BRIGHTLINGSEA HARBOUR COMMISSIONERS

COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 02 Sep 2026

AT THE WRECK HOUSE COMMENCING AT 1830hrs

Present:
Andrew Scott – Chairman
Owen Evans - HM
Karl Lumbers – KL
Tony Curzon Price - TP
Rob Dorey – RD
Steven Young – DHM
Jill Herman – JH Accounts and Office Manager

ITEM	NOTES	ACTION
5554	**Apologies** James Thomas – CE Daniel Stoker – DS Colin Watkins – CW Ali Johns – AJ Patric Foley-Brickley - PB	
5555	**Minutes of Meetings held on 1 Jul 2026 were approved.** Proposed, KL Seconded, RD	
5556	**Matters Arising from those minutes** **HM** listed outstanding actions. **HM** and **Chairman** agreed the action list had become unnecessarily lengthy, with historic and completed items reducing its usefulness as a management tool. From the next meeting, the action list will therefore be substantially streamlined and will concentrate principally on current actions and matters requiring attention over the preceding and forthcoming months.	**HM**
5557	**Financial Report** **JH** provided an overview of the year. Visitor numbers remained positive and combined ferry usage was approximately 22,000 passengers. River cruises and other charter activity had also performed well. The principal exceptional expenditure during the year related to dredging. This included the major dredging campaign of the marina together with routine harbour maintenance dredging. This had been allowed for on the BHC budget. The Harbour's property assets had also been revalued, with the valuation increasing. It was noted that provisions for liabilities had increased, principally reflecting fuel costs.Creditors had also increased as a consequence of dredging, fuel and pilotage costs. The financial impact of losing the boat park income and taking on the new Town Jetty lease at the end of the previous season was also reflected in the accounts. Commissioners discussed whether the cost of major dredging should continue to be recognised in the year in which it occurred or whether it would be preferable to spread the cost over the expected three-to-five-year interval between major dredging campaigns. The existing approach had the benefit	

	of clearly demonstrating the actual cost of dredging when undertaken, although it resulted in significant variations between individual financial years. Commissioners requested **HM / JH** seek clarification from the accountants on how the Harbour's annual reserve/asset replacement objective is reflected within the accounts and whether an explanatory note or clearer presentation could be provided. **KL** noted that mooring income for 2026 was approximately £337,000, compared with approximately £359,000 in 2024, and queried the apparent reduction. **HM** explained that there had been a reduction in windfarm activity along with a significant number of fore-and-aft moorings had remained unused for several years despite Brightlingsea's charges being highly competitive. The Harbour was therefore reviewing fore-and-aft moorings individually, with those unused for approximately three years being considered for removal. Commissioners supported avoiding unnecessary expenditure maintaining unused moorings but emphasised the need to ensure that reductions in capacity did not unnecessarily reduce future berthing options or revenue opportunities. **KL** discussed the financial performance and ongoing liability associated with the Town Jetty. It was recognised that the direct financial return was limited, but its wider strategic value included supporting public and operational access, the ferry, water taxi, mooring holders and visiting vessels. **HM** advised that improved maintenance and engineering modifications were extending the Jetty's serviceable life. Updated Harbour signage and lifesaving equipment had also been installed.	**HM/JH**
5558	**HM Report** **Shipping** 1 x Scrap, 3 x Cement , 1 x Sand. **Marketing** BHC 5,329 followers (113 since Jul), Foot Ferry 7,949 followers (246 since Jul). Harbour App 2300 + cannot exceed the amount. TikTok 357 up 95 in Jul/Aug. Harbour Entry 4229 views up 172 since May. Foot Ferry Video 10871 up 346 since May. Harbour Instagram 1582 up 49 since Jul. Foot Ferry Instagram 1139 up 43 since Jul. LinkedIn 216 up 2 since Jul. **Port Marine Safety Code (PMSC)** Accidents and Incidents – Wreck on Mersea Flats now removed. Public Space Protection Order – Live, CCC update. PMSC Duty Holder Awareness Friday 11 September 2026 PMSC Duty Holder Awareness Monday 7 December 2026 Security Update. River Patrol Update. **Maintenance July 2026** • Field gate dock (weekly) • Changed fuel filters on fuel barge • Scrub tide gauge • Fitted locks on both fuel lockers on both ferry's • Clipped cables up along concrete to town jetty	

