



**PUBLIC REPORT
COWES HARBOUR COMMISSION
4 September 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 17 July 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 observations from the 2025 Audit have been completed and awaiting sign-off by the DP.

- b. **Statutory documents** – The list of documents to be reviewed in the coming months has been prepared and planned reviews of the navigational and site risk assessments continue.
- c. **MAIB/HSE reports** – JK shared links within the recent MAIB and HSE reports.
- d. **Incidents/Enforcements** – The number of interventions has increased, particularly for July and August. The additional manpower within the team and preseason training has resulted in the team taking a more proactive approach increasing intervention rather than responding after the event.
- e. **Safety at sites** – There was one incident at Shepards Marina whereby a partially sighted person misjudged the end of the pontoon and fell into the water. No blame was apportioned to the harbour and he took sole responsibility.
- f. **H & S Objectives for 2026** – Two objectives have been delayed but are underway now that workloads have decreased from the very high levels during July and August.
- g. **Harbour Safety Day** – The extreme heat of the day (around 33C) resulted in fewer numbers than expected. The RNLI has expressed an interest in joining forces for one joint Harbour/Water safety day rather than two smaller events. JK will work with them and the other blue light agencies and it may possibly be held over two days.

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** – These are currently almost non-existent as there are no large building projects and no signs that there will be any improvement. A smaller boat sometimes takes cargo from Southampton to Newport, but CHC only receive harbour dues for this.
- b. **Marina Dredging** – An application for a new 10-year disposal licence for Shepards is underway but the MMO now require CHC to apply for EIA screening as well, for which there is a charge.
- c. **Vessel 'Salutay'** – JK updated the Board on this vessel which was taking on water rapidly at Trinity Landing. A plan was formulated, discussed and agreed with HMCG, CHC Commissioner for safety JL and the MCA duty Counter Pollution and Salvage officer. Using CHC and Fire & Rescue pumps, the vessel was raised enough to find there was significant damage to the port quarter, just above the water line. The vessel was taken under close escort and beached at Silo Creek with a boom rigged around it. A plan is being developed with the insurers and Arctic Shipyard for salvage which is expected to happen on 7 September. There was no major pollution.

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** –
 - i. There are no further updates to the planning application and GH still awaits a response from the MMO. This is required by the Council to complete their Habitats Risk Assessment (HRA) which then goes before the planning committee, which could be in either October or November.
 - ii. The dredging is proceeding well with about 80% completed. A recent scan of the slopes, just after Cowes Week, shows they are holding up well.
- b. **Kingston Boatyard** – Some initial work has started on this to fulfil the planning application

conditions.

- c. **Visitor numbers** – General visitor numbers are down this year by about 20%. This is similar for other harbours across the marine industry. It is not clear as to the reasons why although figures show that maintenance levels have dipped and people are using their boats less often.
- d. **Electric boat** – there have been some teething problems with the electric boat, mainly around software, which are being resolved.
- e. **Storage of J70s and boats** –
 - i. These will be stored in Kingston in the marquee this winter, in order to facilitate more use of the Sugar Store for parties and events, which is being actively promoted and should provide additional income.
 - ii. Dry-sailing customers have been approached to see whether there is any interest in having undercover storage at Kingston this winter and there has been a considerable amount of interest.
 - iii. The team at Kingston are also now fully trained in erecting temporary scaffold tents, to encourage boat owners to rent them and work on their boats undercover.
 - iv. Enquiries are also being made about the cost of training staff to shrink-wrap boats.
- f. **Annual Report** – The Annual Report and Video will be distributed to the public on 4 September 2026.
- g. **Annual Mooring Holders party** – This is on Saturday 26 September 2026 and GH encouraged commissioners to attend, using it as a networking opportunity. GH will provide an insight at the party as to what CHC is doing as an organisation.
- h. **CHC Loyalty cards** – This is being introduced for the first time to look after existing customers and will be launched at the Annual Mooring Holders party.
- i. **Water Taxi service** – This has been very successful, and excellent feedback has been received.

8. FINANCE REPORT FOR JULY 2026

Copies of the Financial Management Reports for July 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

- i. **Lobster Pots** – JR asked for clarification on the position of fishermen putting lobster pots along the Green and in the harbour. JK advised that in CHC's General Directions, as long as they are marked correctly and outside of the channel and fairways, then it is allowed. No problems have been reported but the patrol boats do keep an eye on this area.
- ii. **Kill cords** – PH reported it has been brought to his attention that there is no signage on the use of kill cords. Whilst CHC has no legal right to enforce this, it was agreed that it is good practice to remind people to use kill cords when going out on ribs. PH asked JK to undertake a review of signage and what is currently in place.
- iii. **British Ports Association** – PH has been asked to speak at the major BPA Chairs meeting on 25 November 2026 and on 10 May 2027.
- iv. **Date of next meeting:** Friday 23 October 2026 at 1000 Cowes Harbour Commission Office.
- v. Cowes.



23/10/2026