



Charity number SC053395

Minutes of the 40<sup>th</sup> AGM of West Highland Anchorages and Moorings Association held in Corran Halls, Oban at 11:00 a.m. on 10 January 2026

## **Attendance**

Twenty people attended the AGM, and their names are listed at the end of the minutes for the record. The meeting was quorate.

### **1) Apologies**

Apologies were received from twenty-one people whose names are listed at the end of the minutes for the record. Noted that the weather made travel challenging.

### **2) Minutes of the AGM on 18 January 2025**

The minutes of the 2025 AGM were proposed by Chris Perring of WHAM and seconded by Tony Bennet of Crown Estate Scotland 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.

The Chair's report was noted and there were no questions arising.

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

The Secretary's report was noted and there were no questions arising.

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

The Treasurer report was noted and there were no questions arising.

### **4) Adoption of the Accounts for 2025**

The accounts represented the accounts for the first year of the new SCIO charity and therefore the accounts presented did not show any prior year information.

It was noted that there were no bank charges made by the bank in 2025.

The adoption of the accounts for 2025 was proposed by Will Rudd of Lochgair and Minard Mooring Group and seconded by Robert Kinnaird of Mid Kerrera MA. The meeting accepted the accounts as an accurate record.

The Treasurer was asked to explore savings account rates of return to optimise the interest received if possible.

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

Andrew Mead was proposed by Iain Simpson of Oban Bay CB and seconded by Chris Perring of WHAM to act as the Independent Examiner for a further year. 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 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 proposed by Gordon Stewart of Craignish Lagoon MA and seconded by Will Rudd of Lochgair and Minard Mooring Group and was elected en bloc unanimously by the meeting.

- Derek Wilkinson
- David Vass
- Chris Perring
- Willie Ferguson
- Boyd Holmes
- Jeremy Birnie
- PLUS, Tony Bennett (ex officio as Crown Estate Scotland Community Marine Officer)

## **8) OCHDA and Oban Bay HRO update**

Noted that there has been little development or update on the approval or otherwise of the Oban Bay HRO. Six other HROs have been processed and approved by Transport Scotland since the Oban Bay HRO was submitted indicating that the Oban application is proving challenging for Transport Scotland to approve and therefore it remains trapped in the process.

Oban Bay Management Group are trying to move the project forward and therefore make progress to have the outstanding 132 objections removed by gaining acceptable answers on the objections so that the objectors will agree to remove their objections. The majority of the objections cover five areas and therefore as each cluster of objections is resolved, a large number of objections should be able to be resolved and removed therefore easing the process for Transport Scotland to approve the Oban Bay HRO.

The view of the meeting was that there was little prospect of Transport Scotland approving the HRO before the Scottish Elections in May 2026.

It was noted that A&BC are not fully compliant with the Port Marine Safety Code but are working towards becoming compliant. CMAL are fully compliant.

It was further noted that the issues in Oban Bay were impacting investment decisions and smaller cruise boats were increasingly using Dunstaffnage rather than Oban.

It was agreed that there is no further action that WHAM can take directly at the present time on the Oban Bay HRO but the Secretary will write to Phil Hamerton of OCHDA to offer WHAM's continued support and also write to the Oban Bay Management Group to similarly offer appropriate support.

The Secretary will further prepare letters for WHAM to send to MSP candidates ahead of the Scottish Elections stressing the damage being inflicted on the local economy, smaller businesses and the wider community. WHAM may also write an open letter to the Oban Times stressing concerns over the HRO approval delays.

The issue of the breakwater was raised and discussed and whether it will be fully operational for the Clipper Race visit to Oban in July. It seems that A&BC have funding constraints and are therefore delaying the work to fully reinstate the breakwater although it was noted that the long-term solution may involve piling to prevent future wave damage. A&BC are confident that hosting the Clipper yachts in July will go ahead and therefore the event will bring significant financial benefit to the town and local businesses.

## **9) CMAL HR(C)O**

No update at the present time. The matter is still being consulted on by CMAL ands will then go to Transport Scotland for approval.

The CMAL justification for the HR(C)O is to get all standards and operational processes unified across all ports.

Noted that A&BC are also looking to process a HR(C)O on all their ports. WHAM will review and comment on this matter when it is out for consultation.

## **10) Kyle Rhea closures in 2026**

The Secretary detailed the proposed plans for Kyle Rhea to be closed on 20 days during the summer of 2026 to allow for the overhead power cables to be replaced as they have reached the end of their life. The 20 days will not run consecutively but will be weather and tide dependant. When overhead work is being undertaken, the channel will be closed during daylight hours to all marine traffic.

WHAM will continue to lobby on this matter to ensure that closure dates and the mechanism to close the channel are adequately communicated. WHAM have requested the matter to be added to the agenda for the next Scottish Government Cross Party Group on Recreational Boating and Marine Tourism.

WHAM will provide updates on the website and in the spring newsletter.

## **11) Argyll & Bute Council Visitor Levy**

Noted that an amendment is going through the Scottish Parliament on the way visitor levies are calculated and collected and whether they should be levied as a percentage of the booking cost of a fixed fee. While this does not impact marine activity directly, it may impact general tourism costs on the West Coast. WHAM will keep an eye on this development and report to the membership as appropriate.

