



MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday 16th June 2026

Minutes of a meeting of the Fowey Port User Group
held on this day at 10:00 at the Harbour Office

Present:	
Richard Jeffery (Chair)	Philip Henson – RFYC / POFROC
Penny Tuck – Mixtow Residents (Vice Chair)	Lucy Daniel – Fowey Chamber of Commerce
David Guiterman – Lostwithiel Boat Owners Association	Cllr Ian Wilson – Cornwall Council
Maggie Carter – Swimming	Nick de Sarandy – RYA
Jeff Pearce – Fishing / FRA	Kerry Pearce – St Winnow Parish Council
Cllr Roger Talling – Lanteglos Parish Council	
Gary Rawle – Aquaculture	Nick Gill – FHC Chair
Shannon Rawle – Aquaculture	Capt. Paul Thomas – FHC, Harbour Master & Chief Exec.
John Barker – Licensed Boatmen	Hannah Smith – FHC, Minutes Secretary
Apologies:	
Peter Robinson – Fowey Tourist Information	Cllr. Claire Palmer – Lanteglos Parish Council
Gary Barr – FGSC	Simon Robins – St Sampson Parish Council
Alex Taylor-Morrall – Imerys	Alex Heslop – Castle Dore Rowing Club
Alex McKay – Yacht Community / Sailing Schools	Emma Riley – Canoeists
Cllr. Jim Candy – Cornwall Council	

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING (24th January 2026)

Maggie Carter pointed out that the reference to WaterFit Live on page 3 should say website, not an app. Hannah Smith to make correction and circulate the updated minutes to members.

The rest of the January minutes were signed off.

QUICK ACTIONS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Passage Slip: The issue of Passage Slip was raised again. Letters have been sent by the Chair on behalf of the PUG to Cornwall Council in 2024, 2025 and 2026. Philip Henson noted the slip was last formally cleaned by Cormac in April 2026, although Jeff Pearce recalled seeing someone clean it more recently. Cllr Ian Wilson advised that he had recently raised the matter again with Cornwall Council and that the response from the Council remains that it is cleaned on a reactive basis, although this is generally insufficiently timely. He also mentioned the potential devolution of responsibility to FHC, though this would be complicated. Capt. Thomas reminded the group that the slip falls under the Port Marine Safety Code and that FHC has twice written to Cornwall Council requesting risk assessment documentation, which has not yet been received. Capt. Thomas noted that FHC's own maintenance standards would typically require cleaning on spring tides, every two weeks during the summer and monthly during the winter.

REPORT FROM FHC – Capt. Paul Thomas

Capt. Thomas gave an update on Fowey Harbour operations. **Cargo and Forecasts:** No significant changes were reported since the last meeting in January. China clay and aggregate throughput continue to meet predicted volumes. **Leisure:** The season has started positively, with some particularly busy

periods, although activity continues to fluctuate with weather conditions. **Cruise:** Cruise calls so far in 2026 have proceeded successfully. A recent cruise industry event was hosted aboard a Saga vessel. **Cruise Day Artisan Market:** The market has been a success to date, providing a safer and more organised area for visitors. Further markets are planned for next year, with entertainment such as shanty singers under consideration, subject to licensing. Ian Wilson noted that no complaints had been received. **General Directions / Harbour Revision Order:** Capt. Thomas advised that the General Directions are linked to the Harbour Revision Order, which is ready to be laid before Parliament and proceed to public consultation. Fowey's non-contentious HRO is currently sixth in the queue. **Caffa Mill Funding:** A further funding bid is to be submitted for a walkway and pontoon at Caffa Mill. A refurbished pontoon is temporarily in place to evaluate available depths, and work through any teething issues. If the bid is successful, works can proceed, including the installation of piles and assembly and installation of the pontoon, which are expected to take approximately three days. Philip Henson asked whether FHC had surveyor's drawings of the area and was advised that these are available. **Compliance:** An update was provided on compliance matters, including the Port Marine Safety Code and Work Boat Code 3 requirements. WB3 applies to all Harbour vessels, some of which will require extensive refitting in order to become compliant – *Voyager*, *Lantic Bay* and *Gallant* are next on the list. **General:** Workloads across the Harbour team remain considerable, with tug operations continuing to be particularly busy. Plans for refurbishment works at the Harbour Office are progressing.

Jeff Pearce asked whether space could be made available for the Mission to Seafarers during the Cruise Day Markets. Capt. Thomas advised that it would not be appropriate to provide space exclusively to one organisation and that such arrangements would need to be considered consistently across all groups.

PADDLEBOARD STICKERS (ENFORCEMENT) – Capt. Thomas

Capt. Paul Thomas led discussion on paddleboard sticker enforcement and noted the need to balance the effort required for enforcement against the likely benefits achieved. Members discussed registration requirements for paddleboards, including distinctions between mooring holders, visitors and tenders. Harbour dues, which go towards conservancy of the Harbour, and associated signage requirements were also discussed. Potential additional signage locations included St Winnow and Readymoney due to launching of paddleboards here.

Following comments by Capt. Thomas regarding recurring damage to signage, Cllr Ian Wilson encouraged members to report incidents of anti-social behaviour to the Police and noted that available resources were allocated according to reported issues and identified priorities.

WATER QUALITY / SWIMMING – Maggie Carter

Maggie Carter outlined the latest fortnightly water quality monitoring results and advised that two results had fallen below the required standard. Data gathered through the WaterFit Live website, with approximately two years of monitoring information. It was noted that improvements had been observed immediately following the recent infrastructure works, but concerns were raised regarding recent pumping activity, including overflows during periods of dry weather. Philip Henson noted that some recent survey work had been undertaken. Gary Rawle advised that poor water quality remains a concern for shellfish producers. He noted that concerns had been raised that abstraction of water from the River Fowey for shellfish processing could be restricted or prohibited in future due to water quality issues, despite extensive treatment being undertaken prior to use. Jeff Pearce noted that freshwater conditions appeared to have improved upstream. Cllr Ian Wilson noted that water quality issues are a national concern and not unique to the Fowey area. Hannah Smith highlighted that a number of councils across Cornwall and the South West had recently expressed no confidence in South West Water, with collective letters and petitions being submitted to Government (<https://www.dowrglan.org/>). Members also discussed surface water runoff, public awareness initiatives, and the wider pressures that future development and Government housing targets may place on existing infrastructure and water quality.

Members were also reminded of Noah Law MP's citizen science event on 21st June at Par Beach.

STAKEHOLDER'S FEEDBACK / ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Concerns were raised regarding vessels travelling at speed close to shore in the Lantic Bay area and whether any action could be taken by Fowey Harbour Commissioners. Capt. Thomas advised that the area does not currently fall within FHC's jurisdiction. However, he noted that the proposed Harbour Revision Order would extend FHC's jurisdiction and, if approved, would provide opportunities to consider measures to improve safety in the area.

It was noted that the bins at Readymoney had been reinstated.

Philip Henson raised concerns regarding black smoke emissions from the Bodinnick Ferry. Capt. Thomas noted that the Bodinnick Ferry is neither owned nor operated by Fowey Harbour Commissioners and therefore falls outside FHC's direct control. He advised that the vessel operates under applicable international standards and highlighted that air quality monitoring at Penmarlam and Berrill's Yard remains ongoing. Capt. Thomas relayed that the ferry operator had informed FHC that a replacement hydraulic component was currently on order from Italy and that, depending on delivery times, disruption of approximately ten days could occur. He suggested that any requests for further information regarding the vessel's operation or maintenance would be more appropriately directed to the ferry operator.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held in November, date TBA.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their input and there being no further business, the meeting closed at 1110.