

Oban Community Harbour Development Association Meeting

**22nd October 2019 12 noon
North Pier Meeting Room**

Present

John MacAlister, Alison Rennie, Phil Hamerton, Tony Bennett, Fergus Gillanders, Tony Hammock, Ross Wilson, Andy Spence, David Vass, Duncan Martin

Apologies

Peter Tosh, Sarah Brown

1. Minutes of the meeting of 24th September

1.1. The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as a true record.

2. AOCB items to be considered

2.1. Membership list

3. Matters Arising not elsewhere on the agenda

3.1. Project timeline

FG referred to Oban Bay Management Group minutes and expressed concern over feasibility of managing the March 2020 deadline. TB stressed that the deadline is not a 'hard' deadline but that demonstrable progress is urgently required. The meeting accepted that we need to be very clear over our intentions and be showing good progress by the end of the year at the latest.

3.2. Letters to possible financial supporters

AR reported that this letter has been updated but addressees need to be identified. It was agreed that the letter would be sent around the group for approval and members are asked to suggest possible recipients of the letter. **Action: AR**

4. Update on FLAG expression of interest

4.1. PH introduced his report, advising that there seems little point in pursuing this further at this stage of our development; had we already been a Trust Port it would have been in order to apply for assistance to improve

facilities of interest to the fisheries communities. Applying for funds to set up a Trust Port was not within the terms of the fund.

- 4.2. Given the uncertainty about future funding from the EU, or successor funds, this item is shelved. JM is exploring future options.

5. Legal support update report

- 5.1. PH introduced his report. The group concluded that we need to have a list of possible legal advisers ready to appoint next month. JM will make contact with Brodie's. Having our legal support appointed would be an important milestone and needs resolving as soon as possible. **Action: JM**
- 5.2. TB reminded the group that fees for applying for a Harbour Order are to be waived by Transport Scotland.

6. Meetings Protocol document

- 6.1. PH spoke to his revised version. No further points were raised. The meeting agreed formally to adopt the protocol

7. Meeting with Pippa Milne

- 7.1. TB reported on a very positive telephone conversation he had had with Pippa Milne, Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure at A&BC. This had been arranged at short notice after Pippa had cancelled the scheduled meeting.
- 7.2. During the conversation Tony provided Pippa with an update on the work that OCHDA have been doing, and outlined the potential for collaborative working between OCHDA and the Council. The conversation had included a number of items including asset transfer, legislation, capital funding and the pontoons at the North Pier. Whilst Pippa had initially voiced reservations about the sustainability of the Harbour Board and financial viability of the Trust Port Tony felt that he had gone some way to addressing these concerns.
- 7.3. The conversation had concluded with the following points being agreed:
 - Pippa would confirm whether or not Oban was included within the Consolidation Order that the Council was currently compiling;
 - Pippa would also try and establish the nature of the outstanding finance on the pontoons;

- Pippa's PA (Veronica) would provide a list of potential dates/times for a meeting that would include representatives of both OCHDA and the Council. This would hopefully be some time during the week of 4th November or shortly thereafter;

7.4. Whilst Pippa could agree that it would be possible to have positive engagement with Council officers going forward, she advised that OCHDA would also have to engage with the full Council if the project is to be successful.

8. Outstanding Agenda Items

8.1. Owing to time constraints no detailed discussion was held about the draft Harbour Order. Work requires to be continued. **Action: FG & TB**

8.2. It was also not possible to consider, in detail, the planned meeting with elected Members which will go ahead on Thursday, based on earlier discussions.

8.3. In the absence of the Treasurer there was no finance update.

8.4. PH will circulate a note about OCHDA membership issues by e-mail.
Action: PH

8.5. These items will be placed as agenda items for the next meeting. **Action: AR & JM**

Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting will be 26 November 2019 at 10 am in the North Pier Meeting Room.