

Minutes of OCHDA Management Committee meeting 15th of November

Present: Ross Wilson (Chair), Fergus Gillanders, Donald Robertson, Linda Battison, John Peden, John MacAlister, Robert Kincaid, Phil Hamerton

Apologies: Duncan Martin, Peter Tosh, Tony Hammock, David Vass

1. Introduction

RW thanked everybody for their attendance and thanked Oban Sailing Club for offering the venue. RW introduced the meeting by reminding us that our focus must be on what we can do, how and when, once the draft Harbour Revision Order appears. There are many other issues we might like to discuss but this is our principal focus.

2. Minutes

- 2.1. The minutes of the previous meeting, September 2022, were accepted as a true record. Proposed FG, seconded LB.

3. Matters arising from the minutes

- 3.1. Previous minute 3.1: PH to pursue discussions with JM and PT re possible developments on the south pier.
- 3.2. Previous minute 4.4: it was confirmed that DR's report had been forwarded as an environmental incident in the Bay. This has been confirmed, at OBMG, as being the correct response to sewage discharge incidents.
- 3.3. Previous minute 5.2: the following points have emerged from discussions with Transport Scotland regarding the next steps in the process.
 - a) The applicant for the Harbour Order is responsible for placing advertisements following which the formal consultation period begins.
 - b) Purpose and Effect notes, which have been requested by a number of consultees, will not necessarily be made public at any point.
 - c) The Management Committee considers that there will be further detailed consideration required once the proposed harbour limits and details such as speed limits become clear.
 - d) It is still unclear regarding the Council's intentions in connection with Ardentrive Bay; it remains OCHDA's view that the area currently occupied by Kerrera Marina and other moorings should be given "nested" protected status.
- 3.4. Previous minute 6.1: the Committee believes that there is a need to make contact with other organisations, in addition to the membership of OCHDA, to engage with them in the process of responding to the next draft of the HRO. **Action: PH**

to distribute membership list to Committee members to invite suggestions.

4. Navigational Risk Assessment

- 4.1. In the absence of Tony Hammock's written response to the draft report on the NRA this item could not be dealt with.

5. OBMG meeting

- 5.1. RW had previously distributed his briefing note in connection with the Oban Bay Management Group meeting, stressing the unsatisfactory nature of the meeting.
- 5.2. In view of the Council's evident reluctance to make public the responses to their consultation exercises in connection with the development of the HRO the Committee agreed that Freedom of Information requests should be submitted in regard to both previous consultation exercises (the original online consultation undertaken in July and August and the further consultation on the draft harbour order published on 24 August) **Action: FG** to begin drafting FOIs.
- 5.3. The Council officers' failure to respond to OCHDA's September submission on governance is a matter for concern. The Committee recognises we shall need to be clear about the benefits arising from governance model as we have suggested. (See below)
- 5.4. The Committee considers that for the Harbour Board to make an informed decision on the approval of the draft HRO they should be familiar with the Purpose and Effect notes. Committee agreed that as a first step we should attempt to set up a meeting with Cllr Kain to alert him to the issues. **Action: RW** to initiate contact
- 5.5. The Committee was informed that a request has already been submitted to for a Deputation at the next meeting of the Harbour Board. The Committee agreed that the principal subject for the deputation will be local governance arrangements as per our submission to the Council in September. **Action: RW/PH** to initiate draft proposals
- 5.6. To make a compelling case for the adoption of different governance arrangements in Oban we will require to make clear the benefits that the proposed arrangements will lead to. These will need to be made in such a way that they can be clearly understood by all aspects of the community and easily communicated via the media.

6. Arrangements for responding to Transport Scotland is consultation

- 6.1. Once the order has been submitted to Transport Scotland there will be a delay while due diligence is undertaken. Thereafter the Council will place

advertisements for the formal consultation which then lasts for six weeks. This is unlikely to start before the second half of January.

- 6.2. The Management Committee considers that until we see the HRO and understand the likely timescale it is impossible to plan any further action.

7. Annual general meeting

- 7.1. The last AGM was held on 25 January 2022 (**note**: this date was incorrectly stated in the meeting). It may be appropriate to hold our next AGM during the anticipated consultation on the draft HRO. Proposed date is Wednesday 8th February subject to no other major events expected on that day. **Action: PH** to research.

8. Next meeting of this group

- 8.1. The Management Committee will attempt to meet online at 1830 on the first Monday after the publication of the draft HRO whenever this is.