

Minutes of OCHDA Management Committee meeting 12th February 2024

(By Zoom)

Present

Ross Wilson (Chair), Fergus Gillanders, Peter Tosh, Phil Hamerton, Duncan Martin, Robert Kincaid, Donald Robertson

Apologies

Linda Battison, David Vass, Frank Roberts, Tony Hammock, John MacAlister

1. Minutes of the previous meeting (26th of January)

- 1.1. The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as a true record: proposed Peter Tosh, seconded Duncan Martin.

2. Matters arising from the minutes

- 2.1. All actions have been completed.
- 2.2. Previous minute 6.3: Peter Tosh reported that the accounts have been independently audited, up-to-date. Minutes of the previous meeting are to be amended to reflect this.

3. Newsletter

- 3.1. PH thanked members for contributing to the Newsletter. A revised version will be circulated for final comment immediately after this meeting.

4. Progress since January meeting

- 4.1. Phil reported on that the Freedom of Information request to Transport Scotland had been refused and that objections, where permission has been given, have been circulated to Members of the Harbour Board. The refusal of the FOI is subject to appeal and therefore a request has been made to Argyll & Bute Council for the same information. RW reported that access to objections lodged by other members of the Oban Bay Management Group is under discussion elsewhere.
- 4.2. PH updated regarding the misleading answer given to Cllr Vennard at the Harbour Board when he asked regarding OBMG's update on the consultative model. The full text, from the OBMG minutes, has been sent to Harbour Board members and a complaint has been lodged with Scott Reid.
- 4.3. OCC and OCHDA have jointly complained to Pippa Milne and Cllr Currie regarding inaccurate statements concerning OCC and OCHDA made at the two most recent Harbour Board meetings.
- 4.4. Concern was expressed regarding the quality of reporting of financial arrangements, in

the last Harbour Board, and the understanding of Harbour Board members regarding their overall responsibilities was considered. Without full disclosure of income and expenditure it is felt that the Harbour Board members cannot possibly understand their responsibilities fully.

- 4.5. Some uncertainty was expressed regarding the actual annual increase in charges to be levied by Argyll & Bute Council, in the context of previous agreements that the annual increase should be 3% plus inflation (3% is quoted in Ms Flanagan's report and was approved by Harbour Board members).
- 4.6. PH reported that Freedom of Information request has been made regarding income and expenditure in respect of the North pier and pontoons for the last three years, to complete the data that we have regarding this.
- 4.7. Possible contact with the Minister for Transport was considered. Committee agreed that we would make an initial approach to Jenny Minto MSP in order to take advice over requesting a meeting with the Minister, particularly on the subject of community empowerment in this context. It was noted that Donald Cameron MSP will shortly be replaced, following his elevation to the House of Lords. Committee agreed to attempt to make early contact with the incoming replacement MSP once this is all clear.

5. AGM planning

- 5.1. The draft agenda, as previously circulated, was approved with minor amendments. The final item on the agenda, the Way Forward for OCHDA, requires to make clear that this will be a discussion of the future role of OCHDA, with encouragement to all members to contribute to the discussion. This will be supported by provision of the OCHDA objection summary.
- 5.2. The report from the Treasurer will make clear that there may be a need for additional funds, once the next stage in the process, and OCHDA's future role, have become clear.
- 5.3. The Membership report, showing trends and progress since the last annual general meeting, will be simply a matter of numbers. **Action: PH to help RK.**
- 5.4. For the election/re-election of Committee members there should, if possible, be an independent chair. **Action: RW to contact TB.**
- 5.5. Committee was reminded that Office Bearers are elected from within the new Committee. In addition members may be co-opted to join the Committee for specific purposes or for specific periods, as required.
- 5.6. Liaison with the Rockfield will be vital. Top table to include three main speakers with others (Treasurer & Membership Secretary) nearby. **Action: PH to liaise with Rockfield.**
- 5.7. Housekeeping will require members to be registered, against the membership list, on

admission. **Action: RK to organise.** Non-members will not be permitted to attend.

- 5.8. LB and DR will again be asked to manage wireless microphones. **Action PH** to ensure these are charged.
- 5.9. Audio recording of the meeting to be made, for the purpose of recording the question and answer session. **Action PH to liaise with FR** to repeat recording as per the public meeting.
- 5.10. Discussion of the way ahead for OCHDA should, initially, be based round consideration of the OCHDA objection to the draft HRO. Are there 'red lines'? What would make us withdraw our objection? The summary of our objection should be on screen and also on paper. **Action: PH to organise printing of summaries**

6. Date of next Committee meeting

- 6.1. It was agreed to set a date for the incoming Committee and to seek appropriate accommodation, either at Oban Sailing Club or at the Rockfield Centre. The proposed date of the first Committee meeting for the new Committee will be 13th of March 2024, commencing at 1830.