## **12) Peel Ports conservancy fee proposals**

Peel Ports have announced that the proposed conservancy fee proposals have been suspended for the foreseeable future. This is good news for the Clyde and stops contagion and the concept being taken up elsewhere in Scotland.

## **13) Crown Estate Scotland update**

Tony Bennett updated the meeting on various Crown Estate Scotland (CES) issues:

- Gareth Allcock is now the main mooring association contact in Bidwells. His email address is: [gareth.allcock@bidwells.co.uk](mailto:gareth.allcock@bidwells.co.uk)
- Gareth will be issuing Annual Declarations to all MAs week commencing 12<sup>th</sup> January 2026 and invoices will follow in March.
- Tony noted the challenges with changes in MAs office bearers and urged MAs to ensure that they communicate changes as soon as possible to ensure communications go to the correct recipient.
- The issue of abandoned vessels is increasing and causing concern due to the environmental impact. Also noted that the instance of vessels coming off moorings

is increasing. Both issues are compounded due to owners who bought boats during Covid at low cost to get out on the water, now abandoning them due to ownership costs. Also, more owners are living further afield and therefore they may visit / check boats less frequently and not be aware on damage to moorings and boats. This issue will continue to be discussed and WHAM will continue to support research and policy development to reduce the impact and number of abandoned vessels.

Police Scotland can act on abandoned boats above the high-water mark to have them removed but this is dependent on local areas and the Police appetite to get involved in a challenging process.

Sunk boats do not have to be removed from the seabed but must be declared to the Maritime and Coastguard Agency. This allows charts to be updated and the wreck marked as required. See this link for more information: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/wreck-and-salvage-law>

- The CES aqua culture team have asked Tony Bennet and Rob Adams who cover the WHAM area to monitor aqua culture activity including wrongly positioned and abandoned equipment so that owner can be contacted to resolve issues. MAs can also help by reporting any issues to CES that they / their members are aware of in their area.

#### **14) AOB**

- Airds Bay private pier development was noted but no details were available.
- The proposed new marina between Dunstaffnage and Connel was discussed. CES is waiting for further plans to come forward so they can progress to Heads of Terms for the seabed lease. Plans for shoreside development are with the local authority. WHAM will keep members up to date with this development through the newsletter.

The meeting closed at 1300 hours with a vote of thanks to the Chair and the Committee.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

The following people attended the AGM:

Name of organisation	Category / source	Role	First name	Surname
WHAM	Committee	Chair	Jim	Traynor
WHAM	Committee	Guest	Tony	Bennett
WHAM	Committee	Member	Chris	Perring
WHAM	Committee	Secretary	Duncan	Tannahill
WHAM	Committee	Treasurer	David	Wilkie
WHAM	Committee	Member	Jeremy	Birnie
Achintore	Member	Moorings	Hamish	Loudon
Achnamara	Member	Secretary	John	Marsden
Airds Bay	Member	Treasurer	Brian	Gallacher
Connel Bridge Moorings Association	Member	Secretary / Treasurer	Colin	Scott
Craignish Lagoon	Member	Secretary	Niall	Campbell
Craignish Lagoon	Member	Treasurer	Gordon	Stewart
Glencoe B C	Member	Commodore	Gordon	McIntyre
Lochgair and Minard Mooring Group	Member	Chair	William	Rudd
Lochgair and Minard Mooring Group	Member	Secretary and Treasurer	Margaret	Rudd
Mid Kerrera	Member	Tags & Crown Estates Liaison Officer	Robert	Kincaid
Oban Bay CB	Member	Chair	Iain	Simpson
Oban Bay CB	Member	Treasurer	Duncan	Martin
South Sleat Community	Member	Treasurer	Gus	Gourlay
RYA Scotland	Stakeholder	Chief Executive	Finlo	Cottier

Apologies were received from:

Name of organisation	Category / source	Role	First name	Surname
WHAM	Committee	Member	David	Vass
WHAM	Committee	Member	Willie	Fergusson
WHAM	Committee	Web Master	Derek	Wilkinson
WHAM	Committee	Member	Boyd	Holmes
Achnacree (North Connel)	Member	Chair	Logan	Brown
Airds Bay	Member	Secretary	John	Clayton
Balvicar Bay	Member	Sec/Treas	Fiona	Stephenson
Crinan Harbour	Member	??	Richard	Stein
Gigha Trading Ltd (Ardminish Moorings and Pontoon)	Member	Office Manager	Shona	Bannatyne
Isle of Canna Community Development Trust	Member	Pier Manager	David	Philip
Learagoligan	Member	Treasurer	Paul	Mills
Loch Aline	Member	Chair	Simon	Beeson
Lochcarron	Member	Secretary	Peter	Holmes
South Sleat Community	Member	Chair	Chris	Pendlebury
South Sleat Community	Member	Secretary	Rick	Shone
West Connel	Member	Treasurer	Allison	Symon
Bidwells LLP	Stakeholder	Estate Assistant / Case Coordinator	Eilidh	Moyes
Bidwells LLP	Stakeholder	Mooring Administrator	Gareth	Allcock
Coast Watcher	Stakeholder		Richard	Fresson
NLB	Stakeholder	Navigation Manager	Peter	Douglas
Scottish Canals	Stakeholder		Laurie	Piper