

Minutes of the meeting of the OCHDA Management Committee

July 6th 2021 15:00 – 16:30

Present: Alison Rennie, Andy Spence, Keith Miller, Phil Hamerton, Tony Bennett, Duncan Martin, Mike Thoms, Peter Tosh.

Apologies: John MacAlister, Ross Wilson, David Vass, Robert Kincaid, Tony Hammock.

Chair for the meeting

In the absence of the Chair & vice-Chair the Management Committee asked Tony Bennett to chair the meeting.

1. Minutes of the meeting of 13th May

- 1.1. These were approved; proposed by Phil Hamerton and seconded by Duncan Martin.

2. Matters arising

- 2.1. It was noted that in relation to 8.1 and 8.2 in the Deliverables Schedule all the actions relating to OCHDA had been tabled and sent to the Council, except those items which still require a response from A&BC. In contrast A&BC have just provided details of one and a half items.

3. AOCB

- 3.1. TB advised that he had data on vessel movements in the harbour which he would like to present to the group.

4. Feedback on recent meetings with KF and JS

- 4.1. TB reported that these have not always been very productive and positive. The Council Officers have been reminded that they have had 150 pages of submissions from us, a large number of which were duplicates of material they have already received.
- 4.2. A positive outcome was reported from the most recent meeting, that OCHDA now have permission to meet up with Harbour Master and Deputy Harbour Master from the North pier to obtain data from them directly. OCHDA have also been given permission to contact Finance Officers to obtain the figures which we need and there is to be a meeting with the chief accountant on Thursday to try and obtain the financial information which is outstanding.
- 4.3. TB emphasised the need to start taking more of a positive role and emphasise why the Trust Port will be beneficial to Oban in our presentations and discussion.

5. Feedback from Oban Community Council

- 5.1. Oban Community Council expressed their concern at the lack of progress in this project. Councillors, in particular, expressed their support and frustration. OCC agreed to send a letter to A&BC (Chief Exec, Chair of the Harbour Board and others)

expressing their concern. This matter is expected to be covered by the Oban Times this week and may lead to further press interest.

- 5.2. The Management Committee agreed to circulate the letter to Committee members.
Action: DM
- 5.3. Further discussion led to an agreement that we will seek a meeting with relevant MSPs in September, to follow the OBMG meeting scheduled for August. See item 7, below.
6. **Response to A&BC's recent Briefing note (23/6/21).**
 - 6.1. This Briefing note was produced for Councillors. It is considered to be inaccurate, incomplete and in places downright wrong. The Committee agreed to write a counter to this brief and circulate to the Councillors as soon as possible.
 - 6.2. The Committee agreed four main points which need to be made.
 - a) Ferries do not have an automatic right of way (see the Code of Practice etc)
 - b) Point out that A&BC have an existing responsibility in the harbour;
 - c) Clarify the respective roles of the Council, the Oban Bay Management Group, and Transport Scotland; and
 - d) Point out once again that OCHDA is not planning to become the Harbour Authority and has never had any intentions of doing so
 - 6.3. Other inaccuracies within the document will be itemised in an annex. **Action: PH & RW**
7. **Planning for the implementation stage of the Trust Port.**
 - 7.1. We need to consider what will be the fine detail of this. It was decided that the members of the Board Working Group should be asked to take a lead on this. Though there is no immediate action, pending more positive outcomes from discussions with A&BC, consideration should be given immediately to the inclusion of relevant others and the scope of the work.
8. **Media strategy**
 - 8.1. OCHDA have had a number of enquiries from the BBC in the last 10 days. There is also to be a story in the Oban Times this week. In considering our strategy, Committee agreed that at the moment we would adopt a positive tone, expressing our optimism and welcoming the involvement of senior Officers and Members, and looking forward to planned meeting etc etc. **Action: PH to draft and circulate**
 - 8.2. It was suggested that Monday and Tuesday mornings are the best times for trying to arrange meetings with MSPs. We will write to them in the third week of August.
Action: PH&AS
 - 8.3. We shall prepare a presentation for this outlining the background to this project, what has been achieved to date, what remains to be done and the difficulties we are finding. A briefing (copy of the presentation?) will require to be sent to them ahead of the meeting and this could usefully be circulated to others.

9. **AOCB**

- 9.1. TB reported that following detailed analysis it has been shown that Cal Mac is not responsible for the most vessel movements within the harbour. When all vessel were considered it was shown that there more vessel movements recorded for all other harbour users than those by ferries. This work is still in progress and will be circulated at a later date.

Dates and times of future meetings

The meeting on 22 July was cancelled. Another meeting for **12 August at 15:00** has been organised.

Phil will propose possible dates for the next three or four meetings and circulate them.

Action: PH