

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RIVER YEALM HARBOUR AUTHORITY HELD IN THE W.I. HALL AT 18.00 ON 15TH APRIL 2025

Members and Officers in attendance:

Dominic Crawley - Chairman
Stephen Maltby – Vice Chairman – zoom
Nicky Tewson
John Endicott
Tom Edie

Kevin Thomas
Ian Kennedy
Martyn Oates
Peter Hinchliffe

Jez Spring- Harbour Master

Debbie Rhead- Office Manager

Apologies for Absence

Mark Steggles and John Stansell sent their apologies.

Declarations of Interest

Nicky Tewson declared a potential conflict of interest as regards item 44/25. This was noted. The chairman was satisfied that due governance and process had been followed and as such no actual conflict existed.

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37/25 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 18th March 2025 were presented to the meeting. There was one minor correction pointed out by the Chairman and it was agreed by all that this should be made. The minutes were then proposed by Kevin Thomas to be a true record of what was discussed, seconded by Ian Kennedy and agreed by all other members who had attended the meeting.

38/25 MATTERS ARISING

- a) Pre-86 List – Letters have been sent to four historic non-residents on this list. Two of these have since replied requesting a continuation of their annual licence disc. The meeting reviewed the initial allocation of moorings to these individuals and considered all the other facts, including some previously not-seen documentation. As a result, and after due consideration, a decision to allow these licences to continue was agreed. To date, the Authority has not received responses from the other 2 individuals written to. The position remains the same that their licences will not be renewed at the end of 2025.
- b) A letter has now been sent to Billy Gregor from the RYHA to thank him for his many years of service to the river.
- c) Having not been present at the previous meeting, The Chairman requested clarification on the substance of the discussion that had taken place regarding item No.28/25. Following explanation, the Chairman confirmed that his query had been answered satisfactorily.

39/25 CORRESPONDENCE

- a) International Paint Limited Amsterdam (IPL), part of the AkzoNobel group, applied to the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) for a marine licence to carry out

stipulated remediation works, removing historic pollution in the foreshore area of the now defunct International Paints Laboratory, to the east of the harbour office at the mouth of Newton Creek. On 7th April, the Authority received notification from the MMO stating that, after full consideration of the facts, the circumstances of the case and the views of all interested parties the application was approved, subject to conditions. The MMO is the regulating Authority and has the power to determine whether a remediation licence should be issued.

It is our current understanding that an access licence will need to be issued to IPL by the landowner, in-order to physically go on site to fulfil the requirements of the MMO licence. Here a small explanation may be helpful. The river fundus below mean high water springs, including the area that has been polluted, is owned by the Crown Estate, who hold the freehold interest. The Authority leases the fundus from the Crown Estate under a lease, so we are the Crown Estate's lessee. The Authority has responsibility to manage and operate the harbour as a trust port under powers granted to us under the Yealm Harbour Revision Order 1981. We are in close dialogue with the Crown Estate to determine whether we as lessee, or the Crown Estate as freeholder should issue the licence. Oversight and operational control of the remediation process is certain to involve the Authority in significant work and management time to ensure we can continue to fulfil our duties as manager and operator of the harbour facility.

40/25 FINANCIAL REPORT

Income and Expenses for March

In March we sent out invoices to the value of just under £3,000 net of VAT. Expenses totalled just over £6,300 while overheads amounted to £16,000.

Comparison P & L YTD 2024 -v- 2025

In March our income was down by £2,000 on this time last year.
Direct Expenses were up by £800.
Our Overheads were also up by £2,000 on the previous year.

Balance Sheet

Current assets show debtors totalling just under £5,000.

Cashflow

The opening balance for March was £344,979 with a closing balance of £344,423 at the end of the month.

41/25 HARBOUR MASTER'S REPORT

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

Visitor Numbers and KPC Licences: Visitor numbers to date are 85 (approx. 1/3 of the 4-yearly average), KPC Seasonal Licences – 348 and KPC Day tickets – 19.

Infrastructure: There are concerns over the safety of the wood/rubbish pontoon.

Staff Training: The new DHM and all AHM's (bar 1) have now attended preseason training. New DHM has completed all his on-water training and most of the office admin training ahead of him assuming the DHM role on 15th April 2025.

Seasonal Ferry Operations: The Electric Ferry has now commenced operations and Salcombe have issued all their coxswains with their Boatman Licenses.

Ozi Mapping System: This has now been successfully migrated onto the new HM computer by Phil Hawker, for which we are very grateful.

42/25 PARISH COUNCIL LIAISON

Wembury – Nothing to report.

Newton and Noss – Nothing to report

Brixton – Nothing to report.

Yealmpton – Nothing to report.

43/25 CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

To increase continuity of Authority membership the Chairman proposed that the current 3 year-year cycle of Parish Council appointments be de-coupled from the current three-year cycle of mooring holder elections. This change will avoid the unlikely, but still possible, situation where all existing members could be replaced at the same time. Such an eventuality would not be good for knowledge transfer, continuity, process familiarity etc. The easiest way of doing this without having to amend the 1981 Revision Order, would be for the Parish Council appointees to formally resign in March 2026 and then be re-appointed immediately. This would re-start the Parish Council three-year appointment cycle. The result would be that in March 2027, 7 of the 11 members will continue in office for a further 2 years, whatever the outcome of the mooring holder elections and the RYA appointment.

Secondly, the Chairman explained that, whilst he is happy to fulfil the Chair role for a further 12 month, after that time, would wish to relinquish the Chair. He will remain as the RYA Representative until March 2027, at which time it is likely the RYA will wish to appoint a new representative on the Authority.

44/25 MOORING APPLICATIONS AND PROPOSED MOORING ALLOCATIONS AND PARTNERSHIP REQUESTS

In January there were two new applicants requesting to join the mooring waiting list. 7 moorings were allocated. – 4 x A Moorings, 1 x C Mooring and 2 x D Moorings. There were no Partnership Requests.

45/25 AOB

Martyn Oates asked if there had been any progress on the current situation with the moorings at Kitley. The HM explained that it is in hand, and we are waiting for a confirmed date for himself, Nigel Sobey (River Yealm Moorings) and Kevin Arscott (Kitley Moorings Manager) to go up and look at the moorings from the water. Once this has been done, he will report back to the Authority.

46/25 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Harbour Authority will be the Annual Meeting on Tuesday 20th May 2025 at 6pm at The Harbour Office.

Chairman