



Oban Bay Marine
first Annual General Meeting, Thursday 27th November 2008
at Oban Sailing Club, Dungallan Parks, Oban

The Meeting started at 7:15 pm

Attended

Directors: John MacGregor, Chairman (JM); Mike Robertson, Company Secretary (MR); Elaine Lauder (EL); Adrian Lauder; Roger Parry

Members : Bill Taylor; R Clement, WHAM; Twig Olsen; Stuart Moir; C Lindesay, Corryvreckan Cruising; Hannah Thompson, Argyll Charter Boats Association; Mark Henrys, Northern Light Charters; Stephen Thomas, Hebridean Pursuits; David Ainsley, Sealife Adventures; Jean Ainsley; Colin Mossman; Irene Murray, RHYC; Jill Bowis, LORN; Tim Bowis; Alison Chadwick; Robert Kincaid, Oban Sea School; Eric Chapman, CBMOA; Jim Battison Cologin; Ron Stevenson, Argyll Charters; D Wallop, Oban Times; Tony Hammock, SeaFreedom Kayak; Tony Ratcliffe, North West Marine

1. Apologies

Directors

Paul Sloan; Calum MacLachlainn; Roddy MacEachan

Members

Colin Davidson; Mike Balmforth, British Marine Federation; Jamie McGrigor, MSP; Billy Fortieth; Alan Bowes; Colin Taylor, Seascope; John Readman; Tony Hill, Sea.fari Adventures; Dave Sturrock; Sue Anderson, Island Focus; Brain Fair, Photography; Rob Barlow, Elizabeth G. Charters; John Fortieth, Fortieth's Foods; John Peden; Oban Canoe Club; Chris Barrow, MV Diving Belle; Andy and Riona Bell; Chris Jackson, MV Chalice; ; Brian Swinbanks, THA; JH Ian Wallace; John Anderson; Helen Anderson; Dave Petrie; Dr Duncan Martin, Oban Community Council;

2. Chairman's Report – John MacGregor (JM)

JM welcomed members present for attending, and gave apologies from Directors Paul Sloan & Calum MacLachlainn who were attending the licensed trade dance; and from Roddy MacEachan.

JM explained he had taken over as Chairman at the turn of the year following the resignation of the first Chairman of OBM, John Anderson, and noted that former Director Mike Brown had also resigned then.

JM reported that the great majority of the funding for the project to date had been provided by monthly contributions from a number of local business including Anglers Corner; Argyll Gathering; Aulays; Blacks Town and Country; Beaton McMurchie; Breckenridge; Chamber of Commerce; Coasters; Cuan Mor; DM McKinnon; Flit Rentals; Fortieths; Jackson Butcher; Kitchen Garden; MacArthur Stewart; Manor House Hotel; Markie Dans; Mathesons; Mica Hardware; Oban Express; Oban Times; OLTA; O'Donnells; Eeusk; McTs; Trespass; Waterfront; Watts Fishmonger; Woodside Hotel; Willie Fish; and RA Clements. Other donations received include those from Cardingmill Bay Mooring Owners Association and Argyll Charter Boats Association. JM expressed OBM's great debt of gratitude to these 'sponsors' - without their phenomenal response, we would not be where we are now.

Following the outcome of the Project Board for the Regeneration of Argyll Towns, Argyll and Bute Council announced today an offer of £900,000 grant; and meetings are continuing with other sources of funding including a possible loan from the Crown Estate to secure Business backing of up to £800,000 – which will have to be paid back. The general funding is now in place and we can draw on it. JM reported that a meeting with George Harper of A&BC is

scheduled for Wednesday 3rd December to discuss how to move forward with A&BC, and there was a meeting with AIE today.

JM said we have come a long way in the last 10 months since the meeting chaired by Jim Mather MSP when 320 people turned out on a cold January night. The main thing now is the project moving forward into the next phase including quantity surveying and consultations on the tendering process; costs look like being a minimum of £1.6M. We will buy mainly from UK suppliers and use as many local contractors as possible. Therefore he felt we should not be unduly affected by the fluctuating value of the £ Sterling

Today the project is 27 days behind the schedule we set ourselves - this is a remarkable achievement. OBM is a community based organisation, and this project would not have happened, if the members had not started the first step, for which Oban owes the members of OBM a huge debt.

