

Minutes of OCHDA Management Committee meeting 28th November 2023

Present: Ross Wilson (Chair), Fergus Gillanders, Donald Robertson (part), Duncan Martin, Robert Kincaid, Phil Hamerton, David Vass, Frank Roberts (*ex officio* Convenor of Oban Community Council)

Apologies: Tony Hammock, John MacAlister, Linda Battison, Peter Tosh, John MacAlister

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and requested additional agenda items. He welcomed Frank Roberts Convenor OCC as an observer
- 1.2. Apologies were received from Tony Hammock and Linda Battison. Note that Keith Miller has stood down from the Committee.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

- 2.1. Minutes of the meeting held on 29 August 2023 were approved. Proposed: David Vass, Seconded :Fergus Gillanders

3. Matters arising from the minutes

- 3.1. All actions from the previous meeting have been completed.
- 3.2. **Previous minutes 5.4.** A meeting was held recently between Harbour Board Councillors, Council officers, representatives of Kerrera Marina and other local interests. This meeting was inconclusive in terms of decision-making and no written record was made.
- 3.3. Of particular concern was a lack of information regarding the Council's intentions over charging conservancy and North Pier berthing fees and how this might affect operation of the Kerrera ferry.
- 3.4. **Previous minutes 5.6.** Correspondence between Brendan O'Hara and Argyll & Bute Council has been pursued. It is clear that a misleading statement was made to him but, as there is no evidence of harm being done to any person or property as a consequence there is no potential for action by the Ombudsman. Brendan O'Hara's office has been asked for advice in situations of this sort and further correspondence has been entered into with Argyll & Bute Council in regard to misleading statements and how these should be dealt with.

4. OCHDA Membership

- 4.1. A request for membership has been received from Alastair Currie. This was approved by the Committee. **Action: PH** to write to confirm this.

5. Current draft HRO

- 5.1. The Chair invited members of the Committee to add to the proposed list of concerns that have already been identified in the current draft.
- 5.2. FG drew attention to the need to link our representation regarding Reserve Fund with our

representation regarding the publishing of accounts as one comprehensive item.

- 5.3. FG drew attention to Articles 4 and 5 of the draft HRO, noting that we expect contribution from Boyd Holmes in this regard.
- 5.4. DM emphasised the level of concern regarding moorings, reminding Committee of the need for Marine Scotland and Crown Estate Scotland to be involved in negotiations with the Council regarding future arrangements.
- 5.5. DM also emphasised the inclusion of Kerrera Marina within the arrangements for moorings in future and questioned the Council's intentions in regard to all of these.
- 5.6. RK raised the question of byelaws which are already in force and queried whether we are sufficiently clear what these are. Committee was reminded that, unlike inherited byelaws, future byelaws will be consulted on publicly.
- 5.7. Regarding the intended statement of commitment to consultation it was noted that Boyd Holmes is to be asked to comment on our proposal, if possible. However, as his knowledge of Scottish maritime law is limited, this may require to be discussed with our solicitors.
- 5.8. No further new items were identified.
- 5.9. The first draft of a comprehensive representation to be developed as soon as possible.
Action: PH & FG.

6. **Public meeting**

- 6.1. Discussion of the previously circulated flyer focused on the layout and readability of this. The concept and basic text were broadly accepted.
- 6.2. In order to improve readability there is a need to look for different images and consider different fonts etc. This requires to be finished by the middle of next week in order to get the flyer printed (single page A5 printed on both sides, 2000 copies). **Action: FR and RW to draft and return to PH.**
- 6.3. Consideration is given to the use of social media for advertising the public meeting. As no member of the committee is an active social media user it was agreed to approach Laura Corbe of Oban Community Council. **Action: FR**
- 6.4. The meeting itself was considered and the purpose reiterated: to engage the public in the process of consultation, to make clear to them what aspects of the draft HRO cause concern to us and to ensure that members of the public know how to put forward their views.
- 6.5. In considering the structure of the public meeting an initial outline, in the form of a possible presentation, has been prepared and to be circulated to all members of the committee for comment.
- 6.6. Once the structure of the meeting, including the role of the chair, is clear then we shall need to look at the detail of what will be said on each topic and who will speak. **Action: PH to circulate draft programme presentation.**

6.7. Considerable discussion regarding invitations to post holders in the Council, elected representatives and members of the Oban Bay Management Group. It was agreed to invite MSP's and MP (**Action: PH**) OBMG and Andrew Kain (**Action: RW**) Kirsty Flanagan and OLI elected Members (**Action FR**) and Harbour Board Members (**Action: RW**). As none of these is known to be planning to attend, much less willing to speak necessarily, it was agreed that no publicity should be given to those who have been invited.

7. **Area Committee Meeting (13th December)**

7.1. Representatives of other groups may be planning to attend the Area Committee meeting and ask questions regarding their future engagement in planning developments in Oban harbour.

7.2. This will be welcome, but the focus needs to remain on how all communities will be able to ensure that their voice is heard in future in matters concerning Oban harbour.

7.3. OCHDA representatives will also be in attendance and may follow up questions from others present. Questions to an Area Committee are not required to be submitted to the clerk of the Committee in writing in advance, particularly where no factual information will be required that needs officer input before the meeting.

8. **Date of Next Meeting**

8.1. The next meeting of the management committee was confirmed for 12th December, 1400 at the Sailing Club