

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RIVER YEALM HARBOUR AUTHORITY  
HELD IN THE HARBOUR OFFICE AT 18.00 ON 21<sup>st</sup> OCTOBER 2025**

**Members and Officers in attendance:**

Dominic Crawley - Chairman  
Nicky Tewson  
John Stansell - zoom  
Martyn Oates  
Peter Hinchliffe

Ian Kennedy  
Mark Steggles  
John Endicott  
Kevin Thomas  
Stephen Maltby – Vice Chairman

Jez Spring - Harbour Master

Debbie Rhead- Office Manager

**Apologies for Absence**

Tom Edie sent his apologies.

**Declarations of Interest**

None.

**92/25 MINUTES**

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2025 were presented to the meeting. The minutes were then proposed by John Endicott to be a true record of what was discussed, seconded by Kevin Thomas and agreed by all other members present who had attended the September 2025 meeting.

**93/25 MATTERS ARISING**

A letter of support has been sent to the Bathing Water Status Group along with a thank you letter from the Authority to Shore Store for their years of service.

**94/25 CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

**95/25 FINANCIAL REPORT**

**Income and Expenses for September**

In September we sent out invoices to the value of just under £5,300 net of VAT  
Expenses totalled just under £10,500 and our overheads were just over £13,770. This includes the rent for Q4 of 2025.

**Comparison P & L YTD 2024 -v- 2025**

For the 9 months to the end of September income was up by just over £7,600 on the same period last year, despite the very poor visitor numbers in September.  
Direct expenses were up by £3,600 but overheads were down by nearly £4,000 on the previous year. Overall, we are running at £8,000 up YTD 2025 -v- YTD 2024.

**Balance Sheet**

Current assets show debtors totalling just over £300.

### **Cashflow**

The opening balance for September was £325,410 with a closing month-end balance of £318,913.

### **Bank accounts**

The meeting agreed that Ian Kennedy and Stephen Maltby should be added as signatories to the Santander bank account and that Andrew Matthews, Rodney Carter and John Beighton be removed. The Office Manager will arrange for the mandate to be updated and sent to the bank.

## **96/25 HARBOUR MASTER'S REPORT**

**Incidents:** There were no incidents formally recorded since the last Authority meeting.

**Visitor Numbers and KPC Licences:** Visitor numbers to date are 4,500.

**Infrastructure:** Visitor Mooring (PM1) moved 20m downstream to allow more swinging room from adjacent resident mooring (A58). RYMS annual inspection of Visitor and Navigation buoys completed; Inspections of 2 x Visitor Pontoons scheduled for early December 2025.

**Bridgend Lift-Out:** Took place on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> October (a day earlier than planned due to forecasted strong winds on Monday 20<sup>th</sup>).

**Winter Berthing:** 3 Visiting boats scheduled to stay on the visitor pontoons.

**Potential Non-Use Letters:** 10 Moorings identified so far as not being used correctly. A list of these will be circulated to Authority members.

## **97/25 FINAL REVIEW OF 2026 BUDGET PROPOSALS AND FORMAL APPROVAL**

Having circulated the relevant papers ahead of the meeting and receiving no further feedback on the draft budget, the Chairman proposed that the 2026 budget should be formally approved by the Authority. His proposal was seconded by Stephen Maltby and agreed by all members present at the meeting.

## **98/25 UPDATE ON AKZO NOBEL/INTERNATIONAL PAINT LTD (IPL) REMEDIATION PROGRAMME**

The Chairman updated the meeting on the status of the planned AkzoNobel Remediation Project. He reported ongoing discussions with Ashfords (the Authority's retained legal advisors) regarding the required Access Agreement between The Crown Estate and IPL. Based on Ashfords' advice, the Authority will be included as a party to the agreement, thereby benefiting from the extensive indemnities from AkzoNobel and IPL written into the licence. The licence will have an expiry date of 15th March 2026 to allow the Authority sufficient time to prepare for the new season. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman are currently in discussions with AkzoNobel and their

managing agent (Geosyntec) to finalise the fees, harbour dues, etc to be paid to the Authority during the term of the licence. Negotiations on this are still ongoing. The meeting agreed that any funds received in relation to this project will be held 'in reserve' until the work is completed. The project is scheduled to start on 3rd November, with equipment arriving the preceding Friday. As many as 15+ local boats remaining in the water over winter will be temporarily re-positioned on alternative moorings to allow safe access for the barges. The Harbour Master has contacted the relevant boat owners and will co-ordinate the necessary arrangements prior to the project start. Additionally, River Yealm Moorings will carry out any necessary mooring adjustments to prevent interference with working vessels. Peter Hinchliffe expressed his thanks to the Chairman and Vice-Chairman for their time and effort on this matter, with the rest of the Authority echoing their support.

### **99/25 CONGESTION AT YEALM STEPS AND THE BROOK**

It was agreed that communication should be initiated with stakeholders regarding the worsening congestion issues being experienced at Yealm Steps, the Brook and the Noss foreshore. The chairman will prepare the communication, working with the vice-chairman and Ian Kennedy. Whilst no final decisions were made on specific actions, it was agreed that the communication should address the impacts of congestion and a range of available mitigations, some of which are likely to be implemented for the 2026 season.

### **100/25 PARISH COUNCIL LIAISON**

Wembury – Nothing to report.

Newton and Noss – Nothing to report.

Brixton – Nothing to report.

Yealmpton – Nothing to report.

### **101/25 CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS**

Nothing to report.

### **102/25 MOORING APPLICATIONS AND PROPOSED MOORING ALLOCATIONS AND PARTNERSHIP REQUESTS**

In September there were four new applicants requesting to join the mooring waiting list.

2 moorings were allocated. – 1 x B Mooring and 1 x C Mooring.

There were no partnership requests.

**103/25 AOB**

Martyn Oates gave his apologies for the November meeting.

**104/25 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Harbour Authority will be on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2025 at 6pm at The Harbour Office.

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**Chairman**