TORBAY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Harbour Committee

15 June 2026

-: Present :-

Councillor Strang (Chair)

Councillors Fellows, Penny and Twelves

(Also in attendance: Simon Bellamy, James Hannon, George O'Rourke, Oliver Parker-Ford, Matt Reeks and Ian Rowswell)

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39. Apologies

An apology was received from Councillor Fox.

40. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of the Harbour Committee meeting held on 30 March 2026 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

41. Tor Bay Harbour Masters Safety and Management Report

The Deputy Harbour Master presented the report as published, noting specific incidents which were public-facing. It was noted that the Harbour Master is investigating the possibility of achieving Custom Clearance facilities at Brixham Harbour. Members questioned the delay to the cill gate repairs, and sought to ensure that the timing of the eventual repair would minimise disruption over the summer months. It was confirmed that the necessary parts have been procured and that the repairs would be undertaken when the timing is optimal. It was noted that the ANPR was now fully operational, and the Deputy Harbour Master outlined the next steps to automating the entire system.

42. Tor Bay Harbour Budget Monitoring Report

The Deputy Director of Finance presented the report as published, noting variances between outturn and projections in a number of areas. Members noted specific variances in fish tolls, largely offset by overspends and priority repairs. Members considered bad debt provision, and noted that short-term debts have decreased. However, older debts remain significant and may require writing off. Members discussed conservancy and dredging costs, noting they have been deferred multiple times. A reduction in slipway income was discussed, noting that this was

largely due to reduced staffing. Members queried specific costs in relation to conservancy, reserve contributions and Marina income.

43. Appointment of external advisers

Members discussed the latest position with the appointment of external advisers, and discussed the benefits of engaging further external advisers. Members discussed the potential methods of recruitment, responsibility for selection and the wider benefits of increasing the knowledge base of the committee.

Resolved (unanimously)
That the Harbour Committee endorse the proposal to recruit up to 2 external advisers to provide specialist maritime knowledge.

44. Proposed Installation of Jet Ski Pods

The Deputy Harbour Masters discussed the potential opportunity to install Jet Ski pods on the vacant pontoon, noting the benefits of having registered jet ski users. It was noted that the proposal was to install premium facilities on these pods, which would be reflected in increased lease costs. The final configuration was not yet fully developed, but it is believed that the costs could be recouped in under two years of usage.

Resolved (unanimously)
that the Harbour Committee endorse the development of plans to install jet-ski pods on the vacant pontoon.

45. Oxen Cove Development

Members discussed recent outreach events discussing the development with the public. It was noted that the planning application for this is due to be submitted soon, with the proposed construction to last through 2027. Members discussed the progress of vacating current occupants, the engagement of ecologists to oversee the work and changes to the final design as a result of discrepancies with South West Water pipe locations. Members discussed the tight timeline, potential nuisance during construction, and the routing of Heavy Goods Vehicles around the wider area during construction.

46. PMSC Audit

As Responsible Person, James Hannon discussed the most recent PMSC audit undertaken following a gap analysis in March 2026. Mr Hannon noted significant improvements, stating that the new procedures had achieved a measurable and consistent approach to marine safety, and that minor observations had been immediately rectified and fully resolved. Members expressed their sincere thanks to the Deputy Harbour Masters for this achievement. Mr Hannon explained that the next audit was due in March 2027, and discussed the ongoing contact between the Committee, the Responsible Person and operational staff.

Chair