

OCHDA Management Committee Meeting 16th April 2024 (via Zoom)

Present: Sandra Melville, Linda Battison (part), Elaine Robertson (part), Craig Dalgliesh, Duncan Martin, Donald Robertson, Phil Hamerton (Chair), Ross Wilson, Frank Roberts,

Apologies: Peter Tosh, Robert Kincaid, Rob Barlow, John MacAlister, Mike Thoms

Welcome

Phil welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for their participation.

1. Minutes of the previous meeting

- 1.1. The minutes (13th March 2024) were approved as accurate, with the exception of the date of the May meeting which should be May 14th. Proposed David Vass seconded Donald Robertson

2. Matters arising

- 2.1. **Previous minute 1.3:** all letters have been sent.
- 2.2. **Previous minute 6.1:** Membership applications: no further applications have been received since the last meeting. Previous applicants have been notified of their election.
- 2.3. **Previous minute 11:** Oban Bay Management Group's next meeting is scheduled for 1st May. Some discussion took place regarding future representation: Rob Barlow has agreed to represent the Oban Bay Stakeholder Group; Ross and Phil will attend for OCHDA; Frank attending on behalf of Oban Community Council (OCC).
- 2.4. **Previous minute 12:** the Freedom of Information review request, relating to publication of all HRO consultation submissions, has been refused by A&BC and, subject to approval from this Committee, will be referred to the Information Commissioner. Meeting approved submission to the Information Commissioner. Action: PH to forward.

An additional complaint has been lodged with the Council regarding the conduct of the Chair of the Harbour Board on 21st March, where Standing Orders were not followed in regard to questions asked of those making a Deputation.

3. Admin support

- 3.1. Phil welcomed Craig's offer to support with external communications, and noted the Membership Secretary role having already been taken on by Robert Kincaid and Linda Battison taking on oversight of the website. However the need for admin support for meetings, in particular, was noted. Members of the Committee were asked to consider volunteering.

4. Website developments

- 4.1. LB, having stood down from the Committee, will maintain oversight of the website, reorganising material etc as required. She identified some immediate possible tasks: archiving old material; a clear mission statement; separate space for FOI requests; and, the development of a social media presence.
- 4.2. After discussion it was agreed that all members of the Committee would contribute to the debate on improvements to the website: contributions to be made before the end of the working week. It was agreed that any archived material should remain available to the public.

5. Committee membership changes

- 5.1. Elaine Robertson is unable to take up a position on the Management Committee. She was thanked for her continuing support.

6. HRO Consultation

Council responses

- 6.1. The A&BC website states that most people should have heard from the Council by mid April. To date neither OCHDA nor OCC or a number of other significant objectors have heard from the Council. Guidance has been requested, from the Council and from Transport Scotland, in relation to the deadline for responding once Council responses have been received. This remains unclear.
- 6.2. Advice has been received that Council responses are expected to have been received by all public members by 3rd May. Some discussion took place regarding advice to those who have made objections as to whether they should write to maintain their objections. The Committee agreed that we should advise all known objectors that they should make their intentions known positively, not relying on the advice that a nil response would count as a reaffirmation of their objection.

Further actions which could be taken by OCHDA

- 6.3. The Management Committee considered what further steps could be taken, on behalf of OCHDA, at the present time. The proposed letter to our MSP's and our MP was considered and, with one minor amendment, was approved for sending.
 - 6.4. The current flux among the local Council may offer opportunities for us to make representations. The need to engage successfully with the Area Committee was recognised. The next Area Committee scheduled meeting is in June; it is to be hoped that Oban Harbour will be an agenda item at that meeting.
 - 6.5. The Committee considered the possibility of refreshing our most recent Trust Port project plan documents in order that we could present a coherent case should the opportunity arise. It was agreed that work should be undertaken, by a small group of members and others from outside, to review the project plan (version 3, December 2021) and also to begin a Risk Register. In the event that we were to be asked whether we were in a position to progress the Harbour Revision Order for a Trust Port, at some point in the future, we should aim to be able to do so. **Action: RW & PH**
7. **Date of next meeting: confirmed 14th May**