

OCHDA Management Committee March 2022

Present: Ross Wilson (Chair), David Vass, Duncan Martin, Fergus Gillanders, Robert Kincaid, John Peden, Phil Hamerton

Apologies Peter Tosh, Tony Hammock, Donald Robertson, John MacAlister, Keith Miller

1. Minutes of previous meeting (February 2022)

- 1.1. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as a true record.
Proposed: Fergus Gillanders, seconded Robert Kincaid

2. Matters arising from the minutes

- 2.1. Letter to TB from John Mac: no contact has been made with John. **Action: PH to try again**
- 2.2. All other actions have been completed.
- 2.3. The Management Committee agreed that the report on jurisdictions in the Bay, produced by Monica Peto for the Oban Bay Management Group, should be added to the documents on our website as this is clearly a document in the public domain.
- 2.4. RW reported on ongoing work on the "Council Actions" heading: he is currently drafting a letter to send to the Chief Exec. This will be circulated to Committee members for approval. PH noted that he is in correspondence with Douglas Hendry regarding permission to make a deputation to future meeting of the Harbour Board.
- 2.5. No work has been undertaken on the more general themes of publicity and fundraising since the previous meeting.
- 2.6. General discussion regarding the distribution of tasks among Committee members recognised that we urgently need to engage more of the wider membership in supporting the work of the Committee and ensure that work undertaken by the Committee is more evenly distributed. The following actions were agreed:
- a) Robert Kincaid offered to take over responsibility for maintaining the membership record;
 - b) Fergus Gillanders agreed to taking responsibility for overseeing any FOI requests that may be necessary;
 - c) requests will be made to Mike Thoms, Alasdair Maclean and Andy Spence to seek representation from land-based businesses and tourism on the Committee, on a co-opted basis (**Action: PH**); and

d) a request will be sent, including some outline of the tasks required, to the wider membership seeking offers of help with the role of secretary (**Action: PH**).

- 2.7. RW will continue to lead on the task of attempting to re-establish working relations with Council officers, particularly to support the later development of the Trust Port as anticipated.

3. Draft minutes of the Annual General Meeting

- 3.1. Subject to minor modifications (correction in reference to financial report and additional reference to “wider hinterland etc” in Chair’s report) the draft minutes can be distributed to the membership for consideration at the next Annual General Meeting. **Action: PH**

4. Confidentiality of these meetings

- 4.1. RW reminded all members of the Management Committee that, particularly while there are debates underway regarding matters of policy, all members of the Committee must, when speaking as an Committee member, support the agreed OCHDA policies. The Management Committee was also reminded that, where it has been agreed that material will be maintained as confidential to the Committee, members must be particularly careful what is said in other settings.

5. Update from Harbour Board

- 5.1. The Management Committee members were advised that at the Harbour Board meeting a number of questions had been asked regarding details of the progress reported by the council (e.g. timescale of consultation, budget issues). No details were provided and the Harbour Board decided that it would be necessary to hold an additional meeting, before the end of this Council term, to allow officers time to present more details of the progress being made.
- 5.2. Particular concern was expressed, at the Harbour Board and during the Management Committee meeting, regarding the lack of clear reference to stakeholder engagement in the drafting of the Harbour Order and it was noted that, though there were references to Community Councils, including those from other islands, for example, there was no reference to consultation with OCHDA or the Oban Bay Management Group. Council officers referred to *statutory consultees* in the Harbour Board meeting. The Management Committee noted that there are no 'statutory consultees' in the development of a Harbour Order.
- 5.3. The Management Committee agreed to request the opportunity to make a presentation to the first available Business Day for the OLI Area Committee members in order to help them in their preparations for the planned Harbour Board meeting. **Action: RW/PH**

- 5.4. The Management Committee noted that the Designated Person's routine monitoring visit schedule for Argyll & Bute will bring him to Oban in September. In view of the number of 'red' areas reported following the recent visits to other Argyll & Bute Piers and Harbours, this should be a matter of concern for the Council.
- 5.5. The Management Committee agreed that the draft press release will be prepared for the media. All Committee members to pass their proposals regarding content to PH without delay. **Action: all**

6. Report to Oban Bay Management Group

- 6.1. The Management Committee considered proposals for inclusion in the report being prepared for next week's Oban Bay Management Group. Topics suggested included: whether the target date of April 23 is reasonable and achievable;
- a) the need for OCHDA cooperation with Argyll & Bute Council to facilitate preparation of the Harbour Order;
 - b) scrutiny of the draft Harbour Order at an early stage by the management group;
 - c) requesting early sight of work as it is progressing, rather than waiting for conclusions;
 - d) the OCHDA document describing the consultation and conclusion of discussions over harbour limitations should be submitted to the Oban Bay Management Group as a proposed policy to be adopted by them.
- 6.2. In addition it was suggested that the Oban Bay Management Group should be fully informed regarding the Council's current failure to achieve compliance with Port Marine Safety Code standards.

7. Promoting the Trust Port

- 7.1. All engagement with Council Members, Members of Parliament and media, when contacting them on behalf of OCHDA as an organisation, should go through the communications officer (PH). **Action: all**
- 7.2. The Management Committee was informed of work undertaken by the working group in consideration of submission of a counter HRO. The Management Committee regards the opportunity to have passed, for the time being, pending the Council's preparation of a draft HO. Work will continue on the completion of the Business Case for the Trust Port, once outstanding information is provided by Council Officers, and on other elements of MoU Deliverables which require completion.

- 7.3. The priority for OCHDA, at present, remains attempting to encourage, and respond to progress by, the Council in development of the Municipal Port. In order to maximise the possibility of future development of the Trust Port. The Management Committee believes it is essential that we remain as close as possible to the drafting of the council's HO. In particular the Management Committee believes that there is an urgent need to encourage the Council to adopt practices, such as those demonstrated by Aberdeenshire, in terms of establishing local management structures which bring participation in consultation and engagement in management with the local communities and stakeholders.

8. OCHDA mission statement

- 8.1. The Management Committee does not believe that there is any need to alter the current mission statement or objectives and that the work being undertaken at present is entirely consistent with those.

9. Future meetings

- 9.1. The Management Committee proposes to meet less frequently, perhaps every two months, in future except where necessary to meet more urgently. Possible venues include the Oban Sailing Club and Northern Lighthouse Board. Day of the week and time of the day may be determined by the venue. **Actions: JP** (to contact Commodore at Oban Sailing Club). **RW** (to contact NLB if the Sailing Club is unavailable). **PH to prepare proposed dates once the venue and availability has been established.**

10. Proposed public meeting

- 10.1. In view of the Council's decision to hold another Harbour Board meeting the Management Committee suggests that the public meeting should be scheduled to follow the Harbour Board meeting, as soon as possible afterwards. This proposal will be put to the Oban Bay Management Group next week. **Action: RW**