

## Minutes of OCHDA Management Committee meeting 26th January 2024

**Present (on-line):** Ross Wilson, Fergus Gillanders, Donald Robertson, Duncan Martin, Phil Hamerton, Frank Roberts, Peter Tosh, Robert Kincaid

**Apologies:** Tony Hammock, David Vass, John MacAlister, Linda Battison

### 1. Introduction

- 1.1. RW welcomed everybody to the meeting and congratulated everyone on the successful public meeting and on the drafting of submissions. The bill for legal advice had been as expected and was confirmed as paid.

### 2. Minutes of the previous meeting (12 December)

- 2.1. The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as a true record with the addition of Robert Kincaid as having been present. Proposed: FG, seconded DR.

### 3. Matters arising from the minutes

- 3.1. **Previous minute 3.3:** The Area Committee meeting was outstanding for its poor attendance by Councillors. In discussion it became clear that the Area Committee doesn't feel empowered to engage in the debate around the harbour. This was also apparently the case for other matters, e.g. flooding. FR pointed out the value of using public question time as a means of raising matters more effectively and also pointed out that, with on-line meetings advice may be received during a meeting without it being publicly stated. Andy Spence was in attendance but Mike Thoms was not present.
- 3.2. **Previous minute 5:** Notification of the formal consultation was not received by OCC. Phil has an FOI list of who was invited and when. **Action: Phil to circulate to all.** TB has confirmed that CES was contacted as per the list. An FOI has been submitted to Transport Scotland to see all submissions. This should be responded by 8/2/24. We have been advised that all those who have made a submission will be advised by the Council regarding the process for resolving issues, once the process has been agreed.
- 3.3. **Previous minute 6:** A very successful meeting, unfortunately restricted a little by the poor performance of some aspects of the audio system. The individual contributions made by Tony & Finlo were noted, in particular. The poor attendance record of Council personnel and from other OBMG members was regretted.

### 4. Membership application

- 4.1. Robert Kincaid was thanked for taking on responsibility as the Membership Secretary.
- 4.2. Kirsty Campbell has applied to become a member of OCHDA. She is a resident of Kerrera. This request was approved unanimously. **Action: RK to advise her regarding this.**

## 5. Harbour Board 31/1/24

- 5.1. Briefing notes have been sent to all HB Members. There was not time to consult the Management Committee before sending. Since then a supplementary paper has been published (Agenda Item 6) relating to the previous inaccurate statement about OCC & OCHDA seeking to take over the formal consultation. This new report will be studied with care and Management Committee members will be kept informed regarding further follow-up.
- 5.2. Follow-up conversations have been attempted with all HB Members. Only 3 have actually taken place (Fiona Howard, John Armour & Jim Lynch). Discussions have taken place, outside this, with Andrew Vennard. Other Members have either not responded to invitations or have not been able to manage meetings/phone calls. The general conclusion was that the effort to inform them better had been successful with these and that there might be more active engagement by Members than at previous meetings. Members spoken to expressed frustration that they get too much information from Officers to be able to digest it all.
- 5.3. Concern was expressed regarding the financial information contained in the report and the confusion of current expenditure and income with projected expenditure and income. It was also noted that there is no comprehensive table of incomes from all known sources. Combining public figures with FOI data should allow us to make a clear summary of current income. FOI data has been received re the potential and actual lease costs in regard to the N Pier. This requires follow-up and copying to all Management Committee members.  
**Action: PH**
- 5.4. It was noted that the Oban Community Council meeting next Monday has the Harbour as an agenda item. This might offer an opportunity to continue to raise Member awareness, particularly in regard to Members' access to the actual submissions and the process for responding to submissions.
- 5.5. The question of attending the meeting in person was considered. It is not clear whether this is a hybrid meeting or on-line only. **Action: PH to clarify and advise.**
- 5.6. Consideration of further support to Members focussed on the need to help them work together, supporting one another with, for example, questions around finance.

## 6. AGM

- 6.1. RW made clear that the original date has now passed, in effect, but we need to hold this as a matter of urgency. PH advised that we have a provisional booking at the Rockfield Centre for 29<sup>th</sup> Feb, evening.
- 6.2. Discussion of time & date confirmed: 29/2/24 starting at 1830. The process of dealing with HRO submissions may be under way by then and this should allow us time to see what is happening and respond. There is a HB meeting scheduled for 21<sup>st</sup> March. Action: **PH to notify members.**
- 6.3. The accounts will require to be reported upon and the Chair's & Membership reports will be

required.

- 6.4. A meeting of the Management Committee will be required, soon, to make necessary arrangements for the AGM.
- 6.5. Discussion of responding to the Council's actions towards those making submissions was extensive but inconclusive. There may be a need to act as a central co-ordinating point for objectors but this is not clear. Once we know what the process will be and have access to all submissions this will be clearer.

## 7. **Newsletter**

- 7.1. There is a need to get a newsletter drafted fairly quickly once the HB meeting has taken place. **Action: PH to draft**

## 8. **Website**

- 8.1. The website is currently stuck. LB has offered to take over management of this once she returns from current holidays.

## 9. **Date of next meeting**

- 9.1. It was agreed that the **next meeting of this group** will be on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> Feb. The main item for the agenda will be the AGM.