

Minutes of OCHDA Management Committee meeting 29th August 2023

Present: Ross Wilson (Chair), Fergus Gillanders (partial), Donald Robertson, Duncan Martin, Robert Kincaid, Phil Hamerton, Peter Tosh, Linda Battison

Apologies: Tony Hammock, John MacAlister, David Vass (John Peden has stood down, pending his return to the UK)

1. Introduction

RW thanked everybody for their attendance.

2. Minutes (February 2023)

2.1. The minutes of the previous meeting, February 2023, were accepted as a true record. **Proposed DM, seconded DR.**

2.2. Minutes of the meeting will now be posted on the website. **Action: PH**

3. Matters arising from the minutes

3.1. Previous minute 2.2: outstanding work on the website has been completed.

3.2. Previous minute 3.1: the land Registry report has been circulated to management committee members.

3.3. Previous minute 3.3: no further action to be taken at this stage re AGM, members have been advised and no objections have been received. However, Committee was advised that accounts have been audited, for the outstanding period, and signed off.

3.4. Previous minute 4.1 this letter has been sent.

3.5. Previous minute 5.2: following the most recent of the Oban Bay Management Group meeting, it is increasingly felt that these have outlived their usefulness.

3.6. Previous minute 7.2: full information has been shared with Management Committee members but it is not clear what action has arisen from meeting with OLI Councillors regarding the consultation mechanisms. No motion was put forward to the Area Committee.

4. Requests for membership

4.1. The meeting confirmed the membership inclusion of the following: Gary Adams, Liam Browning, Neil McDonald, Iain Close, Euan Scott.

4.2. All of these will be written to to confirm their membership. **Action: PH**

5. Harbour Board Meeting

- 5.1. The Committee considered its strategy, in the light of the recently received papers. In general OCHDA recognised the significant improvements in the new version of the draft harbour order. It was noted that there is some evidence of responding to consultation.
- 5.2. The Committee's view is that our primary focus, as an organisation, should be on the formal consultation on the HRO and attempting to get amendments made at that stage. In the meantime an immediate brief has been submitted to Cllr Vennard, following the publication of the recent draft HRO and in advance of the Harbour Board's business day, to attempt to bring some balance to any discussions about the draft HRO. No response has been received, so far, from Cllr Vennard.
- 5.3. Regarding the proposed consultative mechanisms our approach will be based on the principle that we are endeavouring to safeguard Oban harbour for the long-term benefit of the people of Oban by establishing appropriate consultative mechanisms. We have been told that these cannot be detailed within the HRO but a general statement of commitment in principle to full consultation could be included. It was reported that Oban Community Council have requested advice from Transport Scotland regarding the inclusion of consultative arrangements within the draft HRO.
- 5.4. The HRO makes no reference to Kerrera Marina and there is no information in relation to Kerrera ferry. Kerrera ferry is no longer regarded as a lifeline ferry and would not be considered to be a ferry operator for that reason. Committee expressed some concern about the need to ensure that Kerrera Marina's owners etc are fully engaged in responding to the HRO. **Action: DR** to liaise with Gary Adams.
- 5.5. A draft of the proposed Deputation to the Harbour Board had been circulated. **Action: all Members** are asked to feedback by close of business tomorrow (30th of August).
- 5.6. Questioning was asked regarding communication between OCHDA and Brendan O'Hara (MP) in connection with the letter from Department of Transport on governance arrangements. **Action: PH** to pursue this with Brendan O'Hara's office.
- 5.7. MSP correspondence, particularly with Jenny Minto, seems encouraging. Advice has been sought, from her, regarding the timescale for formal consultation assuming that the Harbour Board approves the draft HRO on Thursday.
- 5.8. Consideration was given to the issue of a public meeting within the formal consultation period. In the event that this is not to be convened by the Council then it will be jointly mounted by OCHDA, the Stakeholder Group and the Community Council. Any public meeting which is convened by us might, usefully, be linked with the convening of an Annual General Meeting for OCHDA. This would particularly help those who travel the distance. Possible venues include Corran Halls and the Gathering Halls. **Action: PH** to discuss possible dates with these.
- 5.9. Once we have a date for the beginning of the formal consultation we will have to pursue

options, preferably avoiding school half term, and explore what the opportunities are.
Action: PH to write to all members asking for guidance regarding dates, days of the week, clashes et cetera.

- 5.10. We shall need to publicise the holding of the public meeting as extensively as possible, using all available media. This might start with a letter to the Oban Times inviting people to attend. **Action: PH** to draft letter. **Action: RK** to advise WHAM re the proposals.

6. Date of next meeting

- 6.1. In view of the fluidity of the current situation no further meeting was scheduled.

7. AOCB

- 7.1. None submitted