3. Financial Report

Financial report – see below. EL reported some grants assistance and VAT repayments had added to the monthly contributions on the income side; the main expenditures were professional fees. She confirmed that as a community company the Board is working on a voluntary basis. JM added it is the hope of OBM eventually to be able to refund the local business contributors; we propose to stop the monthly contributors' payments at the end of Dec 08. The account balance is £3141.

4. Election of board members.

MR advised the meeting of the Board's decision to stand down but allow their names to go forward for re-election. There being no other nominations they were re-elected en-bloc, proposed by Bob Clements; seconded by Jill Bowis and carried unanimously.

5. Election of Auditor

The Board proposed that Jean Ainsley be appointed to audit the accounts, which was unanimously carried.

6. Membership Subscription

The Board put forward the recommendation that the Annual Subscription Fee should be scrapped, as the cost of recovering this annually was potentially greater than the income generated; on the basis that the first £1 of any contribution to Oban Bay Marine should be considered a one off lifetime membership fee – to include local business contributors who had not actually joined the company! This was accepted by members present - proposed by Chris Lindesay, seconded by Twig Olsen and carried unanimously

7. AOB

JM opened the floor to questions.

Regarding the proposed timetable, JM said we are hoping to have the pontoons in by July 2009 depending on what is found during dredging. Test digs, diving survey and side scan sonar had not indicated any major problems so far, and we are only 1 month behind at this point.

JM touched on how the management plans were envisaged for fuel, waste, sewerage, health and safety etc; we are relying on the professional consultants for much of this. Swipe card systems for 24 hour gate access are being considered; the outside of the attenuator will be available for use for re-fuelling and short stay berthing points for Oban Marina, day trip charter vessels and so on. Calmac have indicated that owing to ferry movements, no

unattended vessels will be allowed to lay along the outside of the attenuator/breakwater. Access from the sea to and from the pontoons will be by a traffic signalling lights system controlled by Calmac i.e. green till Calmac turns it red.

Management of the North Pier was discussed, hopefully that will dovetail with this project in the future, especially if the fishermen get their own berthing area, as has been recently reported, at the South Pier.

Discussions are underway with CMAL to see if better toilet/shower/laundrette facilities can be provided at the Railway Pier.

With regard to funding and projected income questions, JM said we have the problem of missing the Sail West funding, and other funding has dried up due to the Olympics. Oban is perceived as not requiring assistance, but the Board will keep looking for more funding. The income stream should be over £100,000 annually, which should cover staff and interest/capital repayments with any surplus eventually being re-invested in the local community. MR described how OBM is modelled on the very successful example of THA.

Asked about any potential spin-off into the wider community, JM said Oban is the central point in this area where if people would stay 1 extra day this would double how busy we are. He described a local 'think tank' who have got together to look at developing locally based ideas including – bringing in more trains, making Oban the sea food capital of Scotland, encouraging more cruise ship visits, expanding bus services, the pedestrianisation of Stafford Street, and other projects that will help Oban 'win' again. We have to help ourselves and if Oban is busy then the spin offs will be greater.

JM welcomed the input from members present and it was agreed that the Oban Bay Marine web site would make space available for comments/suggestions, as we realise that local knowledge will be required from time to time.

A vote of thanks for all the hard work was given by Hannah Thompson. JM thanked the members on behalf of the Board for their appreciation! He commented on the phenomenal groundswell of support for this project from the Town and said this is just step one in providing an instantaneous result for Oban and from which many spin-offs should result.

JM thanked Members for attending, and thanked OSC for the use of their building.

The Meeting closed at 8pm.

Oban Bay Marine

Draft Accounts to 27th November 2008

Opening balance 1st December 2007 £1680.26

Income

pledges and donations	£31524.35	
grants	£8685.00	
VAT repayments	£6058.53	
Total income		£46267.88

Expenditure

Consultants	£23797.75	
THA	£14027.60	
Surveys	£5875.00	
Photography and fees	£779.62	
Reimbursements	£326.90	
Total expenditure		£44806.87

Closing balance £3141.27