

BRIGHTLINGSEA HARBOUR COMMISSIONERS

COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 01 July 2026

AT THE WRECK HOUSE COMMENCING AT 1830hrs

Present:

Andrew Scott – Chairman

James Thomas – CE

Owen Evans - HM

Patric Foley-Brickley - PB

Karl Lumbers – KL

Colin Watkins – CW

Daniel Stoker – DS

Tony Curzon Price - TP

ITEM	NOTES	ACTION
5548	Apologies Ali Johns – AJ Rob Dorey – RD	
5549	Minutes of Meetings held on 6 May 2026 were approved. Proposed, CE Seconded, HM	
5550	Matters Arising from those minutes CE listed outstanding actions.	
5551	HM Report Shipping 2 x Scrap, 2 x Cement Marketing Brightlingsea Harbour (BH) 5,216 followers (120 since May), Foot Ferry (FF) 7,949 followers (218 since May). Harbour App 2300 + cannot exceed the amount. TikTok 357 up 38 in Jun. Harbour Entry 4229 views up 172 since May. Foot Ferry Video 10871 up 346 since May. Harbour Instagram 1533 up 17 since May. Foot Ferry Instagram 1096 up 25 since May. LinkedIn 214 up 3 since May. Port and Marine Facilities Safety Code (PMSC) Accidents and Incidents – Mike Holding MOB from Dinghy nr Whites Meeting with the Wharf owner, agent and Pilots. Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) – Colchester City Council (CCC) update, no definitive date but: 02/06/26 <i>The Consultation for the PSPO has been undertaken, it now needs to be signed off within the Council, hopefully this should be completed within the next six weeks.</i> PMSC Duty Holder Awareness Friday 11 September 2026 PMSC Duty Holder Awareness Monday 7 December 2026 Buoy adjustments covered in Ops Security Organised River Patrol Organised awaiting contribution from CCC.	

Maintenance April 2026

- Field gate dock (weekly)
- Changed fuel filter on fuel barge
- Scrub tide gauge
- 20hr service on Colne Explorer
- Replaced radar dome on Colne Leader
- P/W channel markers and painted where necessary
- On going refurb on life ring stands
- Refurb Mersea groyne markers and reinstated
- Fitted new fenders on Community Reach
- Recovered sinkers
- Finished pile blacken on town jetty
- Clean flood gate fixing and grease
- Scrub bottom on Colne Explorer
- Replaced chain on both Folly buoys
- Prepared wreck house and yard for school's week
- Replaced concrete post front of office
- Cleaned Colne leader
- Made new 32amp charging cable for Innovation
- Cleaned stainless steel on Innovation
- Recovered fisheries buoy and cleaned

Maintenance Jun 2026

- Field gate dock (weekly)
- Changed fuel filter on fuel barge
- Scrub tide gauge
- Moved Starboard hand mark by Point Clear
- Swapped workshop gates around (open outwards)
- Fitted new TV in showers and toilets
- Fixed phone at museum
- Fitted new tap in office kitchen
- Collected boats from Colchester
- Replaced prepaid meters in marina (C3/F3)
- Started removing F&A moorings
- Made crabbing box
- Straightened pile guild in marina (A pontoon)
- Put out speed markers
- Water Flowers (every other Friday)
- Disposed of boats from Colchester
- Replaced water pump on Colne Ranger

Staff

Steven Young formerly of ABP joins us on 6th July as Deputy Harbour Master. , He will do two weeks then joins James on shifts throughout the summer; this will allow him to familiarise himself fully with all that goes on in the Harbour.

Selection for new Harbour Apprentice is ongoing.

Ella will join British Ports association for a week 13-17th July for some professional career exposure.

Operations

Brightlingsea in Bloom assistance, popular with the public.

Crabbing exchange box in operation, popular with the public.

	Afternoon teas doing well Rowhedge charters doing well Carried out destruction of wrecks from Hythe on behalf of CCC Repair of Groyne CCC Aids to Navigation review action. Withy near BSC remove with no observed groundings since. Speed sign buoys at creek entrance have been adjusted and two extra buoys positioned, Ferry engine failure replaced under guarantee Provided MoD quotes for buoy maintenance at the Fingringhoe range via Exo Visitors 318 in June Average for Jun since 2013 287 Average from 2013 Apr to Jun 1st 3 months 755 Total Apr-Jun this year 848	
5552	Strategy Day Summary PMSC - Based on recent PMSC compliance survey at another harbour, we need to make sure we know who BHC are staff are and they need to know us - Owen has circulated staff IDF photos - Focus on core staff Dredging - Van Ord have deliver a very good dredge, meeting our depth targets Not likely to be available in future at a similar cost with the same equipment. - Will consider alternative dredging approaches and contractors for annual dredge - BHC is open to taking on dredging ourselves, if equipment can be found at a suitable cost - Discussed dredging software - Van Ord have a sophisticated package - Propriety - Rent s/w if needed? - Or accept simpler package? Strategy - Tony will do some work on how to establish the vision and values that underpin out strategy CEO strategic risks discussion CEO outlined when BHC reserve funds would be required Most likely major incident that required finances to keep harbour operating while insurance claim is processed BHC becoming a RYA training centre, to mitigate provider risk Need to add cyber risks Staff training – this is now ongoing Can / should we insure against cyber risks? Next steps? Need to carry out a (simulated) "death or serious injury on water" exercise, to test our approach - Done HM to monitor Border Force intentions & drivers around handling migrants. Boat owner profile Keep an eye on this and see what unfolds Stone Point spit movement - Still looking for research partners - Providing financial support to MSc or PhD student probably required to gain interest - Create a citizen science project? - Tony to continue investigating	

	- CEO noted that the EA require material for flood defences further up the coast. On the EA's priority list - EA looking at option of using stone point material next meeting on 10th July.	
5553	Pilotage Update A meeting was held earlier in June involving two Pilots, the wharf owner, and the Shipping Agent to review the weather limits for vessel entry into the harbour. It became apparent early in the discussion that, of the seven vessels affected by wind conditions exceeding the operational limits, five experienced wind speeds that were significantly above the allowable threshold. Only two vessels were unable to enter the harbour due to wind speeds that were within five knots of the established limit. It was agreed by the HM and those assembled that no further action was required.	
5554	Matters Raised by Members Chairman reminded members that there would be no Commissioners monthly meeting in August.	
Next Meeting	Time 1830hrs, 2 nd Sept 2026 Venue Wreck House	Next meeting biscuits;
Time Ended	1930hrs	Chairman

Approved
 Andrew 
 2nd Sep 2026