

Minutes of the meeting of the OCHDA Management Committee

Friday 26th November 2021 15:00 – 17:00.

Held by Zoom

Present: John MacAlister, Ross Wilson, Tony Bennett, Alison Rennie, Andy Spence, Keith Miller, Phil Hamerton, Duncan Martin, Mike Thoms, Robert Kincaid, Tony Hammock, David Vass.

Apologies: none received

1. **Minutes of the previous meeting held on 7th October 2021**
 - 1.1. Minutes were proposed as being correct by PH and seconded by DM.
2. **Matters arising**
 - 2.1. It was noted that contact with MCA had still not been made. **Action: JM & TB**
3. **Update on meeting with MSPs & MP.**
 - 3.1. RW spoke to the report, previously circulated.
 - 3.2. We are uncertain regarding any letter sent by MSPs. Agreed to write to confirm whether letter(s) have been sent. **Action: PH**
4. **OCHDA meetings with A&BC reps: update on progress**
 - 4.1. RW outlined the key elements to the Icast meeting. Notes of the meeting had been distributed earlier. This situation is generally regarded as completely unsatisfactory. Consideration will be given to formal expressions of concern over the conduct of these meetings.
 - 4.2. The next scheduled meeting is December 7th. After discussion it was agreed that we should not cancel but attempt to make clear what the specific outputs would be expected to be. **Action: PH, TB & RW**
5. **Article in OT (text previously circulated)**
 - 5.1. TB was thanked for all his efforts to get this published. The Committee considers it to be an excellent piece.
 - 5.2. The Committee approved the use of OCHDA resources to pay the bill (£1,100). **Action: PT**
6. **Implementation Group report (previously circulated)**
 - 6.1. RK and the group's members were thanked for their hard work on this.

- 6.2. The principal issues identified by the group relate to short-term funding for the start-up phase of operation. Various alternatives were identified to fill the immediate gap but all depend on the agreement with the Council over an acceptable lease.
- 6.3. The group was thanked for their valuable contribution which may prove crucial at the appropriate later stage.

7. Harbour Board Report

- 7.1. Significant concerns were expressed regarding the accuracy and completeness of this report. The generally positive references to the principle of a Trust Port were more than outweighed by repeated criticisms and selective language (e.g. 'private entity' and reported speed with which A&BC or CMAL could be ready).
- 7.2. It was suggested that the report was written to satisfy Officers' pre-determined conclusions and it was also noted that local Councillors had not been included in the planning or in the evidence-gathering phases of the appraisal.
- 7.3. The Committee considered at length what the best possible outcome could be from the forthcoming Board meeting. Our agreed priority is to attempt to engage elected Members (local and HB) with a view to having the recommendations of the report rejected on the grounds of insufficient and inaccurate information.
- 7.4. It was agreed to re-convene after a period of reflection.
- 7.5. **Re-convened meeting (28th November) (Apologies from Tony Hammock)**
- 7.6. Discussion focussed on received correspondence on legal issues, particularly in reference to existing powers, and a summary of the issues, more generally, as drafted by PH & RW.
- 7.7. The Committee view is that the consultation/engagement with stakeholders is very weak, in addition to misleading or missing information (e.g. proposed timescales). As such the report is not fit for purpose.
- 7.8. OCHDA requires to be able to present evidence within its critique (e.g. specifics relating to dates, meetings and documents) and to be clear regarding what OCHDA believes should be the HB response (e.g. reject the report, gather additional information etc).
- 7.9. The Management Committee recognised limited options in terms of our direct influence over HB meeting and considered the appropriate strategy. In addition to direct influence through OLI & HB Members, we should consider the potential for involving the media and the public effectively.
- 7.10. Agreed actions included direct approach to local Members, including sending on our response to the report and our specific questions, discussion at OCC, press release & letters to OT and individual letters to Pippa Milne & HB Members/other Members emphasising the risk that supporting the recommendations will risk defaulting to CMAL.
- 7.11. **Actions:** press release by mid-day Mon (**PH**), revised critique paper by close of business on Monday to be sent to all OCHDA members & OLI/HB Members, OBMG

chair, Pippa Milne & KF (**PH, RW & others**), letters for OT for Monday morning (**all, PH to send out e-mail addresses for OT, Pippa Milne & Cllr Colville to OCHDA members**), additional questions for Members (**all**), OCC briefing Monday evening (**PH**)

- 7.12. Public attendance at HB meeting – arrangements via A&BC's Committee Services.
Action: PH to send relevant info to all OCHDA members

8. AGM

- 8.1. Some Community Council meetings clash with our AGM date and this may impact on local Councillors' ability to attend the AGM. Also a number of OCHDA members are also local Community Council members. **Agreed action:** apologies to Connel & Kilmelford CCs. (**After note:** Kilmelford CC & Connel CC have postponed in view of this.)

9. Date of next meeting

Thursday 9th December 15:00