

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RIVER YEALM HARBOUR AUTHORITY HELD IN THE HARBOUR OFFICE AT 18.00 ON 18TH MARCH 2025

Members and Officers in attendance:

Martyn Oates

Stephen Maltby – Vice Chairman – zoom

Nicky Tewson

John Endicott

Kevin Thomas

Ian Kennedy

Mark Steggles

Peter Franklin - Accountant

Jez Spring- Harbour Master

Debbie Rhead- Office Manager

Apologies for Absence

Dominic Crawley (Chairman), Tom Edie, Peter Hinchliffe and John Stansell sent their apologies.

A proposal from Nicky Tewson to appoint Martyn Oates as Chairman for tonight's meeting was made. This was seconded by Kevin Thomas and agreed by all members present.

Declarations of Interest

None.

Peter Franklin presented the draft annual financial statements for 2024 to the Authority prior to the meeting.

27/25 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 18th February 2025 were presented to the meeting. There were a couple of minor corrections pointed out by John Endicott and it was agreed by all that these could be made. The minutes were then proposed by Mark Steggles to be a true record of what was discussed, seconded by Kevin Thomas and agreed by all other members who had attended the meeting.

28/25 MATTERS ARISING

Pre-86 List – It was highlighted that on the historic Non-Residents list there were 4 people who did not qualify for moorings as residents within the riparian parishes and who were not Pre-86. Since we have such a demand for moorings on our waiting list, a decision was made that we should write to the 4 people concerned to say that we will honour their moorings for 2025 but will not continue to do so from 1st January 2026. At that time their moorings will be re-allocated to a qualifying person who is on our waiting list. The HM will compile a letter to send to those concerned. The issue of multiple moorings was also raised at the meeting, and it was decided that one person will be invited in to speak to the HM and a member of the Authority to discuss their present position and mooring requirements.

29/25 CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

30/25 FINANCIAL REPORT

Income and Expenses for February

In February we sent out invoices to the value of just under £5,000 net of VAT. Expenses totalled just over £6,300 while overheads amounted to £8,852.

Comparison P & L YTD 2024 -v- 2025

In February our income was up by £2,700 on this time last year. Direct Expenses were also up by £574. Our Overheads were also up by £1,500 on the previous year.

Balance Sheet

Current assets show debtors totalling just over £12,000.

Cashflow

The opening balance for February was £328,980 with a closing balance of £344,979 at the end of the month.

31/25 HARBOUR MASTER'S REPORT

Incidents: No incidents were formally recorded since the last Authority meeting.

Infrastructure: Both of the Visitor Pontoons have been cleaned ready for the start of the 2025 season. The Harbour Office carpet tiles have been replaced.

DHM Recruitment: A candidate for the role of DHM has been interviewed by the Chairman, HM and Office Manager on 10th March. A decision by the Authority members present at the meeting to recruit this candidate was unanimous. The April Rota for AHM's has now been issued and the May rota, to include the new DHM will now be sent. Training for the new DHM will commence in due course and PPE for the candidate will be ordered.

Seasonal Ferry Operations: Kevin Thomas informed the Authority that Billy Gregor has now decided to retire. The YCET have met with Billy Gregor and thanked him for his years of service on the river. It was agreed that the RYHA will also write to Billy to thank him. The intention of the Electric Ferry is to now run daily from 5th April between 10am and dusk, more details on this will be given once it has been sorted.

Insurance: Our insurance policies were renewed through our existing Insurance Brokers (Marsh Commercial) on 1st March 2025. They provided the best value-for-money of the 3 brokers who provided quotes. The total cost for all policies was £8144.50 (£156.26 lower than in 2024).

Non-payment of Moorings and Outhauls: A small number of people have failed to pay for Mooring and Outhauls to date despite frequent calls and emails from the Harbour Office. It was agreed that these people should be given a cut off date after which their mooring licences will be removed and the moorings re-allocated to the next suitable person on the waiting list.

Visitor Moorings PM7 and PM8: A seasonal payment charge of £45 for the use of PM7 and PM8 visitor buoys (by Yealm Steps) has now been introduced to help cover the maintenance costs of the buoys. (Limit of 3 x boats up to 12'6" LOA). New signs has been purchased to go on each buoy.

Harbour Guide: Our usual printers (PDS Printers in Plympton) have gone out of business, so HM has now engaged Colourbridge Printers in Ivybridge to produce the Harbour Guide. We have lost one advertiser, The Ship but taken on 5 new advertisers, The Swan plus 4 river service providers.

Pre-Season Staff Training: Office and practical based training is due to take place on Friday 21st March.

32/25 PARISH COUNCIL LIAISON

Wembury – Nothing to report.

Newton and Noss – Nothing to report

Brixton – Nothing to report.

Yealmpton – Nothing to report.

33/25 CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

34/25 MOORING APPLICATIONS AND PROPOSED MOORING ALLOCATIONS AND PARTNERSHIP REQUESTS

In January there was one new applicant requesting to join the mooring waiting list. 17 moorings were allocated. – 2 x A Moorings, 3 x B Moorings, 8 x C Moorings, 3 x D Moorings and 1 Outhaul.
There were no Partnership Requests.

35/25 AOB

John Endicott brought up the ongoing issue regarding Plymouth City Council's proposal to take control of certain areas in the South Hams. He emphasized to the Committee the importance of ensuring all our policies are up to date and that any necessary adjustments to safeguard the RYHA are made before any potential changes from the Council take effect.

36/25 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Harbour Authority will be the Annual Meeting on Tuesday 15th April 2025 at 6pm at The WI Hall, Newton Ferrers followed immediately afterwards by our monthly meeting.

Chairman