

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RIVER YEALM HARBOUR AUTHORITY
HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL, NOSS MAYO AT 1900 on 21st APRIL 2026**

Members and Officers in attendance:

Ian Kennedy – Chairman	Martyn Oates
Stephen Maltby – Vice Chairman – via Zoom	Mark Steggles
Peter Hinchliffe	John Stansell
Kevin Thomas	Nicky Tewson
John Endicott	Dominic Crawley
Jez Spring – Harbour Master	Debbie Rhead - Office Manager

Apologies for Absence

Tom Edie.

Declarations of Interest

None.

034/26 MINUTES

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 17th February 2026 were presented to the meeting for consideration and amendment. The minutes were then proposed by John Endicott to be a true record, seconded by Mark Steggles and agreed by all other members present who had attended the meeting.

035/26 MATTERS ARISING

With the new Book of Reference nearing completion, the Chairman proposed that the committee vote on whether to formally adopt it. This was proposed by Peter Hinchliffe, seconded by Mark Steggles, and unanimously agreed by all present. The Chairman explained that the document should now be implemented and tested. Any necessary improvements or updates would be made on an ongoing basis as part of a working process, with formal re-ratification scheduled for 1 January 2027. Associated forms will also need to be updated to align with the new Book of Reference, as will the Rules and Regulations by the same date.

The HM updated the Authority on dinghy congestion, noting that policing of the identified “hot spots” has so far been relatively successful. The gig will remain on the Yealm Steps pontoon until the end of April, after which it will be removed, freeing up additional space for dinghies.

A meeting was held with Rodney Bastard and Kevin Arscott from Kitley Estate Moorings, along with Ian Kennedy, Dominic Crawley and the HM, to discuss the river, procedures, and plans for the upcoming season. No concerns were raised by any of the parties involved.

036/26 CORRESPONDENCE

We have received a request from the Regatta Committee for a donation towards the 2026 fireworks. It was agreed that we send a donation of £70 towards this.

037/26 FINANCIAL REPORT

Income and Expenses for March

In March our income was just over £5,700.

Expenses totalled just over £15,400 and our overheads were just over £7,400 giving a net deficit for the month of just over £17,100.

Budget Variance

There were no significant budget variances to report.

Balance Sheet

Current liabilities show debtors totalling £2,911, mainly invoices for Harbour Guide Adverts and the Bridgend Lift-In.

Cashflow

The closing balance at the end of January was £411,000.

The Office Manager advised the Authority of all planned expenditure for 2026 also that the Q1 VAT would be payable on 7th May - £27, 319.

038/26 HARBOUR MASTER'S REPORT

Incidents: One incident formally recorded since last Authority meeting where a visiting sailor had an oar break whilst attempting to row his dinghy back to the Main Visitor Pontoon. He contacted the Coastguard and they dispatched the Plymouth RNLi Inshore Rescue Boat to retrieve him and his dinghy from the Noss Shoreline upstream of Wide Slip.

Visitor Nights and KPC Numbers: Visitor nights to date are 185 (Note April 5-yearly average is 245 visitor nights). To date, 406 KPC discs have been issued.

Infrastructure: Ros Davies (DCC) reported that the damaged railings at Wide Slip and Warren Point would be replaced this year. A temporary repair has been done to the railings at Warren Point.

Environmental Meeting: A meeting to discuss independent monitoring of the former International Paints site will take place at the Yealm Yacht Club at 6pm on Tuesday 28th April. The meeting will be led by Prof. Steve Hawkins and Prof. Richard Thompson

Harbour Launch: The maintenance and repair package by Plymouth Pilots is now all completed apart from we are waiting for delivery of a new propellor.

Student Work Placement: This has now been confirmed and all paperwork completed. The student called into the Harbour Office to discuss the plans for the week they are here.

Bridgend Boat Lift-In: Originally scheduled for Wednesday 25th March, this was delayed due to high winds until Monday 30th March.

Paddle-Out Protest at Pope's Quay (Saturday 16 May): This event is being organised by the Newton and Noss Bathing Water Steering Group and is scheduled to take place between 1500 and 1800. HM is meeting with the Steering Group tomorrow to discuss their plans and Risk Assessments, and to look at safe deconfliction between them and other river users.

039/26 PARISH COUNCIL LIAISON

Wembury – A meeting has now been set up with Southwest Water and Wembury Parish Council to discuss the sewage spill, and an update will be given following this. John Stansell will be stepping down from The Authority following this meeting and details of the replacement representative for Wembury have been passed on.

Newton and Noss – The Electric Ferry now has 6 coxswains, and they are currently operating from 10am – 4pm daily. Five out of the six of them are also eligible to drive the back-up Rigid Raider if necessary. There is a follow-up weight/stability test being carried out on Thursday 23rd April and the results of that will be reported at the next meeting.

Brixton –No replacement for Martyn Oates has yet been made.

Yealmpton – Nothing to report.

South Hams District Council – Nothing to report.

040/26 CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS –

Ian Kennedy thanked Dominic Crawley for his dedication and hard work during his time as Chair of the Committee, noting that he has guided the Authority through a number of complex challenges and leaves it in a strong position—no small feat to follow.

Dominic said he has greatly valued his time with the Authority and will remain on the committee, continuing to offer his support wherever possible. He will also continue working with the RYA to help secure a suitable successor when the time comes.

041/26 MOORING APPLICATIONS AND PROPOSED MOORING ALLOCATIONS AND PARTNERSHIP REQUESTS

In March there were no new applicants requesting to join the mooring waiting list.

12 moorings were allocated.

There was one partnership request made.

042/26 AOB

Nothing.

043/26 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 19th May in the Harbour Office at 6pm.

Minutes approved at a meeting of the Harbour Authority held on 19th May 2026



Chairman