

OCHDA Management Committee March 13th 2024 (Final)

(Hybrid)

Present

Ross Wilson (Chair), Phil Hamerton, Robert Kincaid, Duncan Martin, Donald Robertson, Peter Tosh, David Vass (on line), Robert Barlow, Craig Dalgliesh, Sandra Melville, Elaine Robertson (on line), Frank Roberts (co-opted)

Apologies

John MacAlister, Linda Battison (co-opted), Mike Thoms (co-opted)

1. Welcome & thanks

- 1.1. The Chair welcomed everybody to the meeting and thanked them for their attendance. Thanks were also expressed to Oban Sailing Club for the use of the premises. He thanked Committee Members for their advice, support, commitment and input to OCHDA business over the previous 2 years.
- 1.2. New members of the Committee (Sandra Melville, Craig Dalgliesh, Rob Barlow) were welcomed personally to the meeting, in addition to Elaine Robertson (online).
- 1.3. Members of the Committee who have stood down (Fergus Gillanders, Tony Hammock, and Keith Miller) were thanked for their service to OCHDA. It was noted that Linda Battison, who has also stood down from the Committee, and was thanked for her service, will continue to be available to the Committee, taking responsibility for maintaining our website. **Action: letters to be sent to all those who have stood down thanking them for their contributions.**

2. Introductions

- 2.1. The Chair invited all members of the Committee to say a few words to introduce themselves. As previously the Management Committee represents a very wide range of experiences, on land and water and also in the air, and high levels of expertise across a number of fields.
- 2.2. New members of the Management Committee were invited to comment on their introduction. A brief outline was requested regarding the history of OCHDA and its progress from promoting a Trust Port to supporting the Council in developing a Municipal Port. It was pointed out that the website does not make this entirely clear. **Action: PH to draw attention to this with Linda Battison.**

3. Minutes of the previous meeting (February 12th 2024)

- 3.1. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as an accurate record (proposed Robert Kincaid, seconded Duncan Martin, there were no objections).
4. **Matters arising from the minutes not covered elsewhere**
 - 4.1. All actions have been completed and there were no other matters arising from the minutes. The Chair noted the successful completion of the Annual General Meeting and thanked everybody for their contribution to this. His AGM report had been circulated to Management Committee Members.
5. **Election of office bearers**
 - 5.1. For the purposes of this exercise Ross Wilson continued as Chair.
 - 5.2. **Chair:** Ross Wilson expressed his desire to stand down and he was thanked for his many years as Vice-Chair and Chair. Phil Hamerton was elected as Chair for the coming year.
 - 5.3. Ross Wilson and John McAllister were both elected as **Vice-Chairs** for the coming year. Peter Tosh was re-elected as **Treasurer** and Robert Kincaid re-elected as **Membership Secretary**.
 - 5.4. There was no nomination for the role of Secretary and the role of Communications Officer remains to be clarified.
6. **Membership applications**
 - 6.1. Jim Battison and David Scott, both known to many members of the Committee, have asked if they may become members. These were both approved. **Action: RK to confirm this to them.**
 - 6.2. Peter Tosh raised the issue of whether we should charge for membership of OCHDA in view of our likely need to raise additional funds. This is currently not permissible within the constitution of OCHDA and may need to be reviewed in future.
7. **AGM feedback**
 - 7.1. Some concern was expressed regarding the turnout for the AGM but it was also acknowledged that it was inclement weather and that our meeting clashed with other meetings that had been arranged subsequent to our own.
 - 7.2. It was suggested that, in future, OCHDA members might be asked to indicate their intention to attend the AGM, in advance, in order to encourage attendance. It was also recognised that we should endeavour to run an AGM as a hybrid meeting if this is technically feasible. This has implications for future venues.

8. **Update on HRO process**

- 8.1. The current situation is that all those who made submissions have been told that they will be written to by A&BC. No timescale is available for this, despite this being requested directly from the Council and, on our behalf, via MSP from Transport Scotland. It is unclear whether there will, subsequently, be a formal process of written submissions which has a specific timescale. (This is detailed on the Transport Scotland website.)

9. **Update on HRO summaries**

- 9.1. Summaries of objections, based on the 76 that we have seen, are now on the website and of use to anybody who is involved in discussions regarding these. Thanks were expressed to Robert Kincaid, Frank Roberts and Phil Hamerton for producing these. The summaries have been sent to all OCHDA Members, all local Councillors and all members of the Harbour Board, to MSP's and to the media.

10. **Update from Oban Community Council and OLI Area Committee**

- 10.1. The recent Community Council and Area Committee meetings both considered the request for a public meeting to be convened by A&BC in order to explain to the community precisely what the Council is intending and for the Council to hear community views. It was made clear, at the Area Committee, that this proposal could not be put forward, formally, at that time. A motion may not be put forward to a Committee unless the matter under consideration is on the agenda for that meeting; on this occasion the issue of Oban Harbour was not on the Area Committee agenda.

11. **Update from Oban Bay Management Group**

- 11.1. The most recent meeting of the OBMG did not discuss any matters relating to the draft HRO. There was discussion relating to the forthcoming Clipper Race and perceived difficulties for regular visiting boats which may be denied access to their traditional berthing areas. OBMG had not been advised regarding the Clipper Race and some surprise was expressed regarding this. A&BC has yet to complete a Risk Assessment for the event.

12. **Update on Complaints & FOIs**

- 12.1. Outstanding complaints are in train with one, relating to untrue statements in Harbour Board reports, having been submitted to the Public Service Ombudsman, very recently. We also have an outstanding Freedom of Information review, relating to open access to all draft HRO public consultation submissions, which is being undertaken. In the event that this is again refused it will be referred to the Information Commissioner. A previous request to the Information Commissioner, relating to the publication of the Statement in Support (part of the HRO submission process) is to be withdrawn since the material concerned has now been published. **Action: PH to address**

13. **MSP contact update**

- 13.1. All active MSP's for the area have been kept abreast of the situation, ditto our MP. Jenny Minto has been in touch with Transport Scotland, to seek further information on our behalf, currently unsuccessfully. A possible meeting with the Transport Minister, facilitated by Jenny Minto, could not be arranged during this precise stage of the HRO consultation process.

14. **Harbour Board 21st March 2024**

- 14.1. The next meeting of the Harbour Board is scheduled for next week (Thursday). Papers for this meeting should be available on Friday 15th. Once the papers are published it may be obvious whether we need to have a meeting and we will be able to consider whether we wish to make a deputation to the Harbour Board. The meeting was advised that Harbour Board meetings are hybrid and Phil will circulate papers and instructions for joining in once we see them.

15. **Future meetings of the Committee**

- 15.1. The Committee considered the best way to arrange future meetings. Options include fully in-person meetings, hybrid meetings or fully online meetings. The Committee agreed that meetings should be held on a fully online basis for the foreseeable future.
- 15.2. Consideration was also given to frequency and day/time of meetings. Committee agreed that a programme of monthly meetings will be scheduled, these to be cancelled if there is no relevant business, and that meetings will be held on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday in the early evening. **Action: PH to suggest dates.**
Dates suggested: April 16th; May 15th; June 11th

Postscript: the above May date was corrected at the April meeting, it should be 14th

16. **Other Competent Business**

- 16.1. PH (Chair) proposed a vote of thanks to Ross Wilson for his safe management of OCHDA as Chair and in the preceding period as Vice-Chair, and expressed the Committee's gratitude and keenness to continue to work with Ross in future.