

Minutes of the meeting of the OCHDA Management Committee

Thursday 9th December 2021 15:00 – 17:00.

Held by Zoom

Present: John MacAlister, Tony Bennett, Peter Tosh, Ross Wilson, Andy Spence, Keith Miller, Phil Hamerton, Duncan Martin, Robert Kincaid, David Vass.

Apologies: Tony Hammock, Alison Rennie, Mike Thoms.

1. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 28th & 30th November 2021

- 1.1. Minutes, with 2 typos requiring to be amended in 5.2 & 6.2 and with Connel CC added to After note in 8.1, were proposed as being correct, by Duncan Martin and seconded by Ross Wilson.

2. Matters arising not on the agenda

- 2.1. We are unclear whether the MSPs have sent their letter(s). The MP has done so.
- 2.2. Following correspondence between PH & Kirsty Flanagan which clarified that the Council has no plan in place yet regarding the development of the Municipal Port and indicating that continuation of these meetings is not required in view of the HB decision, it was decided not to proceed. OCHDA has stated that there is no useful purpose to be served.

3. Responses to HB decision

- 3.1. The Management Committee considered a range of possible responses, as per the paper circulated, including formal complaints. The role of the Management Committee might be to facilitate actions by individual OCHDA members as well as acting formally on behalf of OCHDA.
- 3.2. RW updated on his initial lodging of a 'Petition' to the Provost expressing concern about the conduct of the meeting, as advised by a Council Member. A response is now expected to come from the Executive Director (Monitoring Officer). Concern was expressed regarding this since he was advising the meeting at the time. Nevertheless any later complaint to Audit Scotland or the Ombudsman must be based on all local procedures having being exhausted. Individual OCHDA members may be supported to make individual complaints while OCHDA as a group pursues the Petition to the Provost.
- 3.3. The Committee was advised that Oban Community Council would also consider a petition to the Provost raising concerns over the conduct of the meeting. **Action: RW to advise DM**
- 3.4. Legal advice has been offered by one of our members and, possibly, by the RYA. This may be helpful in choosing the best approach at various stages. DV has

existing links which he will pursue. **Action: DV**

- 3.5. Additionally suggested that OCHDA and/or the Stakeholders should write to the OBMG and to the HB Members to clarify mis(sing)-information regarding the timescale for implementation of a Trust Port.
- 3.6. Other actions to be undertaken will be considered by the AGM, with particular 'phases' suggested. In the meantime TB will initiate drafting of key points which OCHDA members might choose to use as a foundation for individual complaints. This would also act as preparation for future formal actions (statements of case etc).
Action: TB
- 3.7. Public campaigning may prove successful in engaging significant numbers to support OCHDA's stance. OCC can take effective action to support such a move or even lead a campaign at the right time. **Action: DM, KM & OCC Chair** to write in support to Oban Times.
- 3.8. For the AGM, the Management Committee will not put forward the 'wet port' HO option. Other options will be put to the AGM according to the above.
- 3.9. Compilation of letters, minutes etc is regarded as an essential (major) task which cannot be undertaken as part of this but will be required anyway in due course.
Action: TB to initiate.
- 3.10. OBMG will require a planned input from OCHDA in January (note this discussion was reverted to later in the meeting under AGM).
- 3.11. Lease negotiations to be continued, if possible, in the meantime. OCHDA might also consider requesting representation on the Harbour Board and/or the OBMG.

4. **AGM**

- 4.1. The Corran Halls have been booked for Tuesday 14th of December but a 'hybrid' meeting will require use of Microsoft Teams. Alternatively we could adopt a Zoom-based meeting hosted by Andy.
- 4.2. The AGM may need to be deferred until after the OBMG or adjourn before the election of the new Committee so that volunteers understand what we will need to do.
- 4.3. The issue of the presence of non-members of OCHDA will also need to be considered.
- 4.4. Points made in discussion:
 - a) Important to consider what we want to put forward to the OBMG – do they really know what's been going on
 - b) need to try to get a direct meeting with our members in the New Year if possible
 - c) public health issue must be seen to be taken seriously
 - d) members only for AGM
 - e) public meeting to follow AGM after 2-3 weeks (?Feb)

- f) use of Google Forms or Doodle Poll for election
- g) can't hold AGM but could go ahead with 'virtual' briefing meeting for members
- h) OCHDA reps need clear mandate for OBMG
- i) could arrange to consider specific motions for OBMG by e-mail/Doodle poll

4.5. Agreed strategy: Doodle Poll to be drafted by TB, RW, JM & PH, distribution to Committee, then to go to members for Tuesday. Period of polling 24 – 48 hours.

Action: PH

5. **Any other business**

5.1. **Applications for membership** received from David Hodge, Malcolm & Rhona Young, Liz Maclean & AndyMcPherson. All accepted. **Action: AR**

5.2. **Minutes of OCHDA-ABC joint meetings** – agreed that they be put on our website.
Action: PH

6. **Date of next meeting**

6.1. 14th of January 2022 @ 14:00 by Zoom. **Action: PH & AS to facilitate**