chair of RYA East) was well received. Weather generally OK throughout the summer. Afternoon tea take up has been successful. Rowhedge Pub run has proved popular. Harbour Tours are also popular. Land and water harbour tour in partnership with museum popular.</p> <p>Colchester City Council CCC Hythe Clearance 5 x boats and some rubbish clearing is required; there seems to be a determined effort by CCC to improve the situation.</p> <p>Haven Road project – Improvements due to new valve and jetting out drains, some will be redirected. Stage two on the Bank repairs are nearing licence approval by the MMO.</p> <p>Grounding 3 Exiting the creek. 1 Entering the creek.</p> <p>Visitors July 2025 - 421 Aug 2025 - 534</p>	
5483	<p>May Strategy Day Follow up.</p> <p>Agreed Commissioners listed would take lead for these items:</p> <p>Understand feasibility and costs of increasing pontoon berths CW</p> <p>Continue to understand Stone Point spit movement KL, TP</p> <p>Continue with BHC approach to dredging, including target depths. HM</p> <p>Review Harbour Entry / Exit pilotage instructions and aids to navigation RD</p> <p>Engage with BTC on their waterfront development plans AS, PB, HM</p> <p>Monitor changes to boating user profile and their requirements using data from associations. Annual update by HM</p> <p>End of life vessels - continue with current strategy. HM</p> <p>Colchester City Council (CCC) – continue current engagement. HM</p> <p>PMSC – Letter to be sent out to appropriate stakeholders HM, AS, RD</p> <p>Increasing severe weather / tides events – to continue to monitor. HM to report annually HM</p> <p>1927 -2027 100 years of BHC. AJ , PB</p>	<p>CW</p> <p>TP, KL</p> <p>HM</p> <p>RD</p> <p>AS, PB, HM</p> <p>HM</p> <p>HM</p> <p>HM</p> <p>HM, AS, RD</p> <p>HM</p> <p>AJ, PB</p>

5484	PWC River Patrol This season there has been a noticeable improvement in behaviour of PWCs. Some powerboats have demonstrated poor compliance as have some foiling vessels. Vessels entering the harbour at Point Clear are being registered, HDs and details taken. This helps improve accountability from those launching from Point Clear. Reduced anonymity of users resulted in better behaviour and safer waters.		
5486	Matters Raised by Members TP questioned whether speed limits might be applied differently. How to balance tolerance and the rules enforcement. Commissioner views were mixed. There was a suggestion that safe lanes might be created. HM thought a discussion on this topic would be appropriate for one of BHC's regular meetings with clubs. HM invited TP to work with him on the future club meetings. RD wished to express his admiration for the staff employed by the harbour during the summer, he cited many examples of staff going above and beyond to meet yachtsman requirements. He had spent many hours listening to his VHF to the ways teams had handled customers. The Chairman also cited an example of the Duty HM on overhearing that a customer was unable to start their engine due to a flat battery, brought one out to get the engine started.		HM, TP
Next Meeting	Time	1830hrs, 1st Oct 2025	Next meeting biscuits; CW
	Venue	Wreck House	
Time Ended	2037hrs		

Approved
 Andrew 
 15th Oct 2025