HARBOUR USERS GROUP MINUTES
Tuesday 5th May 2026 14:00
Flushing Sailing Club

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
Tom Blakemore, Penryn Harbour Master	TB
Trevor Brookes, Resident Naval Officer – Falmouth	TB
Simon Cadman, Cornwall IFCA	SC
Miles Carden, CEO Falmouth Harbour	MC
Keren Cooksey, Falmouth BID Manager	KC
Chris Davis, RYA	CD
Tom Furse, HM Coastguard	TF
Richard Gates , Falmouth Town Council	RG
Kerry Holbrook, Fal and Helford Estuary Officer	KH
Margaret Kerr, Dive Clubs Representative	MK
David Mitchell, Flushing Sailing Club	DM
David Nicoll, RNLI and Vice chair of HUG	DN
Ifor Pedley, Falmouth Harbour Master	IP
Charlie Ross, Pendennis Shipyard	CR
Tristan Rowe, Head of Commercial Operations, Falmouth Harbour	TRW
Gaye Slater, Port of Falmouth Sailing Association (PoFSA)	GS
Nigel Tipple, Chair of Falmouth Harbour Board	NT
Chris Turner, Harbour Master, St Mawes Pier & Harbour	CT
Andy Wright, Falmouth Harbour Commissioner	AWT

1. Welcome Introduction and Host Presentation

- All introduced themselves.
- Since the last meeting DO attended the A&P Port User Group (PUG), the Fal and Helford SAC Forum and Falmouth Harbour (FH) Board meetings. If any HUG member has any questions for any of those groups please let DO know.

2. Apologies

Tony Arden, Senior Environment Officer, Environment Agency	TA
Dan Tregaskes, Pendennis Shipyard	DT

Absent Without Apologies

John Andrew, St Mawes Sailing Club	JA
Tony Ede, Falmouth Watersports Association	TE
Jonathan Fielding, Falmouth Boat Co	JF
Toby Floyer, Cornwall Ferries Limited	TFL
Dan Hadley, Mylor Yacht Harbour	DH
Adam Harris, RNLI	AH
Meg Hayward-Smith, Natural England	MHS
Chris Jones, Maritime Manager Cornwall Council	CJ
Tom Karsenburg, Graypen Shipping	TK

Nick Martin, Pilot	NM
Paul Roberts, KML Boatyard Manager	PR
Brendan Rowe, Seawide Services	BR
Abbie Smith, Head of Marine KLM	AS
Debbie Smith, Falmouth Gig Club	DS

3. Declarations of Interest

- DO is the Chair of Trustees at Flushing Sailing Club and occasionally does consultancy work for South West Water.

4. Approval of Minutes of the Meeting held on 12th February 2026

- 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

Incidents

- There have been no major incidents since the last meeting. There have been a number of vessels breaking loose due to strong easterly winds. All of these have been down to either vessel structure failure or owners securing arrangements to the mooring. None have been down to harbour moorings failures.

PoFSA Race Marks

- All the race marks have been deployed to their locations by the maintenance team except for 2 which will be out tomorrow. It has been noted that the actual positions are not reflected correctly on electronic or paper charts. We have written to the Hydrographic Office to request the true positions are charted.

New Harbour Monitoring System

- We are currently working on a specification and implementation of a new Harbour Monitoring system. This will likely happen later in the year. We are in discussions with Nare Point NCI to site the radar system. This will have a view over the bay and up to the Dodman.

Wave Rider Buoy

- As above we are talking to NCI Nare Point about siting the receiving aerial. When this is working the data will be live on our website. The buoy is situated in the southern sector of the Fab Test Site.

Cruise Ships

- The Hamburg went bows to Crossroads Buoy on 21st April using docks strops. This was an extra call as she could not visit Penzance due to the weather. The Captain was very pleased with the arrangements and thankful that a call could go ahead and keep his passengers happy. We have another 42 calls scheduled, of which, 18 are anchorages and tender ops. There are 3 days booked for 2 ships on the same day.

Gylly Safety Zone CCTV

- CCTV went live today at the Gylly Safety Zone. This will compliment and help the Lifeguards who do a great job in managing the area.

New Large Vessel Moorings

- New composite mooring buoys have been installed in the harbour for large vessels. We have already had 2 superyachts using them and the feedback has been very good. These are positioned at Frigate and Caldy locations.

Active Seagrass Restoration

- Ocean Conservation Trust seagrass restoration project has been delayed due to weather conditions affecting the beaches in Falmouth where they intend to plant seagrass using matting which is pre-populated by seagrass. These are fastened to the seabed using pins.

Other

- No notable Hazman incidents.
- Pollution incidents from Church Street car park ongoing. These are being reported to Cornwall Council and Environment Agency (EA).
- NB reported on recent incursions by fishing boats into Gylly Beach Safety zone and suggested a No Entry sign on the buoys. IP will look at this as the buoys are due imminently.
- DN reported sighting a sheen along Castle Beach. DO checked with South West Water (no discharges at that time) and will also check with the Highways Agency.
- MC reported on the land slip near St Anthony Lighthouse where sediment is going onto the water.

