



Scottish Charity 044 698

Minutes of the 38<sup>th</sup> AGM of West Highland Anchorages and Moorings Association held in Corran Halls, Oban at 11:00 a.m. on 20 January 2024

### **Attendance**

21 people attended the AGM, and their names are listed at the end of the minutes for the record.

### **1) Apologies**

Apologies were received from 29 people whose names are listed at the end of the minutes for the record.

### **2) Minutes of the AGM on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2023**

The minutes of the 2023 AGM were proposed by David Vass of RHYC and seconded by Duncan Martin of Oban Bay Community Berthing and approved by the meeting as an accurate record.

#### **a) Matters arising not already on the agenda**

There were no matters arising.

### **3) Reports**

#### **a) Chairman's report**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the AGM of WHAM.

This past year has been the busiest year I can recall for topics that your committee has been involved in.

The application for a mussel farm in Loch Druim na Bhuide started the spring debate. Quickly followed by the governments HPMA plan followed by the Visitor levy Scotland Bill. Not forgetting the Oban Bay saga.

It felt at times that the sailing became secondary to the discussions about the threats to our enjoyment of the west coast.

Once again, I would like to thank my fellow committee members for taking the time to read all the literature and attend meetings on WHAM's behalf. Our secretary Duncan has gone above and beyond in keeping us informed as to what is happening.

I must also thank Robert Kincaid, who is stepping down from the committee, for all his knowledgeable input over the years.

On a lighter note, the weather at the start of the summer was excellent and it seems more boats appear every year especially the foreign vessels that have returned in great numbers.

The Chair concluded his remarks by thanking everyone for their support.

#### **b) Secretary's Report**

The Secretary read out his report which was accepted without questions by the meeting.

### **c) Treasurer's report**

The Treasurer referred to his report and the accounts for 2023.

The Treasurer stated that the strength of the accounts meant that the mooring fees paid by members would remain at £2.00 per mooring.

The Treasurer thanked Crown Estate Scotland for the £500 donation made to WHAM to cover the migration costs of the website from the CES server to a new server.

### **4) Adoption of the Accounts for 2021 and 2022**

The adoption of the accounts for 2023 was proposed by Gordon MacIntyre of Glencoe BC and seconded by Willie Ferguson of Dunstaffnage MOA. The meeting accepted the accounts as an accurate record.

### **5) Appointment of the Independent Examiner**

The Treasurer proposed Andrew Mead to act as the new Independent Examiner. The appointment was approved by the meeting.

### **6) Election of Office Bearers**

The existing office bearers who had expressed a willingness to continue in office and were approved by acclamation. The following were therefore duly elected:

- Jim Traynor – Chair
- David Wilkie – Treasurer
- Duncan Tannahill – Secretary

### **7) Election of Committee**

The rest of WHAM committee was re-elected en bloc unanimously by the meeting.

- Derek Wilkinson
- David Vass
- Roger Thwaites
- Chris Perring
- PLUS Tony Bennett (ex officio as Crown Estate Scotland Community Marine Officer)

Willie Ferguson, who served as a coopted committee member in 2023 was proposed for full committee membership by Jim Traynor, Chair and seconded by David Wilkie, Treasurer. The appointment was approved by the meeting.

It was noted that the committee has one vacancy to be filled following the retirement of Robert Kincaid. There were no nominations from the floor to fill the vacancy, but members were asked to consider who would fill the vacancy and contact the Secretary if interested.

### **8) Resolution to establish WHAM as an incorporated charity (SCIO)**

A paper was presented by the Committee who have reviewed the benefits and process to become a SCIO charity. The paper recommended that WHAM becomes a SCIO charity.

The resolution was proposed for adoption by Duncan Martin of Oban Bay CB and seconded by Will Rudd of Lochgair and Minard Moorings Group. The meeting approved the resolution unanimously.

The Secretary noted that he will commence the process on becoming a SCIO charity with OSCR and that the work should be completed by the next AGM.

## **9) Options to improve payment for visitor moorings**

A useful discussion was held on the topic of payment and collection of mooring fees to improve the rate of payments and therefore income to the mooring owners.

Suggestions included having a standard designed label on moorings with bank details for online payments or the use of QR codes to capture bank details. It was noted that making bank details public could cause fraud and therefore care would be required.

The meeting agreed to reflect on the discussion and feed wishes, thoughts and ideas back to the committee who will take forward if there is interest in a more formal and standard approach.

## **10) OCHDA update**

It was noted that a revised draft Harbour Revision Order (HRO) prepared by Argyll & Bute Council has been submitted to Transport Scotland in late November 2023 for approval and thereafter the establishment of a new Harbour Authority to be run by the Council.

WHAM discussed the issues involved at committee meetings and the Secretary engaged with other key stakeholders as well as all members to ensure appropriate objections and comments were submitted to Transport Scotland. This resulted in WHAM making two submissions to Transport Scotland listing twelve objections.