	• Fixed battery fault on Innovation • Scrubbed Innovation on posts • Painted leading lights • Moved speed marker buoy • Replaced immersion heater element in shower & toilets • PDI new Yamaha F8 • Rewired 12v system on Innovation & fitted wheelhouse fan • Pumped out sinking boat on White's pontoon • Brightlingsea In Bloom every other week • Sold all old Yamaha outboards. • Purchased a new Yamaha F8 • School work experience placement will be with BHC 13th-17th • Relabel electric meters in marina • Weeded down the side of the office **Maintenance Aug 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 **HM** reported BHCs aluminium moorings barge, believed to be approximately 40 years old, had developed a leak. Specialist advice indicated that the aluminium was now in poor condition and difficult to weld or satisfactorily repair. A temporary riveted and sealed repair would allow the barge to remain safely operational for the current maintenance season. Replacement would be required before the following season, with suitable alternatives expected to cost approximately £10,000-£15,000. Agreed HM should include in budget for next year and investigate replacement options. **Staff** Ella interview at TDC 7th Sep. Isobel to Glasgow Nautical College sponsored by Trinity House in January 2027 Dylan Bradfield Starting as an apprentice 28th Sept. **Operations** Ferry engine issues resolved Alresford Creek boat broke adrift, now recovered for Colchester City Council (CCC). Possible seafood charter meeting will take place later this month Hard clearing. HM outlined issues and next steps Brightlingsea in Bloom. BHC support has been well received. Crabbing equipment box now in place Colne Leader crew training	**HM**

	Colne Leader has been re-coded. Regular re-coding is required to meet maritime regulations. Tours and Charters continue to be popular Retrieved fisheries buoy. Being overhauled before placing back on station. Sunk fishing vessel marked on Mersea Flats, now recovered	
5559	**Moorings Plan update** **HM** provided Commissioners with an update on correspondence concerning moorings and pontoons in the harbour.	
5560	**PWC Update** **HM** presented an update on the cost and effectiveness of security at Point Clear. **HM** Provided an update on the Public Space Protection Order	
5561	**Staff Update** **JT** is due to stand down as Chief Executive on 7 September 2026, with his final day at Brightlingsea Harbour being 11 September. **HM** would formally assume the Chief Executive responsibilities from 7th September 2026. The Commissioners wish to formally record their thanks to James for his ten years of service to Brightlingsea Harbour, recognising his support, ideas, commitment and drive during that period. Commissioners were also informed that **HM** had been appointed as a Senior Assessor for the UKHMA MCA recognised Harbour Master Certificate Scheme and was participating in work to review and develop the certification scheme. **SY** reported that he was enjoying his new role and the opportunity to become directly involved in operational matters.	
5562	**Matters raised by members** **RD** provided an update following discussions with Cowes Harbour Commission regarding its involvement in a Trinity House cadet sponsorship scheme. Commissioners considered the concept interesting, particularly as a possible progression route for exceptional candidates emerging from BHC's apprenticeship programme. No commitment was made. **HM** updated that planning continued for the Harbour's forthcoming 100th anniversary. Commissioners were invited to submit further ideas within approximately two weeks to meet the BHC 2027 guide publication deadline.	
Next Meeting	**Time 1830hrs, 7th October 2026** **Venue Wreck House**	Next Meeting Biscuits: **RD**
Time Ended	**2025hrs**	

Approved
Andrew Scott 7th Oct 2026