

Minutes of the 33rd AGM of West Highland Anchorages and Moorings Association held on 1 December 2018 in the Corran Halls, Oban at 10.30 a.m.

1. Present

D Barr	Dunbeg	T Bennett	Bidwells
V Coghlan	Bidwells	K Coghlan	Bidwells
C Davidson	Learagoligan MA	I Dewar	FW Man and Shoreline Co
D Forbes	Kilbowie Outdoor C	S Jarron	Seil Sound MA
D Hitchin	Achnacree MA	J Kent	Bidwells
R Kincaid	Mid Kerrera MA	H Loudon	Achintore MA
J McArthur	Tayvallich MA	R Rhodes	DBMOA
J Rhodes	DBMOA	D Ritchie	Luing MA
I Simpson	DBMOA	P Simpson	DBMOA
D Smart	Crinan Harbour MA	D Stephenson	Balvicar Bay MA
J Traynor (Chair)	Tobermory Harbour	D Wilkie	RHYC
D Wilkinson	West Connel MA	J Wilkinson	West Connel MA
ANO	Dunbeg	D Vass (Secretary)	RHYC

2. Apologies

Camas a'nt Salainn MA, Airds Bay MA, Ardentallen MA, S of Ulva MA, C Perring, A Macleod, R Adam. Duncan Martin for Oban Berthing

3. Minutes of the 2017 AGM

These were approved.

Proposed by J Wilkinson Seconded by D Wilkie

4. Matters arising not already on the agenda

None

5. Chairmans Report

Good morning ladies and gentlemen and welcome to the 2018 WHAM AGM.

I usually begin my report by apologising for the bad weather through the summer. However I am glad to report that this summer has been one of the best spells of warm sunshine for a long time. The only down side was that some people, not me, complained about the lack of wind and the cost of diesel. Those lucky enough to spend long periods on their boat enjoyed visiting places that they have been trying to reach for years.

The west coast of Scotland is still as popular as ever with more visiting boats from overseas and also many boats still migrating north in summer months.

Your WHAM committee has been busy this year with involvement in the new Crown Estate Scotland Bill and attending meetings of the cross party group on Marine Tourism and, over the last few months, being heavily involved in discussions about the future of Oban Bay.

Our web site is being updated with Derek's guidance and input about the new legislation on the GDPR (general data protection regulations) which has had a lot of work done to make us compliant. I would like to thank all the committee members for their time and hard work throughout the year.

6. Secretary's Report

At a recent WHAM Committee meeting a suggestion was made that we could improve our communications by putting more information on the web site i.e. more than presently gets put there. Currently we put items on it as they come to us and this is a highly variable phenomenon. Weeks can pass with nothing of note. A possible alternative is a 'newsletter' a bit like this note but at more regular intervals. However it does depend on the existence of some 'news'. Some feedback from member organisations would be really helpful. It might indicate your needs, your preferences or

whatever. Very relevant to the use of the web site is the fact that our website is undergoing a whole-scale refurbishment through the generosity of Crown Estate Scotland who 'had some spare money'. This should be completed shortly.

This year marine licence applications have risen a little, 79 to date, but there is little of great note. Fish farms are still moving towards provision of 'freshwater tanks' presumably to facilitate the transition from smolt to fish. Also the trend to circular tanks with concomitant increased biomass continues.

We had no objection to the idea of growing seaweed commercially but felt that one of the proposed sites-very close to the entrance to Easdale Sound- would impede craft en route to/from the Sound of Luing or Easdale Sound and suggested re-siting it close to Insh leaving Insh Sound free of any obstruction. No response from New Wave Foods has been received to date though we welcomed discussion.

The Crown Estate Bill has been published and contained little that had not been expected. The presentations and comments are now being considered at committee in the Parliament and we are not aware of any extraordinary changes. Much emphasis on community involvement is expected but we-and others-have continually drawn attention to the existence of communities of interest as well as the 'geographical' communities. It remains to be seen if this difference is recognised but it could be important for Mooring Associations in certain situations.

