

HARBOUR USERS GROUP MINUTES

Tuesday 8th April 2025 14:00

Fal Meeting Room, Brydon Building,
Pendennis Shipyard



FALMOUTH
HARBOUR

UK's Atlantic gateway.

Attendees:

David Owens, Chair of HUG	DO
Ned Bailey, Commercial Fisher	NB
David Barnicoat, FDEC Port Users Group (PUG)	DB
Trevor Brookes, Resident Naval Officer – Falmouth	TB
Simon Cadman, Cornwall IFCA	SC
Miles Carden, CEO Falmouth Harbour	MC
Shane Carr, Commodore RCYC	SCR
Rob Churcher, Tamlyn Shipping	RC
Peter Harvey, Flushing Sailing Club	PH
Meg Hayward-Smith, Natural England	MHS
Tom Karsenburg, Graypen Shipping	TK
Ifor Pedley, Falmouth Harbour Master	IP
Charlie Ross, Pendennis Shipyard	CR
Tristan Rowe, Head of Commercial Ops, Falmouth Harbour	TRW
Gaye Slater, Port of Falmouth Sailing Association (PoFSA)	GS
Chris Turner, Harbour Master, St Mawes Pier & Harbour	CT
Luke Wills, Port Manager & Harbour Master, FDEC	LW

Guests

David Steed, Buoyant Productions	DS
Neil Farrington, Celtic Sea Power	NF

1. Welcome and Introduction

- All introduced themselves.
- Charlie Ross welcomed everyone and offered a tour of Pendennis Shipyard afterwards or at some point in the future.
- Thank you to Charlie Ross and Pendennis Shipyard for hosting.

2. Apologies

Tony Arden, Senior Environment Officer, Environment Agency	TA
Chris Davis, RYA	CD
Jonathan Fielding, Falmouth Boat Co	JF
Toby Floyer, Cornwall Ferries Limited	TFL
Richard Gates, Falmouth Town Council	RG
Andy Grant, Keynvor Morlift	AG
Adam Harris, RNLI	AH
David Nicol, RNLI and Vice chair of HUG	DN
Francesca Rowe, Seawide Services	FR
Steve Taylor, Falmouth Marine School	ST
Andy Wright, Falmouth Harbour Commissioner	AWT

Absent Without Apologies

John Andrew, St Mawes Sailing Club	JA
Paul Ferris, Cornwall Council	PF
Tom Furse, HM Coastguard	TF
Michelle Hares, Falmouth Gig Club	MH
Chris Jones, Marine Manager, Cornwall Council	CJ
Claire Lewis, Wild Swimming Coach and Chair of Surf Life Saving Club	CL
Nick Martin, Falmouth Pilots LLP	NM

3. Declarations of Interest

- None.

4. Approval of Minutes of the Meeting held on 10th February 2025

- The minutes were approved with no amendments.

5. Matters Arising

- Previously distributed for information.
- IP went through and updated the Matters Arising. The HUG agreed that all Matters Arising were captured.

6. Buoyant Productions

- MC outlined the FabTest test site, where it is and previous devices deployed. The site is leased from The Crown Estate.
- Most devices need MMO consent before deployment.
- David Neil, Buoyant Productions, ran through his presentation on the Demonstrator Project.
- The presentation introduced Buoyant Productions who specialise in offshore energy projects and the demonstrator unit that will be used.
- The device will test remote power, controlled communications, novel ballasting operation testing, motion performance, machine learning tools.
- The device will be deployed for the offshore testing phase from July to October.
- There is a consultation event tomorrow evening in the Falmouth Harbour Meeting Room on Boatpark. This has been publicised in The Falmouth Packet, social media and notices displayed in the Harbour offices.
- The formal MMO consultation will be 28 days. Just waiting confirmation of dates from MMO.
- NB commented that the FabTest area is prime fishing grounds so it would be useful to know exactly where the device will be so local fishers can be informed. DS displayed a map of the devices location once deployed.
- MC confirmed that any devices to be deployed on the FaBTest site will always be presented to the HUG.
- MC thanked Cornwall Council and the Enterprise Fund who have helped to fund the FabTest site over the last few years.
- A notice to Mariners will be distributed before deployment.

ACTION: Any updates including licencing to be communicated to the HUG.

