BRIGHTLINGSEA HARBOUR COMMISSIONERS

COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 07 Oct 2026

AT THE WRECK HOUSE COMMENCING AT 1830hrs

Present:
Andrew Scott – Chairman
Owen Evans - HM
Karl Lumbers – KL
Ali Johns – AJ
Daniel Stoker – DS
Colin Watkins – CW

ITEM	NOTES	ACTION
5563	**Apologies** Patric Foley-Brickley - PB Tony Curzon Price - TP Rob Dorey – RD	
5564	**Minutes of Meetings held on 2nd Sep 2026 were approved.** Proposed, KL Seconded, DS	
5565	**Matters Arising from those minutes** HM gave clarification around questions raised from Commissioners regarding the financial report. Finances are much as expected at this stage of the season, allowing for Harbour Master changeover.	
5566	**HM Report** **Shipping** 1 x Scrap, 1 x Cement , 1 x Sand. **Marketing** **Brightlingsea Harbour 5,329** followers **Foot Ferry 7,949** followers Harbour App **2300 +** cannot exceed the amount. TikTok **357** Harbour Entry **4229** views Foot Ferry Video **10871** Harbour Instagram **1582** Foot Ferry Instagram **1139** LinkedIn **216** **PMSC** **Accidents and Incidents** Small dinghy capsized in creek; recovered by BHC Broken down vessel in the ski zone, on falling tide; recovered by BHC BSC Yacht / dinghy incident by Inner Bench Head; HM talked with one of the insurers. Occurred outside BHC harbour limits. Number 9 buoy struck by vessel. Significant, costly (around £2,000), damage. – investigations under way PMSC Duty Holder Awareness Monday 7 December 2026 **Staff** Ella starting with TDC Isobel finished as full time. Starts Trinity House scholarship in January. Dylan Bradfield started **Operations**	

	Buoy servicing Trinity House Inner Bench Head service Buoys out for winter Field gate dock drain cleared Town hard clearing New jetty lights Crew training on pilot boat Tendring DC Skills and Jobs Fair **Maintenance** Field gate dock Marina tide gauge Minor refurb to chain barge Retrieved fisheries buoy, repaired and reinstated Replace floor in Colne Cooke Sorted yard, wreck house & workshop Retrieved speed marker Salvaged boat from Aldboro point Salvaged boat from Rowhedge Changed fuel filters on fuel barge Replaced door handle on office front door Electric post in marina refitted due to being knocked over Fitted new rope on both ferry doors New pre-paid meter fitted in marina Fitted new hinges on hammer head ramp P/W all Aids to Navigation and fixed bird spikes H/O & Pressure washed Colne Ranger Refurbed snowman H/O & prep damage on channel marker H/O & prep speed markers	
5567	**Mid-Year Financial Report** Commissioners considered the circulated mid-year financial report and the Finance Managers accompanying commentary. The HM explained the principal variances rather than reviewing each line individually. The apparent reduction in mooring income largely reflected payment timing and the mix of annual and separate summer and winter arrangements. 18 berth holders had paid annually, compared with 23 in the previous year. Winter marina berths were now full, and the subsequent receipts were expected to restore the position, potentially with additional income from seasonal supplements. Lower visitor revenue principally reflected reduced commercial vessel stays, including a wind farm vessel present for two months rather than five in the previous year. Increased marina visitor income had partly offset berth holder vacancies within the marina. HM reported positive discussions with Ørsted concerning future activity at Gunfleet Sands. Commercial demand remained cyclical, and the Harbour's position and fuel facility continued to offer opportunities for servicing vessels. Future work was considered promising, but no additional vessel bookings or revenue were confirmed. Rowhedge charter activity had increased substantially, approaching double the previous year's level. The availability of an apprentice-qualified skipper had reduced reliance on commercial incremental skippers being brought in. Sam Howard (apprentice) is expected to achieve commercial qualification around March or April 2027, supporting the following summer's services.	

	St Osyth charter income was slightly lower because the partner had chosen to offer fewer dates. The relationship remained positive, and further tour options were being explored. Higher salary costs reflected management changes. Casual staffing costs also included additional maintenance associated with dredging and the cost of incremental commercial skippers. The value of the apprenticeship programme in supporting service delivery and controlling incremental skipper costs was noted. Although the interim net income was negative, it is expected a positive year-end position once winter mooring income was included. Further shipping and wind farm activity could improve the result. This was recorded as a forecast rather than a confirmed outcome.	
5568	**Moorings Plan update** **HM** provided Commissioners with an update on correspondence concerning moorings and pontoons in the harbour.	
5569	**Centenary Plans** HM presented a costed menu of centenary activities prepared, including direct expenditure and potential lost revenue. The following activities were selected: 1. 'Snapshot in Time' a photographer capturing images of harbour life throughout the year 2. A Day of free harbour tours 3. Berth holder BBQ 4. A prize and cup for gifted for local club races 5. Enter Brightlingsea carnival 6. Museum display for Centenary week 7. 10 x charity donations 8. Staff social BBQ The photographic record was supported as a means of addressing gaps in the Harbour's historical archive. The first three months' photographs would be available for the museum display. Staff and Commissioner photographs and short biographies were also proposed. Commissioners agreed to help with articles for the Harbour Guide, focusing on roles of Commissioners, the 1927 Act, and an article composed by AI on what the harbour may look like in 100 years (2127). AS to take on: 2 pages - 900 words max with 2 – 3 images (images we could possibly source) What is the Harbour Act 1927 why was it created, changes to it e.g. incorporating the whole of the River Colne. What is a Trust Port. AS to take on: 2 pages 900 words max with 2 -3 images Role of Commissioners / Commissioners strategy / Timeline of Commissioners – include bio of 1st Commissioner perhaps or a message from Andrew? DS to take on: 1 Page 290 words max 2-3 images The next hundred years – look to the future – what will the harbour be like in 2127 – AI article? AJ to take on: 2 pages 900 words max with 2 -3 images	**HM** **AS** **AS** **DS**

	What was the harbour like before 1927 - when were the pontoons put in, development of the Harbour, Changes around the Harbour – marina complex, Olivers Wharf	**AJ**
5570	**Matters raised by members** None.	
Next Meeting	**Time 1830 hrs, 4th November 2026** **Venue Wreck House**	Next Meeting Biscuits: **AJ**
Time Ended	**1955hrs**	

Approved
Andrew 4th Nov 26