Crown Estate Scotland have begun lifting derelict moorings in Holy Loch. The intention is to extend this activity to other areas where such moorings are a problem. Importantly, they are, of course, also clearing the sea bed of detritus derived from the moorings particularly where 'unusual' sinkers had been used! It does not need huge imagination to see the benefits of this and having a clear sea bed in anchorages can only get our heartfelt support.

There is nothing to report from WHAM's area of interest on renewables. The Sound of Islay schemes, much heralded in 2013, is still not in place and shows little sign of appearing in 2019. Presently there are no other schemes that we are aware of in our areas of interest.

As mentioned in the last report, Oban Bay is continuing to require our attention. A great deal has happened since December 2017 not least the public survey of views about the harbour and its possible authority. This came out strongly in favour of 'anyone but CALMAC'. Two well attended public meetings re-inforced this view. Recognising this, the Oban Bay Management Group have created space for a study to be made examining the feasibility of creating a Trust Port. This requires Trustees etc and is quite a complex process but, if successful, would allow good governance of the Bay. The new harbour limits are yet to be defined but would have to be such as would enable control of shipping, including recreational craft, in and around the Bay and its approaches. That the bay and its approaches require to be safe for all mariners is not an issue.

At the AGM there will be a short presentation summarising the current situation and its possible developments.

It is a pleasure to welcome Rum and Eigg communities to membership. Both have laid/are laying moorings and we wish them well in this enterprise.

The secretary is constantly trying to keep his spreadsheet of MA secretary's up-to -date. He knows it is not as up-to-date as it might be. Consequently, would MA's PLEASE notify him of changes to their contact details, particularly the contact details of their secretary, when a change takes place. That way the correct messages may reach the correct people. Thank you in advance.

7. Membership

It is a pleasure to welcome Eigg Community and Rum Community to membership of the Association.

8 Treasurer's Report

The accounts had been circulated and were adopted.

Proposed by C Davidson. Seconded by R Rhodes.

The treasurer reported that while we did not have a large surplus there was no immediate requirement to increase subscriptions. We had made a pump priming donation of £500 to Oban Bay to help facilitate the creation of an independent port.

8. Independent examiner

The examiner was re-appointed nem.con.

9. Election of Office Bearers

The Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer were re-elected.

Proposed by C Davidson. Seconded by D Wilkie.

10. Election of Committee.

The existing committee, namely C Davidson, R Rhodes, R Kincaid, D Wilkie, D Wilkinson and C Perring were re-elected.

Proposed by D Hitchin. Seconded by J Wilkinson.

11. Address by the Crown Estate (T. Bennett)

There was no increase in moorings fees in 2019. However, we now start a new 5 year cycle in 2020 and it is some time since fees were increased.

The Crown Estate Scotland bill has been passed and Royal Assent may be expected in 2019. There were about 20 proposed amendments, mostly unimportant and of these 15 went through. The most significant were: 1. Kelp harvesting will not be permitted. 2. The management group MUST enhance revenue and support sustainable development. 3. The sea bed still belongs to the Crown unless it is ceded to another party. 4. A harbour authority can manage a Crown Asset within the harbour area.

Unlicensed moorings are being lifted and seabed gear removed. This has already taken place in the Clyde. There are 20 unlicensed moorings in Airds Bay, L Etive and they are now to be removed,

12. AoCB

12.1 Learagoligan MA expressed concern about the environmental effects of the continued expansion of fish farming and about possible proposals to develop farms on the west side of Jura, an quite unspoilt area. The secretary noted their concerns and observed that, to date, no marine application for west Jura had been seen.

12.2 Helpful comment was made by Seil Sound MA about the proposal by Wave Foods to develop a seaweed farm close to Easdale Sound.

13. Oban Bay

An excellent summary of the developments affecting Oban Bay set out the history, the initial proposals by the 'Oban Bay Management Group' and the developments since. These now indicate that the formation of a Trust Port may be possible though a great deal of effort will be required to

meet the deadline for a viable proposal of end March 2020. Nonetheless the current situation was encouraging and a series of working groups were engaged in examining the options and generating proposals directed to the creation of a viable proposal for a Trust Port.