HARBOUR USERS GROUP MINUTES
Thursday 12th February 2026 14:00
Flushing Sailing Club

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
Tom Blakemore, Penryn Harbour Master	TB
Trevor Brookes, Resident Naval Officer – Falmouth	TB
Tom Furse, HM Coastguard	TF
Elliot Holman, A&P	EH
Tom Karsenburg, Graypen Shipping	TK
Nick Martin, Pilot	NM
David Nicoll, RNLI and Vice chair of HUG	DN
Ifor Pedley, Falmouth Harbour Master	IP
Paul Roberts, KML Boatyard Manager	PR
Gaye Slater, Port of Falmouth Sailing Association (PoFSA)	GS
Abbie Smith, Head of Marine KLM	AS
Nigel Tipple, Chair of Falmouth Harbour Board	NT
Dan Tregaskes, Pendennis Shipyard	DT
Andy Wright, Falmouth Harbour Commissioner	AWT

Guests:

Miles Carden, CEO Falmouth Harbour	MC
Vicki Spooner, EQSM Falmouth Harbour	VS

1. **Welcome Introduction and Host Presentation**
   - All introduced themselves.
   - Thank you to Flushing Sailing Club for hosting.
   - Sending best wishes to Richard Gates.

2. **Apologies**

Simon Cadman, Cornwall IFCA	SC
Toby Floyer, Cornwall Ferries Limited	TFL
Richard Gates , Falmouth Town Council	RG
Dan Hadley, Mylor Yacht Harbour	DH
Peter Harvey, Flushing Sailing Club	PH
Adam Harris, RNLI	AH
Kerry Holbrook, Fal and Helford Estuary Officer	KH
Chris Jones, Maritime Manager Cornwall Council	CJ
Margaret Kerr, Dive Clubs Representative	MK
Charlie Ross, Pendennis Shipyard	CR
Tristan Rowe, Head of Commercial Operations, Falmouth Harbour	TRW
Chris Turner, Harbour Master, St Mawes Pier & Harbour	CT

Absent Without Apologies

John Andrew, St Mawes Sailing Club	JA
Shane Carr, Commodore RCYC	SCR
Chris Davis, RYA	CD
Tony Ede, Falmouth Watersports Association	TE
Jonathan Fielding, Falmouth Boat Co	JF
Meg Hayward-Smith, Natural England	MHS
Brendan Rowe, Seawide Services	BR
Debbie Smith, Falmouth Gig Club	DS

3. Declarations of Interest

- DO is a trustee of Flushing Sailing Club.

4. Approval of Minutes of the Meeting held on 18th September 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. Falmouth Harbour Master Review of 2025

Review of 2025

- Increased number of cruise calls with the size of the cruise ships increasing. We have facilitated new anchoring possibilities to encourage cruise calls for larger vessels.
- Due to congestion at the docks we have seen increased use of the larger commercial mooring buoys.
- Inner harbour large vessels moorings have seen an increase in use by superyachts.
- First 2 non-oil Ship to Ship (STS) transfers in the harbour last year.
- New pilot boat Atlantic went back to Holyhead to resolve some minor snagging. The boat is quiet and efficient and a great asset to the port.
- Beach Safety Zone at Gylly beach - this was reviewed at the end of the season and will be continued. To be reviewed again at the end of the 2026 season.
- Emergency plan has been updated.
- A new Marine Safety Management System (MSMS) has been created on SharePoint allowing for great collaboration. This was audited by our DP in October.
- Inner harbour has been surveyed.
- Storm Goretti brought exceptional weather conditions which led to 3 breakaways and damage to the marina. Remedial work is underway.

For 2026

- New Harbour Monitoring system to track and record VHF and ship movements in or waters.
- New CCTV at Gylly Beach to monitor the safety zone. AI software is being used to monitor incidents and speeding etc.
- Steel buoys will be replaced with polymer buoys which are preferred by superyachts.
- PoFSA race marks will be laid by Falmouth Harbour (FH).
- A 70cm diameter WaverRider buoy will be deployed at 50.1051N 4.9811W (Lat-Long) (WGS 84)). This will also be lit – Fl (5) Y 20s.
- Increased number of cruise ship visits during 2026.
- NB requested prior notice of cruise ship anchoring.