7. HRO Update - Miles Carden

- MMO have had some difficulties in resourcing the current round of HROs and they are not accepting any new HRO applications at the moment. They are reviewing this process.
- For the Falmouth Harbour HRO there are 3 representations outstanding locally and these are matters that the MMO will need to review and adjust the HRO accordingly.
- MC is hopeful the HRO will be approved later this year or early in 2026 and will keep the HUG informed on progress.

8. Pilotage Review – Ifor Pedley

- The pilotage directions have been reviewed by IP, LW and CJ.
- The necessary consultations have been done, agents written to and adjustments made based on representations.
- We would like to implement the amended directions from May 1st 2025.
- The directions cover commercial shipping and where pilotage is needed.
- Once finalised the pilotage directions will be distributed across all the normal channels.
- The HUG discussed the use length of a vessel instead of draught.
- LW said the directions will be reviewed more frequently so they may well change in the future based on vessel traffic and changes in the channel.

ACTION: New Pilotage Directions to be implemented from 1st May 2025.

9. Update on Gyllyngvase Beach Safety Zone (BSZ) – Ifor Pedley

- The consultation is now complete and included a public event held at Gylly Café.
- We have listened to and responded to all representations.
- The direction will be in place from Easter.
- We are awaiting delivery of the marker buoys and are in discussion with Cornwall Council on appropriate signage for the beach.
- The area will be patrolled more regularly.
- There will be an initial re view at the end of the summer which will be presented to the HUG.
- The Board of Falmouth Harbour Commissioners have approved the new direction.
- Information on the zone will be distributed to stakeholders.
- DO thanked DN , NB and the life guards for their invaluable input.

ACTION: New Gyllyngvase Beach Safety Zone to be implemented from 1st May 2025.

10. Hazman (Hazard Management) - Ifor Pedley

- IP will demonstrate in more detail at a future meeting.
- Hazman has an incident reporting facility which anyone can use - link here [Incident](#).
- It doesn't work particularly well on a mobile phone but you can switch to PC mode for a better experience. DO requested that IP talks to the Hazman supplier about improving the mobile phone interface.
- When an incident is reported the HM Team are notified and deal with it accordingly.
- This information feeds into Audit and Risk Committee and the Harbour Board.
- DO would like lessons learnt from any incidents to be discussed at the HUG with a view to sharing trends and any learning experiences that arise.

- The Coastguard will contact us if they have been notified of an incident in our waters.
- MC commented that if anyone has concerns about safety in the harbour please log it as an incident. All the information recorded helps to inform future directions.

ACTION: IP to create a FAQs document around Hazman and reporting incidents to be distributed to Harbour users.

11. Leisure Update - Tristan Rowe

- TRW gave an overview of Falmouth Harbour's (FH) leisure services.
- Marina – this is a chain marina with 39 annual berths. Visitor pontoon spacing means we can accommodate a maximum of about 100 boats.
- Mylor, Port Pendennis and FH have all seen higher turnover this year. Most are now at the end of their waiting lists.
- For annual berths we are at 95% occupancy.
- We have 40 berths inside Custom House Quay (CHQ) for 6-7 m vessels. We have 60 people who are on the waiting list for this.
- We have 60 outhauls on the walls at CHQ and King Charles Quay 6m boat but this is tidal. Also at about 90% occupancy.
- Moorings – we have 599 moorings with 20 reserved for visitors and the rest split across various vessel sizes. We currently have about 85% occupancy. Good availability for smaller vessels.
- We are now working on refining strops for every customer. The strop project has been successful as we have had no mooring failures in the last 2 years.
- Marine Hub has 100 spaces for boats, trailers etc.
- We operate the water sports area for racked tender berths. Now installing kayak racks.
- The leisure team are based in the Marine Hub office on the boat part.
- TRW is looking at customer demographics. TRW believes around 60% have a local postcode but this does not take into account second homes.
- TB commented that prices are starting to affect local boat owners. CT commented that winter storage is expensive so the overall cost of boat ownership is high.
- TRW commented that we also have an issue with end of life boats being abandoned.

12. Any Other Business

- Following the theft of an expensive rib last year the owner has created a security system costing around £700. There is a physical link to the mooring with 2 transponders and an app. If the rib leaves the mooring you can follow where it goes. CT will email details to the HUG.
- Following a question on how to disseminate information from the HUG it was agreed that agendas can be posted on the website. Once approved the minutes will be on website. Will look at getting these on the website as soon as possible.

13. Future Meetings Location and Timings

Monday 2nd June 2025 at 18:00 Venue TBC

Tuesday 2nd September 2025

Meetings start at 14:00 unless indicated otherwise.