

# HARBOUR USERS GROUP MINUTES

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2025 14:00

KML, North Parade, Falmouth TR11 2TF



FALMOUTH  
HARBOUR

UK's Atlantic gateway.

## Attendees:

David Owens, Chair of HUG	DO
Tony Arden, Senior Environment Officer, Environment Agency	TA
Ned Bailey, Commercial Fisher	NB
David Barnicoat, FDEC Port Users Group (PUG)	DB
Simon Cadman, Cornwall IFCA	SC
Chris Davis, RYA	CD
Richard Gates, Falmouth Town Council	RG
Adam Harris, RNLI	AH
Nick Martin, Pilot	NM
David Nicoll, RNLI and Vice chair of HUG	DN
Ifor Pedley, Falmouth Harbour Master	IP
Tristan Rowe, Head of Commercial Operations, Falmouth Harbour	TRW
Dan Tregaskes, Pendennis Shipyard	DT
Chris Turner, Harbour Master, St Mawes Pier & Harbour	CT
Andy Wright, Falmouth Harbour Commissioner	AWT
Abbie Smith, Head of Marine KLM	AS
Luke Wills, Port Manager & Harbour Master, FDEC	LW

## Guests:

Diccon Rogers, Managing Director KML	DR
Abby Crosby, Senior Marine Officer, Cornwall Council	AC
Kerry Holbrook, Fal & Helford SAC Estuary Officer	KH

### 1. Welcome Introduction and Host Presentation

- All introduced themselves.
- Thank you to KML for hosting.
- DR gave a short presentation on KML. A Cornish company that started 15 years ago that now trades all over the world.

### 2. Apologies

Trevor Brookes, Resident Naval Officer – Falmouth	TB
Tom Furse, HM Coastguard	TF
Peter Harvey, Flushing Sailing Club	PH
Chris Jones, Maritime Manager Cornwall Council	CJ
Tom Karsenburg, Graypen Shipping	TK
Margaret Kerr, Dive Clubs Representative	MK
Charlie Ross, Pendennis Shipyard	CR
Gaye Slater, Port of Falmouth Sailing Association (PoFSA)	GS
Debbie Smith, Falmouth Gig Club	DS

#### Absent Without Apologies

John Andrew, St Mawes Sailing Club	JA
Tom Blakemore, Penryn Harbour Master	TB
Shane Carr, Commodore RCYC	SCR

Rob Churcher, Tamlyn Shipping	RC
Jonathan Fielding, Falmouth Boat Co	JF
Toby Floyer, Cornwall Ferries Limited	TFL
Meg Hayward-Smith, Natural England	MHS
Claire Lewis, Wild Swimming Coach and Chair of Surf Life Saving Club	CL
Francesca Rowe, Seawide Services	FR

### 3. Declarations of Interest

- None.

### 4. Approval of Minutes of the Meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 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. Presentation from Abby Crosby on Falmouth Active Seagrass Restoration Project

- AC is the Senior Marine Officer at Cornwall Council.
- AC ran through her presentation on Cornwall Council's Marine Nature Recovery Framework which aligns with the statutory terrestrial Local Nature Recovery Strategy.
- The framework was developed following extensive stakeholder engagement.
- The framework is now available for public consultation which closes on 10<sup>th</sup> October.
- One of the identified priorities of the framework is seagrass.
- Over 80% of the seagrass in our area is unfavourable or declining.
- The steering group involves Cornwall Council, Ocean Conservation Trust, University of Exeter, Falmouth Harbour, Blue Meadows and Falmouth Marine Conservation Group who are working collaboratively on the Blue Recovery Project looking at under water seagrass.
- Need MMO licence and Crown Estate permission for any restoration activity before funding can be applied for. If funding is successful activity will start in Spring 2026.
- The focus site is likely to be near Swanpool and will be the largest restoration project in the UK.
- The project is likely to cost around £250k in the first year.
- NB commented that the natural effect of moving sand (sediment dynamics) in the area may affect the success of the project. AC commented that seagrass does move with the sand.
- The restoration will start in a small area and if not successful the project will be reviewed. It will be down the stakeholder group if any changes are made to fishing permissions in the area.
- NB commented that South West Water (SWW) need to look at pollution incidents in the area. TA from the EA indicated that 40% of pollution in the estuary came from SWW sources, 40% from agriculture and 20% from diffuse sources including road and urban runoff. DO will request the EA to provide more information on this with a presentation at a future meeting.
- AC encouraged everyone to complete survey - [Seagrass Survey](#).

