



**COWES HARBOUR  
COMMISSION**

**PUBLIC REPORT  
COWES HARBOUR COMMISSION  
13 MARCH 2026**

Present: Phil Hagen – Chairman (PH)  
Mark Bew (MB)  
Clive Blount (CB)  
Vanessa Clifford (VC)  
Fiona Fitzherbert-Brockholes (FF-B)  
Jason Losty (JL)  
Rupert MacInnes (RM)  
Jackie Riley (JR)  
Gary Hall (GH) – Chief Executive  
In attendance: Jon Kidd (JK) – Harbour Master  
Roger Parrott (RP) – Finance Director

**1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Declarations of Interest and Declarations of Related Party Transactions for Cowes Harbour Commissioners are documented on the CHC website.

**2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Apologies for absence were received from Giles Peckham (GP) and

**3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Minutes of the meeting held on Friday, 30 January 2026, having been sent out, it was resolved that they be signed as a true and complete record of business transacted. The Public Report was also unanimously approved.

**4. ACTIONS FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES**

The Action Tracker has been updated to show completed and live actions.

**5. HARBOUR MASTER'S OPERATIONAL REPORT**

The HM Operational Report was circulated with the papers for the meeting and fully considered by the Board. JK highlighted the following:

- a. **Re-decking of Trinity Landing** – This has been postponed and will not be addressed before the start of the new season as it will be a longer process than originally envisaged.
- b. **Re-categorisation of Waters** – Data has been lost because the orientation of the sensor was moved, so much of the data is unusable. The issue has now been addressed, and the sensor

will be left out for another year.

- c. **CHC/TH Cadetship** – The Cadet is doing very well and is now awaiting a ship to join in around two weeks' time. This will probably be a container ship or a bulk carrier and head towards the Pacific. This is a two-and-a-half-year programme and will then be reviewed to see whether the cadetship is to be repeated in the future.
- d. **Chain ferry** – JK reported that the Council are still looking at replacing the vessel and have appointed naval architects and engineers to create a suite of questions to do a market test on buyers, builders, designers etc. who might want to take on the project.
- e. **PMSC Audit** – the preliminary report has now been received. Of the 19 observations, 17 related to wording in the MSMS which is being worked through. Once the report is finalised, JK will share it with the Board.

## 7. HARBOUR MASTER'S HEALTH and SAFETY REPORT

The HM Health and Safety Report was circulated with the papers for the meeting and fully considered by the Board. JK highlighted the following:

- a. **Site Inspections** – the site inspection at Shepards has now been undertaken.
- b. **MAIB reports** – JK shared links within the recent MAIB and HSE reports and highlighted the report on the capsizing of the tug Biter. The links have been shared with the site managers.
- c. **Incidents** – a total of two incidents reported since the last meeting, both relating to floating debris in the river.
- d. **H & S Objectives for 2026** – The reviews are all underway and the H & S policies review will be discussed at the next SARcG meeting. JK is working on the ISO 45001 Lead Auditor course and some improvements and changes to the systems are already being implemented.
- e. **Harbour Users** – CB will be putting together the instructional video on speed/wash, and new larger signs will be installed on the Shrape Breakwater and RYS Battlements – 6kts/No Wash/VHF 69.
- f. **Harbour Safety Day** – Fifteen invitees have now confirmed attendance and there has been good engagement. It will be advertised via social media nearer the date in July and there will be lots of activities for children to get involved.

## 8. CEO REPORT

The CEO report was previously circulated with the papers and fully considered by the Board. GH highlighted the following:

- a. **Cowes Harbour Marina** –
  - i. There was a delay to the validation of our documents by the IWC and the MMO but all queries have been responded to and the application is now live on the IWC system.
  - ii. As part of the process, GH is scheduled to give a presentation to the East Cowes Town Council next Monday, together with JK.
  - iii. Island Roads have responded and have raised concerns about parking in East Cowes. They have requested further information and GH has arranged for a meeting with the transport consultant, Island Roads, the planning team, CHC's planning consultant and himself in two weeks' time.
- b. **Electric boat** – GH reported that there is no further news on this and communication has not been good.

## 9. FINANCE REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2026

Copies of the Financial Management Reports for February 2026 were circulated with the papers for the meeting and fully considered by the Board.

## 10. ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

The Environment & Sustainability report was previously circulated with the papers and fully considered by the Board. GH highlighted the following:

- a. **Pump Out facility Film** – the filming took place yesterday. CB highlighted that some comments had been made that the pump facility is inaccessible, and the Harbour launch is always parked next to it. FFB reminded the board that the facility can be used on the outside edge of the pontoon. The video will show that users can ask at any time for help and assistance, to park, move the boat and help them pump out, and the film was made in order to try and raise awareness.
- b. **Ground nesting birds** – RM highlighted that there is work ongoing in the River Yar and New Town Creek to support ground nesting birds in the various estuaries. There is interest now in putting platforms in the saltmarsh and the breakwater and funding is available so RP suggested it might be worth exploring this further.

## 11. CHAC MEETING

The next CHAC meeting is on 15 April 2026 at 1000 at UKSA. GH has already reported on his recent meeting with Mark Southwell.

## 12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- a. **New Commissioner** – PH updated the Board on the recruitment process. Following some initial problems whereby some applicants had applied via LinkedIn, four people were interviewed in total. The interviewing panel has put forward Lee Rayment of Solent Cruises as their recommendation as a Commissioner for Cowes Harbour which was approved unanimously by the CHC Board. Lee will attend the April Board meeting as a guest, and his term will officially start on 1 May 2026, and he will then attend the next Board meeting after that. It was agreed to invite Lee to the Future Looking Strategy Day meeting on 20 April 2026.

**Date of next meeting:** Friday 24 April 2026, at Cowes Harbour Commission Office, Cowes, Isle of Wight.



24/04/2026