Robert Kincaid of OCHDA made the following points:

- There is a need for a safer port in Oban.
- To date at least 75 responses have been recorded on the OCHDA website recording objections which have been submitted to Transport Scotland.
- OCHDA preferred a Trust Port model, but Argyll and Bute Council decided they would become the Harbour Authority. OCHDA felt the advantages of a Trust Port over a Municipal Council run port would be:
  - An elected and accountable Board
  - A Board with the correct skill set rather than Council Officers
  - Recruitment of appropriately skilled and experienced staff
  - All surpluses (profits) would be reinvested in Oban rather than simply being distributed across the Council area.
- There is still existing legislation that A&BC will have to repeal to bring in the new harbour model as proposed by them.
- The formal consultation period ended on 10/1/24 and A&BC must respond to all objectors and the issues raised within six weeks.
- The Harbour Board is due to meet to discuss the submissions in late January 2024.

There followed a good debate and discussion on the proposed port and the HRO.

## **11) Visitor Levy (Scotland) Bill**

The Secretary advised the meeting that the government have revised the Bill to remove the inclusion of the leisure marine sector, specifically the charges for marina and mooring use. WHAM had been involved in the process to lobby government on this issue.

## **12) Crown Estate Scotland update**

On behalf of Crown Estate Scotland (CES), Tony Bennett, updated the meeting on a range of relevant issues.

He advised that the CES Coastal Management contract has been awarded again to Bidwells for three years with 2 x two-year extensions subject to performance i.e. a potential total of 7 years.

CES continue to work with SEPA and the Marine Directorate (formerly Marine Scotland) on environmental issues to ensure new developments have minimal impact on the environment.

Tony noted that CMAL have licencing responsibilities for moorings in Armadale, Arnigour, Port Ellen and Largs. CMAL are keen to pass the moorings in Arnigour over to a local community organisation and have this set up as a new mooring association but to date Coll residents are not showing interest.

Melfort Pier has a new lease for moorings and plan further visitor moorings.

The development in the bay north of Dunstaffnage is progressing.

The removal of the sunk yacht in Ardfern is being pursued by the local mooring association which is being facilitated by the owner having appropriate third-party insurance to pay the costs involved.

New mooring associations are being explored for Arnigour on Coll, Loch Melfort, Bendoran on Mull, and Drimin in the Sound of Mull.

The Sustainable Community Fund has spent approx. £750,000 on large projects but is now supporting smaller scale projects with requirements less than £100,000.

The MA handbook is being drafted and the contents agreed.

Lochgair and Minnard Mooring Group thanked Tony for his help in resolving the sunk yacht issue in Lochgair.

### **13) AOB**

A discussion debated whether WHAM should comment on environmental issue, but the feeling was that this was out with the scope of WHAM's remit and expertise.

The meeting closed at 12:42pm with a vote of thanks to the Chair and the Committee.

The following people attended the AGM:

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
1	Jim Traynor	Chair	WHAM
2	Duncan Tannahill	Secretary	WHAM
3	David Wilkie	Treasurer	WHAM
4	David Vass		WHAM / RHYC
5	Hamish Loudon	Moorings	Achintore
6	Logan Brown	Chair	Achnacree (North Connel)
7	John Marsden	Treasurer	Achnamara
8	Pamela Jowett	Treasurer	Ardentallen
9	Ron Jowett		Ardentallen
10	Chris Perring	Secretary	Crinan Harbour
11	Willie Fergusson	Chair	Dunstaffnage
12	Gordon MacIntyre	Commodore	Glencoe B C
13	Robert Hill	Chair	Kames Bay
14	William Rudd	Secretary	Lochgair and Minard Mooring Group
15	Margaret Rudd	Treasurer	Lochgair and Minard Mooring Group
16	Robert Kincaid	Tags & Crown Estates Liaison Officer	Mid Kerrera
17	Duncan Martin	Chair/Treasurer	Oban Bay CB
18	Roger Thwaites	Sec/Treas	South Shian
19	John McArthur		Tayvallich MA
20	Derek Wilkinson		West Connel
21	Tony Bennett		Crown Estate Scotland

Apologies received from:

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
1	John Clayton	Secretary	Airds Bay
2	Brian Gallacher	Treasurer	Airds Bay
3	Eilidh Moyes		CES
4	Paul Bancks		CES
5	Rob Adam		CES
6	Colin Scott	Chair	Connel Bridge Moorings Association
7	Gordon Stewart	Treasurer	Craignish Lagoon
8	Sally MacLeod	Secretary	Learagoligan
9	Alasdair MacLeod	Secretary	Learagoligan
10	Paul Mills	Treasurer	Learagoligan
11	Keith Laidlaw	Chair	Loch Aline
12	Stuart Layton	Secretary	Loch Aline
13	David Johnston	chair	Lochcarron
14	Peter Holmes	Secretary	Lochcarron
15	Bart McFleat	Treasurer	Lochcarron
16	Graeme Stones	Secretary	Luing
17	Lynsey MacKinnon		MOWI
18	Peter Douglas		NLB
19	David Lanceley		Royal Highland Yacht Club
20	Graham Russell		RYA Scotland
21	Bob Widdows	Treasurer	Shieldaig
22	David Munro	Chair	Sound of Ulva
23	Andrew Durie	Secretary / Treasurer	Sound of Ulva
24	Chris Pendlebury	Chair	South Sleat Community
25	Rick Shone	Secretary	South Sleat Community
26	Iain Matheson	Chair	Stein
27	William Macgillivray	Secretary	Stein
28	Calum Matheson	Treasurer	Stein
29	Amanda Minshall	Secretary	West Loch Tarbert