

BRIGHTLINGSEA HARBOUR COMMISSIONERS

COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 04 Feb 2026

AT THE WRECK HOUSE COMMENCING AT 1830hrs

Present:

Andrew Scott – Chairman
James Thomas – HM/CE
Karl Lumbers – KL
Patric Foley-Brickley - PB
Colin Watkins – CW
Daniel Stoker – DS
Tony Curzon Price - TP

ITEM	NOTES	ACTION
5513	Apologies Rob Dorey – RD Ali Johns – AJ	
5514	Minutes of Meetings held on 3 Dec 2025 were approved. Proposed, TP Secoded, CW	
5515	Matters Arising from those minutes HM listed outstanding actions.	
5516	Budget 26-27 The HM described a Budget performance this year to date and the forecast outturn for the remainder of the year. HM expects that the Harbour will make a small surplus, even allowing for the marina and harbour dredging costs over this winter. TP asked that in future budget presentations could a percentage, as well as absolute, figure be included. The Budget for FY 25/26 was presented to the Commissioners explaining the income and expenditure forecast for the next financial year. A copy of the Budget 26-27 would be emailed to commissioners to review with the intention of agreeing at the next meeting.	
5517	HM Report Shipping 3 x Scrap, 2 x Cement The wharf operators are undertaking work to repair the wharf . It commenced recently and was going well. A Director from the Wharf visited the HM to discuss some PMSC arrangements and share a forecast of future operations. Marketing Brightlingsea Harbour (BH) 4,930 followers (28 since Dec), Foot Ferry (FF) 7,427 Followers (136 since Dec). Harbour App 2000 + cannot exceed the amount. TikTok 331 up 7 in Jan. Harbour Entry 3906 views up 53 since Dec. Foot Ferry Video 10286 up 47 since Dec. Harbour Instagram 1479 up 0 since Nov. Foot Ferry Instagram 1090 up 1 since Dec. LinkedIn 152 up 0 since Nov.	

Port Marine Safety Code (PMSC)

Accidents and Incidents – Nil

PMSC Meeting had happened recently.

A Theft from a local yard had been reported and action had been taken by police.

Pilots responded to a letter presented by a stakeholder regarding berthing at the Wharf. The Pilots' comments will be shared with the stakeholder.

Pilotage Update – More HHA Pilots are undertaking familiarisation (tripping) trips. BHC currently has 3 fully authorised HHA Pilots and 3 more undertaking qualifying trips.

Bathy Update + Tide Gauge repaired and back in operation.

MCA have warned of next PMSC compliance exercise by Mar 31st 2026. We have passed on to those required by the MCA to comply.

PMSC online which is hosted on Microsoft Teams

PMSC Duty Holder Awareness Monday 30 March 2026

PMSC Duty Holder Awareness Friday 11 September 2026

PMSC Duty Holder Awareness Monday 7 December 2026

Maintenance December 2025

Hatches on HM2 replaced x2

Wall light in West basin

Hatches on HM2 replaced x2

Wall light in West basin

Salvaged boat recovered from Rowhedge

Set up new pressure washer

Repaired old Sealey pressure washer with new carb

Adjusted gate in East basin

Wall lights repaired in west basin

Ventilation fans cleaned in shower block

Field gate dock clear weekly

Whites pontoon pressure washed

Maintenance pontoon pressure washed - complete

Fisherman's pontoon pressure washed - complete

Port line securing lug mid ships on HM1 replaced

Removed 4x salvaged boat (wharf)

Whipping twine replaced on Colne Leader rails

Anti climb spikes installed to all perimeter fencing in yard

Fisheries buoy No-1 reinstated

Tide gauge cleaned

New drying room (old rope store)

Repaired fuel barge C16 trip (BESS)

Changed fuel berth green buoy light

Whole new floor for Colne Innovation

Fuel Filters changed on fuel barge

Colne Cooke cleaned and antifouled

Maintenance January 2026

Field gate dock (weekly)

Scrub tide gauge (marina & hard)

Painted Colne Ranger

Engine service to Colne Ranger

Organized wood store ready for plank delivery

Removed old dredging pipes from marina

Colne Cook engine service

Colne Cook launched

HM2 Hauled out

Seats refurbished on Colne Innovation

Split water pipes in marina repaired

Pressure washed and planks replaced on Whites pontoon

	<p>Tide Master in operation Sound deadening fitted to Colne Ranger Colne Ranger painted Cindery pontoon pressure washed - complete Plank replacement 95% complete Refurbished HM2 Silicon shower and toilets Colne Ranger Antifouled Town Jetty pressure wash – Complete St Osyth pressure wash – Ongoing</p> <p>Staff Casual Contracts review with reference to recent new employment act. Pressure washing teams have been engaged with success. Front Desk Apprentice role x 12 applications already.</p> <p>Operations Van Oord will start dredging after 22nd February 2026. Commissioners asked if it would be possible to have a briefing from Van Oord on the Dredging at some point before or during the operation. HM stated he would set it up.</p> <p>Trinity house admin inspection satisfactory. Abandoned boat, recovered and disposed of. Dumped car on Point Clear recovered after 2 tides and taken away.</p> <p>Colchester City Council (CCC) Hythe Clean Up will occur in the next month; as previously this involves removing rubbish in the River Colne.</p>	HM
5518	<p>Aids to Navigation (AtoN)Review An AtoN review has been conducted and a report is being generated by RD. Once published the HM will take action where required. Likely that RD will recommend removal of the Withy marking an oyster lane, as it could be mistaken for a navigation mark.</p>	RD
5519	<p>Brightlingsea Town Council (BTC) Update The HM updated Commissioners on discussions and actions by the HM regarding BTC.</p> <p>Port Marine Safety Code – HM has raised concerns with the Mayor over the safe operation of BTC's jetty. As a Duty holder BTC now have a Legal Duty to act.</p>	
5520	<p>Matters Raised by Members DS mentioned that at a meeting recently the Old Gaffers had expressed a desire to visit Brightlingsea. KL would welcome the opportunity to trip into the Harbour on a ship observing the Pilot. , HM stated he would need to be available at short notice. Chairman suggested that we plan for another strategy day in May 2026, HM stated he would look for a suitable venue and send out some dates.</p>	HM
Next Meeting	<p>Time 1830hrs, 4th Mar 2026 Venue Wreck House</p>	Next meeting biscuits;
Time Ended	2030hrs	DS

Approved
Andrew Scott
4th March 2026

