

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RIVER YEALM HARBOUR AUTHORITY HELD IN THE HARBOUR OFFICE AT 18.00 ON 15th JULY 2025

Members and Officers in attendance:

Stephen Maltby – Vice Chairman
Nicky Tewson
John Stansell - zoom

Ian Kennedy
Mark Steggles
John Endicott

Martyn Oates

Peter Hinchliffe - zoom

Alex Robson- Deputy Harbour Master

Debbie Rhead- Office Manager

Apologies for Absence

Dominic Crawley, Tom Edie, Jez Spring and Kevin Thomas sent their apologies.

Declarations of Interest

None.

68/25 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 17th June 2025 were presented to the meeting. The minutes were then proposed by Ian Kennedy to be a true record of what was discussed, seconded by Nicky Tewson and agreed by all other members who had attended the meeting.

69/25 MATTERS ARISING

None.

70/25 CORRESPONDENCE

- a) A request from the River Yealm Regatta for a donation towards the 2025 Fireworks has been received. The Authority Members all agreed that we should continue to sponsor this event again in 2025 and make a donation of £65 as we did in 2024.
- b) An email has been received from Rob Cross requesting a space on a visitor mooring for a whole season of 2026, allowing for a 5.85m boat share vessel to be in the river for the season. This matter was discussed by The Authority Members who decided that they would support this idea as it would allow 4 shared owners access to the river throughout the season. A message to Rob Cross will be sent to inform him of the decision.

71/25 FINANCIAL REPORT

Income and Expenses for April

In June we sent out invoices to the value of just over £19,500 net of VAT. Expenses totalled just over £10,000 and our overheads amounted to £13,600 (this includes our rent for Q2 of 2025).

Comparison P & L YTD 2024 -v- 2025

By June our income was up by just over £5,000 on this time last year.

Direct Expenses were up by £1,900.

Overheads were down by £4,400 on the previous year, despite the rent increase. This is mainly due to the reduced R & M costs (no chain replacement on the pontoon this year) and the reduction in the cost of our electricity.

Balance Sheet

Current assets show debtors totalling just over £1,100.

Cashflow

The opening balance for May was £311,354 with a closing balance of £322,896 at the end of the month.

72/25 HARBOUR MASTER'S REPORT

Incidents: Three incidents were formally recorded since the last Authority meeting, and all were collisions between manoeuvring vessels impacting moored vessels. The common theme throughout was the skippers not correctly judging the wind and strong tidal conditions correctly. In addition, a local resident RHIB was severely damaged after having to be abandoned following engine failure and being swept onto the rocks near Gara Point/Silver Cove.

Visitor Numbers and KPC Licences: Visitor numbers to date are 2336. KPC Seasonal Licences – 623 and KPC Day tickets – 73. May was the highest May total over the last 5 years whilst June was the lowest for that month. July is on track to be an average month.

Infrastructure: Access ladder replaced on the Main Pontoon. The plan is to replace the other ladder and the 2 on the Upper Visitor Pontoon at the end of the season. Debbie Rhead has been talking to Ros Davies from Devon County Council who confirmed they are still awaiting news on Capital Funding for the repairs to the Cinder Path. They are however carrying out repointing work at Kilpatrick Steps and repairs to the steps at Popes Quay.

Kitley Mooring Positions: The RHIB trot buoys that were positioned in the Clear Area have been repositioned within the Kitley Mooring area. The other 2 encroaching moorings will be moved in due course.

Bridgend Lift-In and Lift -Out – Shorestore (Plymouth) have informed us that they will no longer be conducting the Lift-In and Lift-Out operations at Bridgend. Vice - Chair and HM are seeking a new crane company to take over the operations. Ian Kennedy recommended that we thoroughly review the insurance coverage, risk assessments, and liability before confirming a replacement.

73/25 PARISH COUNCIL LIAISON

Wembury – Nothing to report.

Newton and Noss –Peter Hinchliffe reported that the Parish Council have agreed to pay half of the invoice for the new lights in the public toilet and also believed that it had been agreed to pay for half of the costs of the repairs to Popes Quay. He advised the Authority that Plymouth University had conducted a report on Heavy Metal Contamination in the Yealm and the results of this report are available on the Newton & Noss Parish website (July 2025 Update). The proposed Akzo Nobel meeting is now likely to take place during the 1st week of October.

Brixton – Nothing to report.

Yealmpton – Nothing to report.

74/25 CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

The Chairman had no comments.

75/25 MOORING APPLICATIONS AND PROPOSED MOORING ALLOCATIONS AND PARTNERSHIP REQUESTS

In May there were three new applicants requesting to join the mooring waiting list.

1 mooring was allocated. – 1 x A Mooring.

There was 1 Partnership request.

76/25 AOB

A request for a replacement mooring has been made by a recently widowed resident. It was agreed that a C or D mooring should be offered.

The Chairman read out a report/update from the YCET on the Electric Ferry. John Stansell raised the point that when the ferry had been cancelled due to the windy conditions, walkers had been transported across the river in the morning but were then unable to get back. It was agreed that total service cannot be guaranteed, and the HM will chat to YCET to suggest that they remind the coxswains to advise passengers of this when the weather is inclement.

Ian Kennedy requested that if any committee members were able to help with input into the new Book of Reference this would be appreciated. He will email members with a proposed time and date for this.

77/25 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Harbour Authority will be on Tuesday 16th September 2025 at 6pm at The Harbour Office. As usual no meeting in August.

Chairman