

BRIGHTLINGSEA HARBOUR COMMISSIONERS

COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 04 April 2026

AT THE WRECK HOUSE COMMENCING AT 1830hrs

Present:

Andrew Scott – Chairman

James Thomas – HM/CE

Karl Lumbers – KL

Colin Watkins – CW

Daniel Stoker – DS

Tony Curzon Price - TP

Rob Dorey – RD

ITEM	NOTES	ACTION
5530	<p>Apologies Ali Johns – AJ Patric Foley-Brickley - PB</p>	
5531	<p>Minutes of Meetings held on 4 Feb 2026 were approved. Proposed, DS Seconded, CW</p>	
5532	<p>Matters Arising from those minutes HM listed outstanding actions.</p>	
5533	<p>HM Report</p> <p>Shipping 2 x Scrap, 1 x Cement Had to turn away one ship due to weather. Another cement ship will arrive tomorrow evening. (5th April 2026)</p> <p>Marketing Brightlingsea Harbour (BH) 4,994 followers (42 since Mar), Foot Ferry (FF) 7,489 followers (39 since Mar). Harbour App 2000 + cannot exceed the amount. TikTok 336 up 4 in Mar. Harbour Entry video 3988 views up 54 since Mar. Foot Ferry Video 10404 up 131 since Mar. Harbour Instagram 1496 up 10 since Mar. Foot Ferry Instagram 1093 up 0 since Mar. LinkedIn 152 up 0 since Mar. Harry Dwyer video ,showing trip from Suffolk Yacht Harbour to Brightlingsea, 44,130.</p> <p>Port and Marine Facilities Safety Code (PMSC) Accidents and Incidents – none reported in last month Pilot Meeting – Pilots made 2 requests for improvements; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide knuckle light at end of wharf • access route through port. Pilotage Update – One further pilot awaiting oral exam by HM before approval. Dredging complete. Bathymetry, including drone survey, scheduled 12 April PMSC compliance response submitted on 27 March Public Space Protection Order for Colne and Blackwater – Colchester City Council carrying out consultation. They will then consider responses and then take the next step in the process.</p>	

	<p>BHC Vessels coded in compliance with the MCA directions PMSC guidance provided to Wharf by HM PMSC Duty Holder Awareness Friday 11 September 2026 PMSC Duty Holder Awareness Monday 7 December 2026</p> <p>Maintenance March 2026 Field gate dock drain outlet (weekly) Scrubbed tide gauge (marina & hard) Pressure washed St Osyth pontoon Pressure washed marina Repainted life ring stands (marina) Blacken piles in marina Removed rust and painted outside edge of marina Levelled up pontoons in marina Launched Community Reach & sea trialled, ready for season Fixed faulty tap in marina east basin Fitted new floor in Colne Innovation Fixed fault tachometer on Community Reach Removed old poster stickers in showers and put new ones up Painted Colne Innovation Changed winch on Community Reach Cleaned yard up Solar lights fitted to pontoons Launched Colne Innovation and sea trialled, ready for season Haul out Colne Explorer Changed winch on Colne Explorer Rewired Colne Innovation Hythe clean up undertaken Marked up pontoons</p> <p>Staff BHC Crewmember apprentice achieved a distinction in their end point assessment. Commissioners asked HM to pass on their congratulations An advert for the DHM has been placed into the public domain.</p> <p>Operations Bathymetry survey scheduled for 12th April and will include drone survey. Hard Clean will take place during April Licenced Mooring, HM updated members that he had granted a mooring licence, with conditions, to the Licencee. Agreements with service providers for Pub Lunch and afternoon tea tours; Anchor and St Osyth.</p> <p>Colchester City Council (CCC) Hythe Clean Up – Complete, DS showed photos of the output. A number of vessels seem to have left the Hythe, following charged announced by CCC</p>	HM
5534	<p>Strategy Day The Chairman asked for content for the agenda on the strategy day. The HM provided a list of Risks which can be added to if required. DS suggested a strategic health check against the Strategy document should be carried out. Harbour 100 celebration. Usual signing of the PMSC.</p>	

5535	<p>Stakeholders meeting The HM gave an update on the content of the next stakeholders meeting which is at the BSC on 11 May 26 at 1830hrs.</p> <p>Stakeholder Agenda Chairman</p> <p>Port Marine Safety Code DREDGING Bathy Conclusions - changes - Duncan Accidents/ Incidents Security/ Police/ PWC/ River Patrol/ PSPO</p> <p>Harbour Development /Plans Activities Community Commitment Local Businesses Schools Engagement Stakeholder Benefits Employment Charitable Causes Apprenticeships Tourism- Visitors Colne Navigation Trinity House Pilotage Leisure Moorings Marina. Toilets and Bins Taxi Charters Ferry Wharf and commercial activity River Patrols Jetty Management Hard/Posts Management</p>	
5536	<p>Unlicenced Moorings DS expressed concerns regarding the illegal publication of a recording of the HM by a member of the public, HM stated that whilst he agreed that it was illegal, it would be unlikely to be of any consequence and is a distraction from current bylaw enforcement activity. The HM's wider concern is that action needs to be taken to prevent staff members being subject to similar types of behaviour. Action will be taken, on a case-by-case basis. Staff will be reminded that, if appropriate, they should be clear in discussions that they are not giving permission to record discussions for publication or broadcast.</p>	HM
5537	<p>Staffing Updates Chairman updated the Commissioners on the HM/CE stepping down later in the year. Following interview Owen Evans, currently DHM , has been promoted to Harbour Master from 6th April 2026. As HM, Owen also becomes a Harbour Commissioner The HM made a short statement to commissioners regarding his time served and made it clear that he would ensure a smooth transition during the summer, so that the harbour experienced minimum disruption. The details were then shared with Commissioners regarding the transition plans,</p>	
5538	<p>Waterfront Development The chairman discussed with Commissioners the proposal made by Brightlingsea Town Council. Agreed to continue discussions with BTC</p>	

5539	<p>Matters Raised by Members</p> <p>DS suggested that a number of items be attached to Linked in which included the Job Advert and HM announcement.</p> <p>DS asked if there was any further information regarding the missing person.</p> <p>HM stated there was nothing more he could add to the information already provided to the public by the police.</p> <p>RD stated he would shortly present his report on Aids to Navigation to the operational team shortly so that they implement its recommendations.</p> <p>TP stated he would update Commissioners in person at the next meeting regarding developments regarding work to monitor the movement of the Spit.</p>	<p>RD HM TP</p>
Next Meeting	<p>Time 1830hrs, 6th May 2026 Venue Wreck House</p>	Next meeting biscuits;
Time Ended	2100hrs	PB

Approved
 Andrew [Signature]
 6th May 2026