

**Minutes
Filey Coble Landing Users Group
Monday 26 January 2026
Evron Centre, Filey**

Present:

Charles Baker (CBk) Chair
Chris Bourne (CB)
Kirsty Patullo (KP) – Note Taker
Cllr Mike Cockerill (Cllr C)
Alan Brain (AB)
Rex Harrison (RH)

Apologies:

Gary Pearson (GP)
Cllr Crane (Cllr C)

		Action
1.	<p>Attendance and Apologies: As noted above. However, Chris and Kirsty agreed to review their inboxes to see if any members had noted their apologies direct, before today's meeting. Action: Chris Bourne & Kirsty Patullo</p> <p>Low attendance was noted and it was suggested that an email reminder be sent out the day before future meetings to remind anyone who has forgotten.</p>	<p>CB/KP</p> <p>KP</p>
2.	<p>Notes of the Last Meeting and matters arising</p> <p><u>Commemorative Benches</u> Mike reported that the Town Council's Property Committee had approved the proposal for commemorative benches. He and Andy Crossley had identified initial siting locations for four benches. However, installation is expected to be delayed due to ongoing staffing issues within the Town Council, including an interim clerk finishing soon and a new clerk not starting until April. It is unlikely the benches will be in place before the summer season. Cllr C suggested and confirmed that the benches would be made from recycled plastic, consistent with recent purchases for Country Park.</p>	
3.	<p>Operational Updates</p> <p>Chris Bourne provided an update on several action items from the previous meeting:</p> <p>Repaint Yellow Hatched Box and Extend 8ft: Chris confirmed these works would be carried out after Northern Powergrid (NPG) and North Yorkshire Council (NYC) repairs, with completion expected before the season starts.</p>	<p>AC</p>

	<p>Erect Turning Circle Sign: Alan suggested existing "no parking" signs on the slipway were sufficient. Mike proposed that a sign explicitly stating "lifeboat turning circle" might carry more weight. Charles Baker highlighted that there is currently no parking or turning circle signs on the cobbled area. Chris Bourne agreed to follow up on this. Action: Chris Bourne. The permit holders only sign will be moved forward to the entrance of the landing and lowered once NPG works are completed, subject to checks for underground services.</p> <p>The loading area in front of the coble landing bar will be reviewed and marked after NPG works are carried out, prior to the season commencing.</p>	<p>CB AC</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>Port and Marine Facilities Safety Code</p> <p>Chris Bourne provided a detailed update on the Port Marine Facilities Safety Code (PMFSC) and its recent revision:</p> <p>Harbours are audited against the PMFSC, with duty holders self-certifying compliance to the Department for Transport every three years.</p> <p>The 2024 audit found compliance in 9 out of 10 areas, with one advisory amber relating to the role of the "designated person." The issue was that the designated person was an in-house assistant director, lacking the required independence.</p> <p>The role of designated person has now been outsourced to Alan Feast, a highly experienced former harbour master who operates independently as a consultant.</p> <p>A revised document from March 2025, now called the Port and Marine Facilities Safety Code (PMFSC), was issued. This new code extends compliance requirements to "facilities" operated within a harbour but not by the harbour authority (e.g., yacht club pontoons).</p> <p>All entities must re-certify compliance by March 2026.</p> <p>Chris Bourne confirmed that, fortunately, Filey Coble Landing has no facilities that fall under this new requirement. This contrasts with Scarborough and Whitby, where various organisations are grappling with the new compliance demands.</p> <p>Gary Pearson, the Harbour Master, is offering one-to-one meetings to identified facility operators in other areas to assist with compliance.</p> <p>An independent audit of Scarborough Harbour, Whitby Harbour, and Filey Coble Landing against the PMFSC is currently being conducted by the designated person, with initial indications being positive.</p> <p>CLr C enquired if car parking or kiosks would be considered "facilities." Chris Bourne clarified not.</p>	
<p>5.</p>	<p>Security / Health & Safety / Maintenance:</p> <p>Rex reported a safety concern regarding metal spikes protruding between cobbles at the bottom of the landing, near the railings on the seaward side. He expressed worry about potential injury to barefoot children. Chris Bourne committed to having Andy Crossley investigate and arrange for their removal or grinding off, likely requiring a gas axe.</p> <p>The annual site clean-up is scheduled for March. Chris Bourne proposed replicating last year's successful approach: the harbour team and flags staff will meet, conduct a full walk-around to identify tasks, and then proceed with the work.</p>	

	<p>Alan noted that the drains have remained clear since being jetted last year, which was a significant improvement. Chris Bourne suggested another jetting to maintain their condition.</p> <p>Chris Bourne sought feedback on the new boat locations. Charles Baker expressed satisfaction, describing the changes as a vast improvement.</p> <p>Charles Baker raised ongoing issues with Northern Powergrid regarding the connexion of a new cable for his business. Despite the council granting an easement last summer, delays persist, and he expressed frustration with the costs and lack of progress, particularly as he plans to hand over the business in March.</p> <p><u>Filey Coble Landing attendant</u> The attendant post will be advertised around February. There were mixed reviews, but generally, the previous attendant was considered to have done a good job, handling difficult situations effectively.</p> <p>Due to North Yorkshire Council's new procedures, the role now requires a full re-application and recruitment process, which is often lengthy. Chris Bourne indicated he would advocate for the previous attendant if she reapplied and is suitable.</p> <p>Mike enquired about strengthening the attendant's enforcement responsibilities. Chris Bourne highlighted the complexities, drawing parallels with beach superintendents where persuasion is preferred over issuing fines, and noting increased legal requirements (e.g., body-worn cameras). He committed to raising this with HR (for the job description) and the legal team (regarding bylaws). Action: Chris Bourne.</p>	<p>CB</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>Any Other Business <u>Nets on Railings:</u> Charles Baker questioned why fishing nets remain on the railings, citing concerns about their impact on the path and seating areas. Chris Bourne agreed to raise this with the Harbour team.</p> <p><u>Harbour Accounts Separation:</u> Mike followed up on previous discussions regarding Filey Coble Landing having its own separate account, rather than being lumped with Scarborough.</p> <p>Chris Bourne confirmed that revenue generated from within the agreed harbour boundary (kiosks, boats, car parking) would be allocated to Filey's account. However, this would also incur proportional costs for enforcement, uniforms, ticket machines, and management overheads.</p> <p>Following a court judgement in the Whitby case, historical accounts are being separated.</p> <p>Chris Bourne warned that the financial outcome for Filey might not be positive. He cited Whitby's £18 million harbour reserve and Scarborough's £3 million reserve (which is already committed to significant projects).</p> <p><u>Christmas Tree Insurance:</u> Mike enquired if the council's existing insurance could be extended to cover the annual festive tree event, specifically for personal injury risks associated with scaffolding and installation, to reduce the current £1,000+ insurance cost. Chris Bourne agreed to ask the insurance department but anticipated that it might not be covered due to it being a third-party event on council land. Action: Chris Bourne.</p>	<p>CB</p> <p>CB</p>

7.	Date and time of next meetings: Kirsty is currently working on getting dates in the diary for remainder of 2026/27. Action: Kirsty Patullo.	KP
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