

BRIGHTLINGSEA HARBOUR COMMISSIONERS

COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 04 Mar 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

Rob Dorey – RD

Ali Johns – AJ

ITEM	NOTES	ACTION
5521	Apologies N/A	
5522	Van Oord Presentation Jonathan Rogers – Provided Commissioners with an overview of their dredging approach for Brightlingsea Harbour	
5523	Minutes of Meetings held on 4 Feb 2026 were approved. Proposed, PB Seconded, CW	
5524	Matters Arising from those minutes HM listed outstanding actions. All outstanding actions were "in hand".	
5525	Budget 26-27 The HM described the budget for the next financial year, which Commissioners had reviewed during February 2026. Commissioners then agreed the proposed budget. Proposed by HM Seconded by PB and RD approved	
5526	HM Report Shipping 1 x Scrap, 1 x Cement this week Work on the Wharf, by the wharf operator, is now complete. Shipping was reduced while this work took place. Marketing Brightlingsea Harbour Facebook 4,952 followers (22 since Feb), Foot Ferry Facebook 7,450 followers (23 since Feb). Harbour App 2000 + cannot exceed the amount. TikTok 332 up 1 in Feb. Harbour Entry 3934 views up 28 since Feb. Foot Ferry Video 10330 up 44 since Feb. Harbour Instagram 1486 up 7 since Feb. Foot Ferry Instagram 1093 up 3 since Feb. LinkedIn 152 up 0 since Feb.	

Port Marine Safety Code (PMSC)

Accidents and Incidents – Theft of vessel Ancient Warrior. This boat appears to have been intentionally let go from the visitor's pontoon. CCTV had shown someone row out from the smack dock. The rowing boat was left on the visitor's pontoon. . Police are investigating.

Pilotage Update –It is likely that further potential Pilots will undertake familiarisation trips. **HM** expects one more Pilot will be qualified at the end of this week.

PMSC compliance exercise return to MCA will be late March.

Commissioners are reminded of the British Ports Association's online briefing on Board members duties under the PMSC. The briefing is hosted on Microsoft Teams and can be booked via the HM.

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 February 2026

Field gate dock drain clearance (Weekly)

Tide gauge (Marina & hard)

Marina shower & toilets (mini refurb)

HM2 launch engine service

Town jetty pressure washed

Water leak in harbour office kitchen fixed

Ceiling in Accounts and Office Manager's office sealed and painted

Stickers fitted to Colne Ranger

HM1 launch winter refurb completed

Visitors' pontoon pressure washed

All boats from marina moved to pontoons ready for marina dredging

Harbour team retrieved a 'washed up' boat from Mersea island

Community Reach ferry engines serviced

Sinkers dug in outside marina

Rotated outboards on launches

Fitted new outboard on HM1 launch

Fitted new floor in Colne Cooke launch

Launched HM1

Colne Innovation electric boat painted

Removed all ladders from marina, prior to dredging

Piles for pontoons blackened

Pressure washed marina pontoons

Repaired electrical fault on harbour Jetty

Cat 5 cable replaced on Colne Innovation

Marina Pontoons straightened prior to dredging

Wet room overhauled

Storeroom inventory and stock control improved

Showers and Toilets Floor cleaned

All new fittings in showers

Doors painted showers

Staff

Front Desk apprentice has now started

An apprentices End Point Assessment is due on 26th March

Operations

Van Oord are now working within the harbour. **HM** has received three complaints:

- one anonymous complaint, which HM shared with Commissioners suggesting the marina should not be dredged,
- one from the former architect / designer of the marina development that a tenant of his had complained about the noise,
- one that simply complained about the noise.

	<p>HM explained he investigated and found the noise levels were at a reasonably low level. He had also taken action to ensure the equipment started and ended further from accommodation.</p> <p>Abandoned boat on Mersea Beach. Vessel ended up wrecked on Mersea Beach the owner had failed to maintain its lines. Owner is considering disposal of the wreck at the start of the season.</p> <p>Colchester City Council (CCC) BHC will undertake a 'Hythe Clean Up' on behalf of CCC. The cleanup will occur in the next month, removing rubbish from the riverbed. BHC have undertaken this activity several times in the past.</p>	
5527	<p>Strategy Day Chair asked for topics for the June Strategy Day, agenda. Suggestions included</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic risks and their mitigation, including reviewing those identified by Commissioners three years ago. • Scenario planning. HM stated he had a number of particular events that would be good to consider <p>Commissioners asked the HM to select appropriate items for lunch, with fruit.</p>	HM
5528	<p>Morgans Update The HM updated the members on a discussion he had with the owners of Morgan Marine.</p>	
5529	<p>Matters Raised by Members TP informed members that he had experimented with 'Claude AI on the visual presentation of Budget documents and would share his findings with the HM.</p> <p>KL asked if we would have any overhead drone filming taking place this year, especially around Stone Point movement. The HM stated yes.</p> <p>CW made members aware of a ceremony in Brightlingsea with the RNA to commemorate the sinking of a local MTB.</p>	
Next Meeting	Time 1830hrs, 1st Apr 2026 Venue Wreck House	Next meeting biscuits;
Time Ended	0820hrs	RD

approved
 Andrew Fox
 1st April '26