

OBAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

ZOOM MEETING 25th October 2021 at 7pm.

1. Welcome

PRESENT: Marri Malloy (MM), Duncan Martin (DM), Keith Miller (KM), Jessie MacFarlane (JMacF), J Anfield(JA), C McKeown(CMK), G Nicholson(GN), S Mclver(SMI), F Roberts(FR)

COUNCILLORS: Kieron Green (KG), Elaine Robertson (ER), Andrew Vennard(AV), J Lynch(JL)

PUBLIC: P Hammerton(PH), A Rennie(AR) N MacIntyre(NMI), M Bryce(MB)

OT: F Scott(FS)

APOLOGIES: D Graham(DG), L Corbe(LC),

2. Declarations of Interest : None.

3. Police Report :

4. Minutes of Last Meeting : Minutes were checked for accuracy and duly approved.

5. Matters Arising : **ER** War Memorial I have been in touch with the council to find out who is responsible for it. No response yet. Thanks to JL and all the groups who made remembrance day happen. Preparing for a negative on that. Spoken to various people who would be prepared to help with maintaining the monument. As its 100 years since it was put up. I will return to this in January.

6. Christmas Lights: MM I would like to thank all of the OCC for agreeing to give £2000 to the lights. Thanks to LC for helping to secure £1500 from West Highland housing. Thanks to JMF for all her help. Also thanks to ER for using her own time to help me raise money for the Christmas lights. In 2 weeks we managed to secure £9500. Which will go some way to light the town up. **ER** K MacDonald from BIDS has been running around trying to get this organised. BIDS are paying for the installation as their contribution. So hopefully by next weekend Oban Electrics will have put them up. **JMF** Just to let everyone know we still have £1819.20 in the account. **MM** We need to find out who will claim ownership of these lights, the OCC can't do it alone. A group needs to be set up to deal with them. **ER** I was going to leave this to January. A subgroup needs to be set up with all the community represented. **MM** I just feel if we knew sooner we could have done more. **DM** What about storage? Can we contact somebody like McQueens? **MM** That is on my list to do. I just don't want OCC left with it.

7. Harbour update: PH A lot has happened in the past few weeks. Excuse me if I go back over the last few weeks. We have had meetings with the option appraisal chap and with councillors officers about the possible leasing of offices on the North Pier. Since then we have had a meeting with 3 of our MSPs and our MP. We have cross party support for exploring the possibility of a trust port in Oban. Following it up. Continued to meet regularly with council officers. Still working on a proposal which was drawn up

2 years ago to draw up a memorandum of understanding. Progress is slow. OT article paid for by OCHDA. 2 page article. Friday of last week we saw the council report which is bitterly disappointing. This report was asked for by the Harbour Board to identify the preferred option for the council. Remember the final decision will be made by the Scottish government. The report does not identify a preferred option for the council. Our conclusion is the Harbour Board cannot make a decision based on this report. All 5 options need to put forward an appraisal which CMAL have not done, To make a proper decision all 5 options need to be properly appraised. ER AV and JL can't really comment before the Harbour Board meeting. I have asked to speak at the Harbour Board, and have been given permission. Has a business case been presented to the council officers? PH In our view yes. Wrestling with the possible lease charges. FR The report that was commissioned, who commissioned it and who complied it? The contract was awarded to Caledonian Economics. ER I would ask the OCC if I can say to the Board that the Trust Port is the OCC. MM We have written to say that. DM The whole thing has been absolutely appalling. I hope the Harbour Board gets a bit of spine and tells them what they want them to do to get this moving. FR What department is this? DM Department of infrastructure. Jim Smith again. FR I have written to say that that department is not fit for purpose. MM I second FR on that. DM I will compose an e-mail restating that the OCC's preferred option is the Trust Board.

8. Councillor Reports:

Andrew Vennard As I am on the Harbour Board I am limited as to what I can say. I can say over the last month it has taken up a lot of my time.

Kieron Green Busy with meetings. The autism strategy which has been under development for years. Licensing board. Planning committee. Common good fund. Very pleased to support the Christmas lights and Oban FM with that. COSLA, IJB and the full council. NMI Latest on the magic roundabout? I don't have an update,

Jim Lynch On the budget working group. Part of the decision taken to keep toilets open out of season for this year. Remembrance parade thanks go to JH productions for the video on Youtube. Worth a look. HMS Pembroke should have been in the bay but didn't manage so hoping they will make it back in March, The yard situation and the boulder in the road. People were not properly informed about what was going on. So making sure they get the information they need. Signs are up for the no parking of caravans.

Elaine Robertson. Lots of meetings which have been covered already. Jubilee celebrations looking at the bit of ground we identified before. AV has confirmed that it does belong to the council. Dunbeg steering group coming up. There was a film crew at caravan. I believe it is a production for Amazon Prime. MM DG has sent a letter on this. Nobody knew this was happening. The car park was closed for 2 weekends. He speaks of his objection to the car park being taken over completely. He states that Oban should be told when these things are happening. And points out they stayed over in the car park overnight, against the rules. Also he has written to say that he does not think that OCC should be responsible for the Christmas lights. I feel that these big production companies should be written to and made aware of issues like the lights in Oban. These companies should be giving back to the communities that they use. FR I first heard about this the night before when a letter was put through my door by the

production company. By Saturday they occupied a good 3/4 of the car park. DG was given a figure that supposedly was paid by this company for use of the car and it was derisory. I wonder if the estate got paid any better. This is an opportunity that should be ceased upon. The production company behaved impeccably. Its really appalling that our Area committee didn't know anything about it. KG The council has a filming policy which Ive posted a link too. All the costs are up there. FR Surely they should be charged for the car parking spaces they use? KG I would guess that is the case but can't say for sure. MM We are still waiting for a breakdown on the £91k spent on toilets.

8.Planning: .SMI A planning application which has already been done on Albany Street. The guest house involved is changing to a multi room let. Planning permission should have been sought for this. ER I believe that there are parties going on late where the police have been called. Its not really appropriate for the neighbourhood. Change of use and planning should have been sought first before this went ahead. DM The building that was put up for student accommodation at Jacobs Ladder is now air bnb. Whether that has change of use Im not sure, MM That question should be asked. SMI I will try to find out. NMI What about the new hotel beside the Premier Inn has planning been put in for that? Won't it affect the transport hub? DM Not so far.

9. Public questions and issues: MM Any public questions? NMI D Murray spoke about a £175k to go towards the drone out at the airport. Is it all going to the business case or just some. And what was found out from the trials during the summer. ER I will be able to give you more information at the next meeting. NMI Could you find out how that trial was funded? KG UK government funded. NMI So where does future funding come from?

10. AOCB: GN On George Street opposite Chalmers the drain needs cleared out as there is flooding there. ER Will elevate to the trunk road. MM I would like to know what the council workers are doing when Laffertys seem to be doing all the work on the pavements?

Finally I hope this Christmas can be spent with family and friends. I just wish to thank you all for your loyalty over the last year without it I couldn't have carried out my duties as Chair. I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year. Stay safe and please look after yourselves.

11. Date of next meeting 31st January 2022.