



THA Board Meeting

Time: 7:30pm

Date: Wednesday 1st September 2021

Location: Online Zoom Meeting

Apologies

James Henderson, Rob MacDonald

Minutes

Mary Macgregor

Present

Brian Swinbanks, *Chairman/Director*

Rory Forrester, Anne Fraser, Jan Dunlop, Allan MacLean, Steve Littlewood, Lyndsey McLaren, John MacDonald

Description	Action
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Apologies• Minutes and matters arising from previous meeting, minutes approved BS seconded RF <p>Matters arising: Letter re Aros Freshwater Facility was done to Marine Scotland CC to BS and copy to Crown Estate Scotland . CES acknowledged but advised would not move it forward until MS had granted a license. DI was involved and informed about the letter. We await further progress.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Harbour Report : by Rob Macdonald (read by Anne Fraser in his absence)<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Safety Review: Accidents, Incidents, near misses. <p>Two near miss reports for August</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Concern raised by Skipper of Kilchoan Ferry, Calmac about 3 paddle boarders impeding the ferry.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <p>Concerns regarding leisure users in the Bay will be taken to the next PUG meeting for discussion.</p>

2. See below e-mail from owner of a visiting boat anchored at Aros.

“As a frequent visitor to Tobermory Harbour, I feel it is important to notify yourselves of an extremely dangerous situation at Aros pier. This morning at 0915 just at high tide a family were at the pier. Some of the 50 mooring buoys were floating on the quay others in deep water alongside there was no way one could discern which was which and a child was saved as she moved from one to the other. There are no signs, the ground is strewn with rotten mussels the stench is foul, furthermore it is very difficult to use the slipway for anything in its present state”

Following this incident,

- Rob went over to Aros and took photos.
- We were planning to take Heras fencing over to the pier. Rob strongly recommending that the whole area be blocked off until the floats are cleared and move Heras fencing to the pier.
- KFT is producing further safety signage – which we have ordered.
- I am also concerned about the 2 pontoon sections that we have over there as well and think these need to be moved if we can get a forklift.

Port Marine Safety Code

Oil Spill On-going. Working on it this week. Then as of next month will begin working through the audit.

The last week has quietened down substantially so I am currently working through the backlog of e-mails etc. (...and the issues with the fuel berth).

- Finance Report
Presentation of the final accounts. The finals of the accounts were previously circulated by email and no questions were raised by the Board. MHM asked that the Board adopt the accounts.

Accounts approved for adoption RF seconded BS

BS said that the email should be sent on to the Carmichaels(owners of the floats) for their attention. KFT signs are in production. A MacL will take the Herras fencing on Saturday.

R MacD to let Pjotr know.

Projects : Anne Fraser

- Aros

Aros should be a priority going into the coming year. The safety of the pier and slipway to be addressed and a low-key use of the buildings to be found.

There is an upsurge in water sports and outdoor activities and there is a need for a meeting place, toilets, dry storage and outdoor storage. There is local community demand for such facilities and it could take paddleboarders, swimmers, kayakers and dinghies to the safer side of the Bay.

There followed discussion about various ways the buildings could be utilised and services installed.

A MacI emphasized that the pier and slipway safety should come first.

- There is some funding available which might help with the remedial work.

AF suggest that plans and designs (KFT) should be prepared to repair the pier/slipway and put a small pontoon in. Board in agreement

- Hydro and Carbon Neutral

AF will look to get a feasibility study done (with funding) on the Aros waterflows to see what the potential is to make any Aros development generate its own power. This will work well with the THA's aims towards Carbon Neutral. A Micro Hydro just to power the buildings may be achievable but a bigger project in the main river would be a big cost development.

In addition, there will be an assessment of the main business use of power to see if "greener" systems can be put in place and work toward net zero targets. This is an area where there should be funding coming out to meet the Scottish Govt aims.

- Aquarium

Lyndsey reported that the Aquarium has problems that need to be addressed in the winter. Particularly the dampness in plasterboard and aged electronic equipment (which also suffers from being in a damp environment). To date they have been patching up but it needs a radical re-think. LMCL is not in a position to return to full-time work until her family are older so any re-location is not really on the cards in the short term.

R Macd to bring up safety of the leisure/sport users of the bay like the paddleboards at the next PUG and work collaboratively with RNLI and Coastguard to put out safety message.

Brian and Allan will have a look at the Aquarium to assess what work could be done to improve.

AF and LMCL have looked into a new HIE Graduate Funding (12 month post) and have agreed that the right graduate could be taken on as a Marine Engagement Officer. The remit of the role could include developing the app, promoting the Aquarium, seeking sponsors and working on the Harbour Environmental plan. Steve Littlewood is communicating with SAMS in Oban and they have a lot of resources that would help and working in collaboration with SAMS should aim to build meaningful data. SAMS could also be helpful in populating the app for the Aquarium. The longer term strategy for the Aquarium would work well in collaboration with SAMS.

Environmental data is also useful for funding and planning applications.

- Argyll Properties build will start in October. THA will need to fund the kit out of the new room/facility.
- Other operational issues are Broadband, hot water system and front door is needing replaced. Turnstile repair or replace.
- There should be an audit on the structure of the building including the effect of having an Aquarium in the building
- It has been confirmed that CMAL would not be looking to move the ferry to the THA side of the Bay. This is not something the THA looking to do anyway and it is generally felt that the Traffic Management Committee and Ferry Action Group will be monitoring the effect of the Park and Ride once it is in place,
- Shoreside development will be on the back burner but still an option in the longer term
- In view of the amount of planning, funding and co-ordination the above projects will take, AF suggested that she would be looking at some funding pots that are coming up to help with Revenue (salaries) to take the Company forward. This could involve engaging a project officer, but it was unanimously agreed that Anne is better placed and more than qualified to do the job and that with additional funding her hours would be increased to make it happen. With the engagement of the new Senior Business Administrator starting on 1st Oct the aspiration is that she will relieve Anne (and Rob) of a lot of paperwork allowing them both to concentrate on building the business.

AF to seek revenue funding

- Focus should be on revenue funding in the immediate term to get feasibility studies, options appraisals and consultations.
- There was discussion about the Marine Diesel Sales. Still struggling to get a handle on the HMRC process for VAT and duty.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 21.25
