

**MINUTES of SPECIAL MEETING of ARGYLL AND BUTE HARBOUR BOARD held BY  
MICROSOFT TEAMS  
on WEDNESDAY, 31 JANUARY 2024**

**Present:** Councillor Andrew Kain (Chair)

Councillor Fiona Howard  
Councillor John Armour  
Councillor Garret Corner

Councillor Jim Lynch  
Councillor Ross Moreland  
Councillor Andrew Vennard

**Attending:** Kirsty Flanagan, Executive Director  
Douglas Hendry, Executive Director  
Jim Smith, Head of Roads and Infrastructure Services  
Scott Reid, Marine Operations Manager  
Stuart McLean, Committee Manager

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Amanda Hampsey.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**3. OBAN HARBOUR REVISION ORDER UPDATE**

The Harbour Board gave consideration to a report providing an update on the status of plans to establish the Municipal Oban Harbour and the progress of the Oban Harbour Revision Order (HRO). The report also detailed the formal consultation process to make the Order.

**Decision**

The Argyll and Bute Harbour Board noted the update provided in the submitted report.

(Reference: Report by Executive Director with responsibility for Roads and Infrastructure Services dated January 2024, submitted)

**\* 4. PIERS AND HARBOURS - OBAN HARBOUR - COSTS AND CONSERVANCY**

The Harbour Board gave consideration to a report that outlined the costs and associated reasonable charges (conservancy charge) for the running and maintenance of an expanded Oban Harbour, as defined in the Harbour Revision Order (HRO), which was currently under process with Transport Scotland.

**Decision**

The Argyll and Bute Harbour Board agreed to recommend to Council in the event that the Harbour Revision Order (HRO) is made -

1. that when setting the fees and charges for 2024 / 2025 it approves, for vessels with a Gross Registered Tonnage (GRT) over 50 registered tonnage, a baseline Conservancy Charge of 7p / GRT to generate sufficient income to run, maintain and develop Oban Harbour and the Council's marine infrastructure;
2. to agree that CalMac ferries have a reduced rate of 2p / GRT due to the reasons detailed in the submitted report;
3. to note that this represents a figure for the first year only and that it should be assessed for effectiveness each year and adjusted accordingly;
4. to agree that the adjusted conservancy charge is to be assessed, reported and approved annually in line with the Marine Fees and Charges and is to be included in that report for the Harbour Board for recommendation to Council; and
5. to agree that the vessel types listed in the report at paragraph 4.3 should be exempt from transit or 'Conservancy' charges.

(Reference: Report by Executive Director with responsibility for Roads and Infrastructure Services dated January 2024, submitted)

\* **5. PIERS AND HARBOURS - MARINE ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN FEES AND CHARGES 2024/2025**

The Harbour Board gave consideration to a report proposing the necessary increase in fees and charges for the forthcoming financial year 2024/25 in order to meet the requirements for the Argyll and Bute Council Asset Management Plan referenced in the report considered by the Harbour Board in August 2023.

**Decision**

The Argyll and Bute Harbour Board –

1. agreed to recommend to the Council, when setting the fees and charges for 2024 / 2025 that it approves an increase to piers and harbours fees and charges of 3% to generate sufficient income to develop the Council's marine infrastructure;
2. noted that this presents a stepped "proposed increase to allow smoothing" over a 10 year period for meeting both the sustainability costs and future improvement costs associated with the marine infrastructure which Argyll and Bute Council has responsibility for; and
3. agreed that the asset management plan would continue to be updated on a rolling 10 year basis.

(Reference: Report by Executive Director with responsibility for Roads and Infrastructure Services dated January 2024, submitted)

**6. OBAN HARBOUR REVISION ORDER - CLARIFICATION FOR NOTING**

A report clarifying comments made in an earlier report of 31 August 2023 to the Harbour Board was before the Board for noting.

**Decision**

The Argyll and Bute Harbour Board noted the update provided in the submitted report.

(Reference: Report by Executive Director with responsibility for Roads and Infrastructure dated January 2024, submitted)