**ACTION:** DO will request the EA to provide more information on pollution with a presentation at a future meeting.

## 7. Falmouth Harbour User Group - First Year Review

- Previously distributed for information and discussion.
- The document has been written by DO in discussion with DN, Miles Carden, IP and AWT.
- This paper will be presented at the October Board meeting.
- Working with local gig clubs to encourage their representation on the HUG.
- DO asked the group to suggest agenda items that they would like discussed.
- Learning lessons following near fatal heart attack on a gig will be circulated once available.
- Gyllyngvase Beach Safety Zone will be reviewed by IP and DN.
- RG suggested the HUG contacts the Beach Management Group for the 4 main beaches. DO will consider how we integrate with them.
- CD felt that the HUG is going well. Safety Management is at the top of the RYA's agenda. Systems in place are good but always room to improve. RYA keen to get involved in robust safety management across the area.
- SC suggested a record of safety equipment e.g. defibs across the various organisations.
- As there are a lot of boat yards and marinas in the area there is an issue with wash down residue going into the ocean. This may be more pertinent to Cornwall Marine Network and highlights the overlapping nature of the various groups around the harbour.
- DO spoke about hard to reach stakeholders that we would benefit from having on the HUG. For example, there are a lot of boaters that are not members of any sailing clubs.
- Dive training providers may be a good contact to reach independent divers.
- DO encouraged the group to give feedback on the document via himself, IP, TRW or KS.
- DO and AWT spoke about the Commissioner recruitment for 2 new commissioners which includes a vacancy for a community commissioner.
- AWT is the link commissioner for the HUG and encouraged the group to bring any issues to the HUG.

## 8. Hazman Incident Report - Ifor Pedley

- Previously distributed for information.
- IP ran through the incident list.
- Church Street pollution incidents are collated over a month and then a pollution report is sent to the Environment Agency. This is seepage from the car park which once housed a gas works. DO would like Cornwall Council (the land owner) to come to the HUG to talk about what can be done long term.
- Mooring failures - TRW reported just 1 strop failure and the strop has gone back to the manufacture. There has been one strop failure in two years.
- CT reported unattended anchored boats which resulted in welfare calls.
- Any mooring failures at St Mawes are usually down to the boat owners lack of knowledge.
- The Fal Estuary Marine Safety Committee (FEMSC) consolidate all incidents and review for trends.
- The HUG has passed the issue with the different speed limits within the harbour to FEMSC and they are reviewing this.

## 9. Any Other Business

### New FabTest Device

- Comments from Vicki Spooner below.
- We may be having a new device being deployed at FaBTest this month. This will be a 5 day deployment of a dynamic cable which will be attached to a vessel for the duration of the deployment. CableSpring is a dynamic cable configured for Floating Offshore Wind. The 5 day test will drop a weight down to the seabed which is connected to one end of the cable. The vessel, connected to the other end of the cable, will move closer to the anchor point and then away again to allow divers and ROVs to record the cable position through the water column to confirm the design acts in the way modelled. This will be in the following location 50°06.0000'N 04°59.8200'W. The vessel will be within 20-30m of the anchor point.
- The buoyant productions platform will be removed from the FaBTest site in early October.

### Other

- NB commented that a diver reported concerns about a fishing net east of Silver Steps. This was set by young fishermen from Mylor to catch spider crabs. NB spoke to them and they removed their net but it had been vandalised and has had to be disposed of. This will affect the livelihood of these young fishermen. DO encouraged NB to report these sorts of incidents via Hazman - [Report an Incident](#).
- Encouraging dive groups to attend the HUG will help with this awareness.
- RG reported on Falmouth Town's emergency plans. RG requested anyone who is happy to be included in the (confidential) emergency cascade list please contact him. He needs name, area and contact details.

## 10. Future Meetings Location and Timings

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2026

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2026

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> August 2026

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November

Meetings start at 14:00 unless indicated otherwise.