

Minutes of the Oban Community Harbour Development Association

16th December 2019

Present: John MacAlister, Fergus Gillanders, Tony Bennett (*ex-officio*), David Vass, Ross Wilson, Andy Spence, Peter Tosh, Tony Hammock, Robert Kincaid, Duncan Martin, Phil Hamerton

Apologies: Sarah Brown, Alison Rennie

1. Minutes of the November meeting

- 1.1. The minutes meeting of November 26 were accepted as a true record. Proposed: Peter Tosh, seconded: Duncan Martin.

2. Matters arising

2.1. Appointment of legal advisers

PH spoke to his report. Responses from the invited legal advisers are expected in time for the January meeting. A reported potential conflict-of-interest may make it impossible for Brodies to act as our legal adviser; more information will follow

2.2. Letters to potential supporters

AR's report on letters to possible future supporters was considered. The meeting agreed that no letters are to be sent to remaining names from the list in the report. Additional letters to be sent to other parties suggested by Peter Tosh and other members of the Committee. **Action: all:** to put forward suggestions for additional possible supporters to AR. **Action: AR** to send letters as recommended.

2.3. OCHDA membership list

PH's report on the membership list was considered. The meeting agreed that no direct approaches will be made to individuals in connection with membership. The newsletter and press release will include a specific invitation to join. **Action: PH** to ensure that the press release & the newsletter address this

2.4. Thank-you letters

PH reported that "Thank you" letters had been sent to all bodies not represented on the Committee, with the exception of Argyll Charter Boats Association. Committee agreed to send a letter of thanks to Tony Hill since ACBA no longer exists as a body. **Action: AR** to send letter to Tony Hill

3. **Feedback on Oban Bay Management Group Meeting**

- 3.1. The recent OBMG Meeting had addressed a number of issues of significance to OCHDA:
- a) OBMG believes that the next public meeting should be arranged by OCHDA (see 6.4 below);
 - b) an incident was reported, recently, involving difficulties arising from ferry access to the Lismore ferry slip;
 - c) some discussion took place regarding precise boundaries been drawn up in draft Harbour Orders, this requires to be clarified and agreed by all parties. OCHDA representatives at the meeting proposed an alteration to CMAL's plans which were accepted.

4. **Harbour Order drafting**

- 4.1. FG described progress as being steady and positive. He drew the meeting's attention to his paper on working assumptions and drew the meeting's attention to the issue of collaboration with Argyll & Bute Council & with NLB.
- 4.2. The Management Committee recognises the level of specialist knowledge among council staff currently involved in harbour-related activity and recognised the need to work closely with Argyll & Bute Council in the coming weeks. It will be necessary to clarify the specific tasks on which collaboration is required, and with whom the work should be undertaken. **Action TB: and FG** to approach A & BC, formally, for approval to engage specific officers for specific purposes.
- 4.3. Committee also recognised the potential contribution of Northern Lighthouse Board personnel, and their specialist knowledge. As above, clarification will be required relating to individual tasks with which help is required from NLB.

5. **Work plan**

5.1. **Timescale for implementation**

TB informed the group that progress by OCHDA has been recognised by Oban Bay Management Group and he advised that implementation of the Trust Port at some point during 2020 would probably be regarded as acceptable: that the timescales are a little bit more relaxed. Nevertheless there is concern over timescales, in particular relating to the period between submission of a Harbour Order and its approval. Early consultation with Transport Scotland is required to ensure that the envisaged timescale is manageable. **Action: TB and FG** to visit Transport Scotland early in the New Year.

5.2. **Preparation of the business case**

Preparation of the business case, including consideration of possible leases, Asset Transfers, financial analysis and affordability etc is clearly an urgent priority. **Action: TB** to lead this development.

5.3. **Publicity**

- a) The group confirmed that the agreement with Argyll & Bute Council is that they will be advised, beforehand, when material referring to them is to be released. However the group was also reminded that successful establishment of positive relationships with Argyll & Bute Council had relied on discretion and sensitivity.
- b) The meeting considered the potential for using Facebook in addition to press release via the Oban Times and the Oban Harbour website to promulgate information. It was agreed that no further work will be undertaken regarding Facebook until the group is better able to judge the risks v the benefits.
- c) **Action: PH** to amend newsletter and press release to ensure that there are links with website, information regarding joining OCHDA and encouragement to support, and dates of future meetings. **Action: PH** to ensure Facebook use is a future agenda item.

5.4. Fundraising was recognised as an increasingly urgent task, though it remains unclear precisely what funds will be required for what purposes and at what stage. The meeting agreed that fundraising, short-term and longer-term, would be a major item at the next meeting of the group.

6. AOCB

- 6.1. **Sarah Brown** has written to the group apologising for her inability to get to meetings and offering to stand down whilst willing to continue to undertake tasks and keen to remain in touch. The group concluded that Sarah should be thanked for her work and replaced as a Committee member.
- 6.2. The group has previously agreed to invite a representative of **Oban Community Council** to join as a **co-opted member**. The meeting considered issues relating to additional members joining the group and making the meetings open to all members. Meeting concluded that any member of OCHDA should be able to attend any meeting of the management committee, provided that they give notice of their intention. If necessary this may require changes of venue and therefore reasonable notice will be required.
- 6.3. FG drew meetings attention to the [minutes](#) of recent meeting of **CMAL's management board**. Item 10 refers, in part, to the current debate in Oban.
- 6.4. **Public meeting**. It was agreed that the public meeting will be held on Tuesday 4th February, in the evening. **Action: TB** to explore possible funding; **Action: PH** to explore venues.

Dates of future meetings of this group

January 21, 2020: confirmed (10:00 – 12:00)

February 25th 2020: altered to afternoon, commencing at 1400;

March 24: 10 – 12; April 28: 10 – 12; May 26: 10 - 12 all accepted, subject to availability at North pier meeting room. **Action: PH** to check with HM's office.