



Scottish Charity 044 698

Minutes of the 36<sup>th</sup> AGM of West Highland Anchorages and Moorings Association held in Corran Halls, Oban at 1030 a.m. on 4 December 2021

### **Attendance**

Jim Traynor Chair Tobermory Harbour  
David Wilkie RHYC  
Duncan Tannahill RHYC  
David Vass RHYC  
D Martin Oban Bay CD  
D Wilkinson W Connel MA  
C Perring Crinan Harbour Assoc  
I Murray Connel Bridge MA  
R Thwaites South Shian MA  
T Bennet Bidwells  
A Grant Achnamara MA  
J Marsden Achnamara MA  
H Loudon Achintore MA  
D Hitchin Achnacree MA  
L Brown Achnacree MA  
R Kincaid Mid Kerrera MA  
K Laidlaw Lochaline M A  
G Stone Luing MA  
D Ritchie Luing MA  
E Moyes Bidwells  
V Coghlan Bidwells  
R Adam Bidwells

### **Apologies**

R Rhodes, R Barry Camas an't Salainn MA, N Mawhinney Sound of Ulva MA, J Kent Bidwells, J Clayton Airds Bay MA, B Gallacher Airds Bay MA, P Bazeley Lochaline MA, F Stephenson Balvicar MA, C Pendlebury Sound of Sleat MA

### **Minutes of the 2020 AGM**

The minutes were agreed, and no corrections offered. Proposed by R Kincaid, seconded D Martin

### **Matters arising**

None

### **Chairman's report**

Good morning, everyone and welcome to the AGM of WHAM. I believe this may be the 36<sup>th</sup> year of WHAM's official meetings. I would first of all like to thank Sarah and Duncan for their efforts to get a virtual link to the meeting for those who could not attend. Unfortunately, it could not be accomplished.

This summer, despite COVID still very much in people's minds, it was encouraging to see people using and enjoying their boats much more than in recent times. The weather

throughout the summer was stunning although some people did manage to complain about having to use their motor because of lack of wind.

Due to circumstances Sarah had to step down from being Secretary. However, Lazarus Vass took up the mantle again on a temporary basis to fill the void.

On behalf of the Committee and members I would like to thank them both for their help and dedication.

The website continues to be used more and more as news reports are updated as they happen by Derek.

Your committee have worked hard over the last few months on some of the agenda items and, once again, thanks from me for their help.

### **Secretary's Report**

As you will know and understand this report is by two authors, roughly half each in time served.

We have seen 66 Marine Applications this year at the time of writing. We objected strongly to one, the proposed construction of freshwater tanks in the bay at Aros within Tobermory Harbour. These were to be fed from a dam in the burn which discharges into the harbour there. The purpose of the tanks is said to be to enable well ships loaded with lice infested salmon to pump the salmon through the freshwater and hence free them of lice. We had no objection to the concept but only to its location. The basis of our objection was that an established anchorage would be lost or severely curtailed and, if space to anchor remained, the anchorage might well be untenable as the well ships work 24 hours, would be noisy and necessarily exhibit bright lights. We observed there were many other burns on Mull which could serve this need thus the anchorage need not be sacrificed. There were a number of other objectors, and a decision has not yet been made.

Rather more than one-third of the applications were for renewal of licences particularly for fish, shellfish and algal (aka seaweed) farms in established positions.

There has been one interesting development which got considerable negative publicity. A farmer on Luing, who kept cattle on Torsa, constructed a causeway above the LW mark to allow better husbandry of the cattle. He believed he was able to do so but he also closed a navigable channel much used by kayakers and occasionally by shallow draft boats at HW. Marine Scotland sent an investigative team to establish the how, when, where and the farmer has now agreed to restore the site to its original state. Great was the outcry from this event!

On a positive note, our attention was drawn to a hazard in L Ailort. As you emerge from the skerries at the mouth you are confronted by an established fish farm with little evidence of its limits. With the help of Crown Estate Scotland we have, we hope, persuaded the owner to buoy its 'clean' side and this will greatly ease pilotage in this tricky entrance. Again, with help from CE, the owner of the water pipe cunningly laid close to Crinan sea lock and a snare for anchors has been persuaded to relay it in an acceptable position.

A consequence of Covid has been a significant increase in the number of visitors from southern parts of the UK and all the boatyards have been busy as a result of this. No doubt many moorings associations may have been affected by this too, not least as there has been a significant increase in the number of boat owners seeking to winter their craft in our region.

### **Treasurer's report**

The report, having been circulated with the Notice of Meeting, was adopted. Proposed by D Wilkinson, seconded by I Murray.

The Independent Examiner was re-appointed. Proposed and seconded as above.

There was no change in subscriptions to WHAM. These have not changed since inception.

There was some discussion on changing the Financial Year so as to reduce the delay between the real calendar and the current timing of the WHAM financial year. The Treasurer agreed to look at this.

### **Election of Office Bearers**

The Chairman and Treasurer were re-elected nem con. Both the Secretary and temporary Secretary stood down and D Tannahill was elected Secretary. Proposed by D Vass and seconded by D Wilkie.

### **Election of Committee**

The Committee was re-elected, and D Vass was nominated to a vacancy. Proposed by D Hitchin, seconded by A Grant

### **Update by Crown Estate**

T Bennet gave an update on the affairs of CE insofar as they affected WHAM. There would be no immediate increase in CE fees though such an increase was unlikely to be delayed indefinitely. He observed that space for individual moorings and similar activities was at a premium and this seemed likely to continue in the future driven by an increase in boating and the present effect of Covid in reducing traffic to Europe and increasing it in Scotland.

The ensuing discussion reinforced the points above. Space in MA's reflects his remarks.

### **AoCB**

Recent developments in Oban Bay were discussed and noted.

The Chair outlined a discussion with Sail Scotland on possible areas of mutual interest. Wham had taken the view that they were happy to support the aims of Sail Scotland but saw no particular benefit in joining forces with SS. If anything, our objectives were essentially parallel to those of SS and certainly not competitive. Both sides accepted this, and WHAM would assist wherever appropriate.

The meeting close at 11.50 a.m.