HVO

- NB asked if we could sell HVO. IP explained that it is a lot more expensive than diesel. NB commented that fuelling for commercial fisherman is an issue in Falmouth.
- VS explained the governments HVO policy benefits inland waterways and roads but not for marine vessels. VS is campaigning for a better price point for HVO.
- HUG discussed how we can progress this through local MPs, British Ports Association etc.

ACTION: CEO, VS and DO to liaise further on HVO and campaign for a better price point.

7. Falmouth Harbour CEO Update

- CEO gave an update on the new Board members following departure of GP and JE.
- Another Board member is due to end his term in December.
- FH would like to have a community representative on the Board and will take a different approach to recruitment for this role with HUG involvement. We are also looking at options for co-opting board members.
- We will issue a full annual report in April to coincide with a public Open Day towards the end of April.
- New Harbour Revision Order (HRO) - this has been a long process mainly due to lack of MMO capacity. Hopeful that HRO will be laid in parliament in late 2027. This process will have taken over 6 years.

8. Safety Awareness Day

- DO distributed his paper with outline proposals for a safety event.
- This has evolved due to some significant safety incidents that have occurred both locally and nationally.
- The event would involve key players such as HM Coastguard, RNLI, A&P, and Falmouth Harbour.
- After discussion, the HUG agreed to support the event and to hold it on a Saturday morning rather than an evening. AS volunteered KML's HSE officer.

9. Falmouth Harbour and Sustainability Presented by VS

- FH's main objective is to be an industry leader and advocate for sustainability.
- VS ran through the sustainable development goals in our plan.
- FH has reduced scope 1 carbon emissions by 40% due to using HVO in our vessels.
- 5 advanced mooring systems have been installed.
- FH is facilitating testing at our FabTest site.
- FH is supporting MSc and PhD students as well as offering work experience opportunities.
- In 2026 there will be further decarbonisation with the goal of becoming a net zero organisation by 2030.
- We will continue to strengthen resilience to climate change related impacts on our infrastructure, increase biodiversity, reduce waste and pollution and contribute to the circular economy and offer more work experience placements and facilitate higher education relevant projects.
- Anchor Point is a Crown Estate funded project looking at moorings for larger vessels.
- Motion for the Ocean pledge commits Cornwall and Falmouth Town Council to promote ocean recovery and connect people to the sea.
- Active seagrass restoration project across Falmouth beaches over 3 years.

- Church Street car park update - some pointing work has been done but pollution is coming out of the sea bed. TA will check on progress. TA commented that as Cornwall Council are both the regulatory authority and the land owner they are effectively regulating themselves. The severity of the pollution is not enough to take forward to prosecution.
- TA commented that a cost benefit analysis was completed a few years ago which showed it will cost more than £10 million to remedy the situation.
- TB reported that there will be signage to allow reporting of any pollution.
- DO commented that there needs to be better information available on the problem in the public domain.

10. HUG Work Programme for 2026

- DN and DO have discussed with the Falmouth Harbour Board.
- DO distributed the proposed HUG work programme.
- DO would like to encourage more leisure users to join the HUG.
- The work programme focuses on 5 areas: Community Engagement, Communications, Operations, Specialist Issues, Community Accessibility.
- CEO spoke in more detail about the April open day which he hopes will give stakeholders accessibility to Falmouth Harbour assets and vessels. This will be advertised widely with support from HUG members to disseminate further.
- DO asked for feedback and if there were any additional areas anyone wanted to suggest.
- NB offered to give a talk on in shore fishing in Falmouth. AS offered to help put a presentation together for a future meeting.

11. Any Other Business

- NB reported on various safety issues including an incident where a vessel had to call the Coastguard using 999 rather than using a radio. TF commented that with mobile technology using 999 helps the Coastguard pinpoint a location much faster than reporting latitude and longitude via VHF.
- These safety issues which can be included in the Safety Event.
- Safety and pollution issues should be reported to IP or via Hazman. Any serious incidents are then reported to the MMO.

12. Future Meetings Location and Timings

Tuesday 5th May 2026 - Venue TBC
Tuesday 4th August 2026 - Venue TBC
Tuesday 3rd November 2026 - Venue TBC

Meetings start at 14:00 unless indicated otherwise.