

OCHDA Management Committee meeting 10th February 2022

Present: Ross Wilson, Duncan Martin, Fergus Gillanders, Robert Kincaid, John Peden, Donald Robertson, Keith Miller, David Vass (on-line), Phil Hamerton.

Apologies Tony Hammock, John MacAlister, Peter Tosh

1. Introductions and welcome

- 1.1. Ross Wilson (outgoing vice-Chair) welcomed everybody to the meeting and each member of Committee briefly introduced themselves.

2. Minutes

- 2.1. The minutes of the previous meeting (14th January) were approved as a true record.

3. Matters arising from the minutes

- 3.1. All actions agreed at the previous meeting have been completed other than the letter to TB. **Action: PH**
- 3.2. The issue of membership of Coastal Connections has been clarified: they wish to retain a single membership for the organisation.

4. Election of Office Bearers

- 4.1. For the purposes of the election of the chair Phil Hamerton, who was not willing to be nominated, agreed to conduct this part of the meeting.
- 4.2. Ross Wilson was nominated by David Vass. There being no other nominations, and no objections being raised, Ross Wilson was duly elected to be chair of OCHDA. In electing Ross Wilson to the Chair, the Management Committee recognised that, for personal reasons, it would be prudent to seek two nominations for co-vice Chairs to cover the Chair position if required.
- 4.3. Ross Wilson resumed the Chair of the meeting.

4.4. Election of vice Chairs

There were two nominees for the post of co-vice Chair: John MacAlister and Fergus Gillanders. There being no other nominees they were duly elected by the Committee.

4.5. Treasurer

Peter Tosh had earlier indicated that he would be willing to continue in post. There being no other nominations he was duly elected to continue as Treasurer.

4.6. Secretary

Phil Hamerton was nominated to take over the role of Secretary, in addition to handling external liaison and communications. There being no other nominations (despite much

encouragement!) Phil Hamerton was duly elected. Committee Members recognised the requirement to find a volunteer to either take over the external liaison and communications role or provide assistance with this key activity.

5. **Immediate Workplan for the Committee**

- 5.1. Despite explicit offers of support, from OCHDA, in the planning of the development of the Municipal Port nothing has been heard back from Council Officers. The Harbour Board report is due to be published on 25th February and will be highly significant for determining our future actions.
- 5.2. There was substantial discussion regarding effective influencing of Council proposals in order to ensure effective community/stakeholder engagement and to maximise the benefit of OCHDA's experience.
- 5.3. A small working group will be convened to consider the Harbour Board report as soon as it is issued. An appropriate response will be drafted for approval by Committee before being submitted to Harbour Board Members, copied to OLI A/C Members, in advance of the meeting.
- 5.4. In order to engage as widely as possible with elected representatives and with the general public regarding the smooth development of the Municipal Port it was agreed that a press release will be prepared, drawing heavily on published good practice guidance for port management, for inclusion in next week's papers if it is possible to do so in time. **Action PH and FG**
- 5.5. There was discussion regarding the usefulness of public meeting in order to engage the wider community. RW advised that he has requested that Oban Bay Management Group consider hosting a further public meeting in mid-April, before the current elected Council Members stand down and the election is undertaken.
- 5.6. The next meeting of this Management Committee will be held in the week immediately after the Harbour Board meeting in order to prepare a statement for the Oban Bay management group meeting on 10th March. This meeting will be organised by Doodle Poll. There was discussion regarding meeting in person or meeting online; meeting in person, if possible, was regarded as preferable. (**Note:** The meeting has been arranged for March 4th, starting at 16:00 at The Rockfield Centre)

6. **Further work on Trust Port proposal**

- 6.1. The Management Committee was reminded that the current position is that progress is completely stalled, pending further information provided by the Council in relation to the previously-agreed lease arrangement. The valuation report has been completed and Council officers have the relevant information in order to indicate likely commercial rate for leasing the properties on the North pier. This information is currently being withheld and has not been released to our elected representatives.
- 6.2. Committee recognised that there is a significant debate to be held, at an appropriate stage, regarding the strategy to be adopted in order to promote the Trust Port in future. The process of transition from the Municipal Port, once it is established, to Trust Port may remove some of the current obstacles and is likely to require extensive replanning.

6.3. This substantial piece of work will be undertaken by a working group, based on the previously established “Implementation Plan” working group, which will be led by Fergus Gillanders.

7. **Actions in response to Council engagement**

7.1. Pending further legal advice appropriate responses to recent Council engagement and decision-making are still under consideration.

7.2. The Committee was advised that the record of meetings between Council Officers and OCHDA representatives during 2021 is being made available on the OCHDA website, in conjunction with our responses to recent Harbour Board reports and the account of the meeting in August 2021 between OCHDA reps, OLI Members, Harbour Board Members and Council Officers. (**Note:** members of the Management Committee and all OCHDA members will be advised when the uploading of these documents has been completed).

7.3. Consideration of OCHDA's response to the Council's actions will be the subject of a small working group to be led by Ross Wilson.

8. **Publicity and fundraising**

8.1. As noted previously the method of transition from Municipal Port to Trust Port is likely to be different from that which has been envisaged in the past. The financial implications of this have yet to be assessed.

8.2. Committee was advised that the independence of the future Trust Port places limitations on potential sources of funding (for example it is not possible to hold community shares in the Trust Port).

8.3. Once the Council's progress in implementing the Municipal Port becomes clear up it will become more obvious what publicity is going to be required and when. At this stage it is not possible to anticipate what will be required but it is likely to include systematic use of social media in addition to use of press, public meetings etc.

8.4. As there is no clear line of action to be pursued, at this point, the working group that will be required to undertake this has not yet been initiated. The wider membership of OCHDA will be approached for specialist support as required.

9. **Future meetings of the group**

9.1. The **next meeting** will be held, as noted above, on **March 4th, starting at 16:00 at The Rockfield Centre.**

9.2. It was agreed that the pattern of future meetings of the group would be considered at the March meeting.

AOCB

Request for membership has been received from Alasdair Maclean, local boatbuilder. This application was accepted. **Action: PH**

