



**PUBLIC REPORT
COWES HARBOUR COMMISSION
17 July 2026**

Present: Phil Hagen – Chairman (PH)
Mark Bew (MB)
Clive Blount (CB)
Fiona Fitzherbert-Brockholes (FF-B)
Jason Losty (JL)
Rupert MacInnes (RM)
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

No apologies for absence were received.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting held on Friday 12 June 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 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** – The team continue to work through the 19 observations with around 13 now completed. The DP is happy with the progress on these.

- b. **MAIB/HSE reports** – JK shared links within the recent MAIB and HSE reports.
- c. **HAZ ID Group** – The next meeting will be in September. The last meeting was well attended and covered non-navigational risk assessments.
- d. **Incidents/Enforcements** – June was a quiet month with a total of 11 reports on HAZMAN, four of which were propulsion failure and two were speeding/wash related. The VHF69 and 6knt signage is ready to be fitted. JK reported that he has commissioned a YouTube video which shows the approaches into Cowes from the sailors' point of view. Some footage has already been filmed and more will take place during Cowes Week together with some drone shots. JK will seek approval from the Board on the video before it is made public.
- e. **Safety at sites** – There was one incident this month at Kingston when a tow hitch came off the forklift whilst manoeuvring a vessel for launch. There were no injuries or damage to the boat. An incident report has been completed and a review of tow procedures underway. A double check of the securing systems has been introduced. JK will review the use of shackles and report back to the Board. In addition, the team carry out daily checks on deck boards and noted that some of the older boards are popping loose in the hot weather. The boards have been resecured.
- f. **H&S Objectives for 2026** – Two have been completed. The review of methods of improving and measuring safety culture fell behind the target date due to team availability/workloads and a new deadline has been agreed.
- g. **Training** – MOB drills continue monthly for Patrol and Marina Staff.

6. 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 were two acts of pilotage since the last meeting. The cruise ship MS Hamburg cancelled six calls as they do not want to make tender runs, and a superyacht also cancelled because of an issue on board.
- b. **Marina Dredging** – An application has been made for a 10-year disposal licence for Shepards Marina but the MMO have requested that EIA screening takes place. This follows on from a judicial review of a case in Brighton.
- c. **New Marina Dredging** – this has been delayed for several reasons but the barge is expected to return imminently. JK has requested that dredging does not take place during Cowes Week.
- d. **CHC/TC Cadetship** – Charlie is on a bulk carrier with Swires operating in the Far East/Australasia region. He is due to come off the ship in September.
- e. **RTI and Cowes Week Events** – JK reported that this went extremely smoothly and he has received excellent feedback about the team and Shepards. There are a few learning points ahead of Cowes Week which will be worked on and processes put in place. The rotas have been finalised and the team will be out on the water from 8am until 11pm each day in Cowes Week. There is likely to be around 600 boats participating. The team will also work in conjunction with ABP safety boats for the Red Arrows flights and fireworks exclusion zones. Only authorized personnel will be allowed on Trinity Landing.

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. The planning application is expected to go before the IWC planning committee on 8 September 2026. All of the points raised by the Council have been responded to. CEFAS have asked for more evidence to demonstrate that the build will not have an impact on fish despite the robust response given previously. A further response is being prepared.
- b. GH reported that whilst the delay continues, some check quotes are being undertaken for some of the larger items on the project.
- b. **Head of Marina Operations** – The preferred candidate has withdrawn so it has been decided to postpone recruitment to this post until September. JK is happy to continue with the additional workload for the time being which GH is very appreciative of. The teams are working extremely well and hence not distracting JK from his key responsibilities as Harbour Master.
- c. **CHC Harbour Taxi** – Feedback has been excellent, with people enjoying the service and a positive reputation is being built. CHC has put some new initiatives in place.

NB: FF-B left the meeting at this point.

- d. **Annual Report and Video** – The recording has now been completed and a first draft of the video and Annual report is expected within a week.
- e. **Southampton University** – Two MBH students have come forward to work on two strands and key questions that came about from the recent CHC Strategy Day. They will complete the project by the middle of September.
- f. **Innovate UK projects** – CHC has applied for three projects, as small partners with three different groups of partners, totaling nearly £50k. The projects start next April 2027 and interestingly all three relate to Seaclear in some way; one is a new jet pod thruster, the second is a carbon catcher system and Seaclear would be one of the vessels in the feasibility study to prove the theory. The final project is on sodium iron energy storage (new types of batteries).
- g. **Experience Cowes (EC)** – A request for funding of £5k to support activities to promote Experience Cowes has been received. Discussion took place on whether to support this and the Board subsequently agreed to approve the request for this year initially, and to review for next year and onwards based on a progress report from EC at the time. CHC does have representation on the Experience Cowes Board.

8. FINANCE REPORT FOR JUNE 2026

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

9. CHAC MEETING

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

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- a. PH confirmed that a condolence note on behalf of the Commissioners has been sent to an ex commissioner on the sad loss of his wife.
- b. PH gave thanks to JK for taking on the additional work and working on building a superb culture within the Shepards team.

Date of next meeting: Friday 4 September 2026 at 10.00 Cowes Harbour Commission Office, Cowes.



04/09/2026