



**COWES HARBOUR
COMMISSION**

**PUBLIC REPORT
COWES HARBOUR COMMISSION
12 June 2026**

Present: Phil Hagen – Chairman (PH)
Mark Bew (MB)
Clive Blount (CB)
Fiona Fitzherbert-Brockholes (FF-B)
Jason Losty (JL)
Giles Peckham (GP)
Lee Rayment (LR)
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 and all have been recently updated.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND INTRODUCTIONS

Apologies for absence were received from Rupert MacInnes (RM). PH welcomed David Stevens from Bright Brown Ltd to the meeting for a discussion on the Audit and Year End accounts.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting held on Friday 24 April 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. Pilotage** – There have been 19 acts of pilotage since the last meeting including cruise ships although two cruise ships have cancelled and there is now a lull in pilotage, as

expected.

- b. **Marina Dredging** – a progress meeting took place in mid-May looking at the stability of the slopes. The latest survey has just been received and will be reviewed by GH and JK.
- c. **Dredge Licences** – a license has been issued for some experimental Water Injection Dredging (WID) at Cowes Yacht Haven. Only a small amount has been undertaken and JK will monitor the effects.
- d. **CHC/TC Cadetship** – Charlie has now moved on from Pelican of London and has flown to Asia to join a bulk carrier. He is in constant contact with the DHM (Jennie) who has her own experience through cadetship, so he is well supported.
- e. **Motorboat wreck** – PH requested an update on the diving and work being undertaken to remove the wreck. Some of the delays have been due to visibility, but this is improving so it is expected that diving will take place this month. Commissioners raised concerns over the length of time, the impact on the environment and whether the wreck may have moved. JK will investigate other options.

6. 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. **2025 PMSC Audit** – JK reported he and the team are continuing to work through the 19 observations from the report, keeping the DP up to date.
- b. **Statutory documents** – These have been issued and are live on the website. The Oil Spill Contingency Plan has been submitted for its five-yearly MCA accreditation, and the certificate has now been renewed.
- c. **MAIB/HSE reports** – JK shared links within the recent MAIB and HSE reports.
- d. **HAZ ID Group** – DHM and the group met this month, looking at non-navigational risk assessments. Stakeholders asked for a slightly more defined plan dealing with a fire on board a vessel within a raft. Shepards has quite specific plans for this but it is not known if the other marinas have, so he will be working with the PMSC and bridging documents to get more information from them about how they would deal with this.
- e. **Incidents/Enforcements** – a total of 26 reports were logged on HAZMAN since the last meeting, including propulsion failure, speeding/wash and boats taking on water.
- f. **Safety at sites** – there was one near-miss at Shepards relating to the lifting out of a boat. There were no injuries or damage. There was an un-forecast gust which rocked the boat whilst being washed off. RAs and SOPs have been reviewed and wind limits, including gusts, have been checked against industry standards.
- g. **H&S Objectives for 2026** – the review of methods of improving and measuring safety culture has fallen behind the target date mainly due to stretched workloads but will be picked up again soon.
- h. **CHC Taxi service** – the three new taxi coxswains are undergoing training on taxi vessels, Harbour Assist and safety drills, including MOB training.

7. 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** –
 - a. GH continues to work with the Environment Agency and the MMO relating to the time window for piling works. He has also received a revised programme from Walcon.

- b. MMO Consultation – the 42 days consultation has now ended. GH received letters from the MMO which included feedback from CEFAS wanting more information which GH will commission APBMer to provide, and further representation asking about sea shells. The RYA responded saying they have members who are concerned about safety in the harbour, particularly those leaving the Corinthian, with their concern being that they would not have as much room to stay clear of other harbour traffic. JK has responded to this setting out that with the new marina there is a wider gap than there was traditionally.
- c. There were also comments raised by members of the public which GH has responded to.
- d. The planning application is due to go to the IWC planning committee on Monday 22 June.

b. CHC Water Taxi

Three taxi coxswains have been recruited and are being fully trained. Licences have been submitted to the IWC and the service should be up and running within the next couple of weeks. The service has been running 'softly' over the last six weeks, and the feedback has been extremely positive and seen to be very professional with the staff wearing uniform.

c. Head of Marina Operations

Around 90 applications were received, and GH is currently working through these.

d. **Buoys** – CB raised a query regarding the naming and relaying of the buoys. SCRA are transferring ownership of the buoys to Solent Sports Assets and it is hoped that SeaClear will be nominated to provide a competitive service to maintain them.

8. FINANCE REPORT FOR APRIL 2026, AUDIT AND YEAR END ACCOUNTS

Copies of the Financial Management Reports for April 2026 were circulated with the papers for the meeting and fully considered by the Board. PH also welcomed David Stevens from Bright Brown Ltd to the meeting for a discussion on the Audit and Year End accounts.

9. CHAC MEETING

The next meeting takes place on Wednesday 9 September 2026 at 1000 at East Cowes Sailing Club.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- i. **Cancellations by cruise ship MS Hamburg** – Some discussion took place on the reasons behind the cancellations. Feedback has been requested and JK has tried to follow this up through the agents but has not had an official response. It is thought that it might relate to uncertain conditions if tenders need to be used. LR will however be bringing 200 guests from the ship across to the Island for a tour but the footfall will not be in Cowes.

Date of next meeting: Friday 17 July 2026 at 1000 Cowes Harbour Commission Office, Cowes.


17/07/2026