7. HUG Terms of Reference (ToRs)

- Previously distributed or information.
- The ToRs were last reviewed in March 2025. The Board are looking at the ToRs of all committees as well as the HUG.
- AWT requested feedback from HUG members.

8. Public Open Day Feedback

- FH held their Public Open Day on Friday 24th April.
- FH also launched the publication of the Annual Report for 2025. Previous reports have been published much later in the year so this is timelier and more relevant.
- Approximately 20 people representing various organisations attended the breakfast meeting.
- We have received lots of positive feedback and will use this as an opportunity to develop the event and involve other groups. The HUG will be closely involved.
- Any comments from HUG members please let AWT know.
- CEO big desire to do this but struggle with resources. Capacity to get final accounts earlier in year. Hope to do over 2 days next year to include a Saturday.
- NB appreciated the printed copy of the annual work and learned a lot about harbour activities.
- NT commented on the huge effort from the Team to facilitate the Open Day which showcased the diversity of what the harbour does and is responsible for.
- DO and NT thanked the Team.

9. Update on Large Vessel Pontoon Consultation

- CEO will bring full stakeholder survey to the next meeting.
- Issues raised during the consultation included:
  - Maintaining affordable access to the water for local users.
  - Navigational safety
  - Protection of character heritage.

- No further work is scheduled at the moment.
- The Board will consider this further at their July meeting and determine next steps.
- We need to look at what our stakeholders really want from the harbour.
- CEO commented on the boat park wall which has been surveyed. Results were very positive and the wall is in better condition than originally thought.

10. Stakeholder Survey Proposal

- A stakeholder survey is currently being scoped and would likely be distributed after the summer season. The HUG input to this will be essential.

11. Water Quality - Healthy Rivers and Seas Summit | Let's Talk Cornwall

- Link previously distributed for information.
- DO has asked the EA to present on water quality to the HUG and will chase this.
- KH attended the summit and gave a brief overview. The EA, South West Water and others made up a panel and the audience were able to ask questions.
- There was also a key stakeholders workshop which created an action plan to address issues such as run off and septic tanks. This is now published and can be viewed here.
- CEO commented on all the good projects around water quality in Cornwall which includes the St Mawes bank monitoring project of the maerl and recreational impacts and the Fal rivers to reef project.

12. BPA Trust Port Governance Survey 2026

- Previously distributed for information.
- The Consultative Committee (now superseded by the HUG) carried out a review of FH's governance which resulted in an action plan. It is now time for the HUG to revisit the action plan.
- The BPA survey results will help to feed into the HUG review.
- The Board have been considering governance over the last few months and have done a lot of work in delegating to sub committees allowing the board to become more focused and strategic.

13. HUG Work Programme for 2026

- One of the HUG projects is the Safety Summit which will be held on Monday 29th June at 6:30 in the Lecture Theatre at the museum.
- We hope to bring everyone together to talk about safety issues within the harbour from paddle boarder to fishers.
- DO outlined the agenda for the summit.
- CT now chairs Fal Estuary Marine Safety Committee Meeting (FEMSC). The next meeting is on 3rd June at 10:00 at St Mawes Sailing Club. CT invited any interested parties to come along to represent their area.

14. FH Commissioner Recruitment Update for 2027

- AW's end of term is December 2026.
- To replace AW, a local representative will be a priority. This will be someone who lives or has lived in the area, has a good understanding of the harbour and ideally a harbour user such as boater or small business operator. This person does not need to have governance experience.
- The July Board will spec the role which will then be brought to the August HUG meeting.

- AWT would be interested in the HUG's suggestions on how we promote this opportunity.
- We have used a recruitment consultant in the past but will probably use word of mouth, social media and local connections this time around.
- DO welcomed the opportunity for a local stakeholder to get involved.
- CEO encouraged HUG to promote the opportunity.
- Once the Board has approved the spec we will draft something for leisure clubs to send out to their members.

15. Any Other Business

- MK commented that as leisure users they don't feel very involved in the harbour. DO explained how the HUG is inclusive of all harbour users. Each meeting we usually have the host organisation give a short presentation about their business. For example, NB will deliver a short presentation on fishers at the next meeting.
- CEO commented that this group is open to any interested harbour users. DO welcomed MK and explained how valuable her input will be. CEO encouraged MK to share the minutes with other harbour users. DO invited MK to talk about diving to the HUG.
- NB commented on an incident reported to him of a near miss with rowing boat and a vessel. The cox is responsible for the safety of everyone in the boat.
- DB commented on another incident where a gig got too close to an MOD vessel.
- DO commented that this could be raised at the Safety Summit.
- DB will contact Cornwall Pilot Gig Association and ask for their latest guidance.
- CEO commented that boat insurance companies will have clauses in them such as compulsory wearing of kill cords.
- RNLI statistics show most safety incidents are among leisure users.
- DN requested volunteers at the Castle to Castle swim.

16. Future Meetings Location and Timings

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

Meetings start at 14:00 unless indicated otherwise.