

Jetty and Slip Users Meeting



7th October 2024 7pm

Present: James Hilder (Chair / Secretary), Andy Harpur, Trevor Lawton, Heather Pykett, Alex Pykett, Colin Campbell, Liz McLure, Nic Goddard, Colin Skeath, Thomas Coope

Apologies: Michael Smith, Debbie Calver, Sally Stephens.

Note of Meeting:

ACTIONS

<p>1. Introductions – everyone introduced themselves and James gave the apologies.</p> <p>[Michael Smith is going to be moving to the area and is keen to be involved. Sally Stephens is a long time visitor with happy memories of time with her father in Strontian, including in and around the jetty. Sally has offered a donation to our next fundraiser.]</p> <p>Those present included moorings owners, vessel owners, kayakers and open water swimmers and regular users.</p> <p>James is the SCC Director who has been most involved for the last 10 years, although other Directors Paul Sharples and John Jones have vessels.</p> <p>James explained some of the history surrounding the community buyout of the jetty and parking area, and explained that with the demise of the old moorings association, the community company had taken on that role. This involves keeping records of all moorings and paying, on behalf of Members, the £55 per mooring to Crown Estate and the £300 rent of the jetty & slip.</p> <p>The SCC uses 'working groups/committees' to inform its work in different areas, and to help coordinate volunteers interested in particular aspects of the area. Volunteers are always needed.</p> <p>After the green shed tidy-up and refurb during Covid, little work has been done apart from new signs (which now need updating).</p> <p>James explained this is his last year of involvement so someone needs to take over the admin but there were no volunteers at the meeting for this.</p>	<p>JH/SCC to continue to call for volunteer secretary.</p>
<p>2. General observations</p> <p>There is a need to improve the jetty and shed and then proactively seek donations to help cover costs – which should come in if the areas is improved. Various attendees agreed to undertake certain tasks and all to attend work parties if available.</p> <p>James asked everyone present for their ideas to improve the area and these are collated below.</p> <p>All agreed to share mobile numbers with James to create a Jetty Users WhatsApp group for reporting concerns, happenings or to communicate that any one of the group is planning to undertake some maintenance and needs a hand – such as power washing, seaweed scraping, painting or shed clearance. This could include members of the Swimming Group WhatsApp.</p>	<p>JH to create Whatsapp Group – all to share mobile numbers. All to encourage others to join.</p>
<p>3. Moorings, Raft Disposal & Gate</p> <p>Mooring Tags – all moorings should be tagged and the serial numbers sent to Crown Estates. We have the tags and ties.</p> <p>SCC had paid Richard Livett to move the old mooring raft out the water due to the leaking floats. All present agreed this was no longer required</p>	<p>TL / AP and AH agreed to tag all the moorings and send list to JH, who will provide</p>

<p>now we have a reliable contractor who has offered to service moorings annually at a reasonable price. (Robbie Grieves – Lochleven Shellfish 07775 753536)</p> <p>SCC to arrange for rectangular grey floats to be disposed of and subject to Board approval old raft will be advertised on Facebook and offered for sale for a donation. Failing interest it will be sold for scrap, or possibly dismantled and used for a footpath bridge.</p> <p>It was agreed that the gate across the slip is a nuisance and should be removed, and also the small fence along the first part of the jetty. The latter to be replaced with a painted yellow line to advise caution at the Jetty edge.</p> <p>Subject to Board approval, the gate will be offered to the community via Facebook for a donation.</p>	<p>tags and moorings map.</p> <p>JH to speak to SCC Board and E-A Philips / C. Nater who run the footpath group.</p> <p>ALL – anyone with the tools to remove the fence anytime!</p> <p>JH will advertise the gate.</p>
<p>4. Open Water Swimming</p> <p>Swimmers were reminded to always swim with hi-vis floats, especially if in open water and not swimming along the shore to avoid being hit by boats. New signage required.</p> <p>We need to record the area as a Swimming Zone on various online charts and navigation apps, also noting that we no longer have visitor moorings. JH to remove visitor moorings from Welcome Anchorages</p> <p>A moveable ‘privacy partition’ would be helpful in the shed. JH proposed utilising the “Viking Family Mural” currently in the Craft Hub/Mens Shed, although this will require a stand of some sort fixing to the base and the face holes covering with opaque plastic.</p>	<p>NG to remind simmer on the Whatsapp group.</p> <p>TL & AP will update as many charts as possible.</p> <p>AH will liaise with Craft Hub Manager and move.</p>
<p>5. Signage</p> <p>We need simpler signage saying No Parking Above Slip, No Visitor Moorings Available – Anchoring only, Beware Open Water Swimmers and Donations Welcome. (more detailed info can be put in the noticeboard)</p> <p>We could also do with a DIVER DOWN symbol (Maritime ALPHA) painted on a Board fastened to the seaward side of the Green Shed to warn vessels that there may be people in the water.</p> <p>The <i>Community Facility - Donations Welcome</i> sign should carry a QR code. JH is getting an SCC QR code and online donations button on the new SCC website.</p> <p>The noticeboards needs cleaning and tidying up. NG will become keyholder / supervisor for noticeboards.</p>	<p>JH to draft signs and circulate to the group before getting professionally printed.</p> <p>JH to incorporate new QR code into sign</p> <p>JH to give key to NG</p>
<p>6. Green Shed</p> <p>a) Before 2025 Season:</p> <p>All agreed this needed a tidy out, painting internally and windows and or roof lights as a priority. We need to post on FB and in De tha Dol for all items to be removed or will be dumped.</p> <p>Liz offered to organise to paint internal wall white, once its cleared out and windows/rooflights in.</p> <p>Velux windows will be too costly and unnecessary but replacing some of the box profile with ‘clear’ box profile would do the job. It could be fitted with volunteer work party. JH to source and AH offered assistance</p> <p>Seaward facing window – There is at least one complete window and frame which was to be fitted by Tim Coldwell. (The rest are spares or junk) We will try again to get this fitted. Andy offered to help cut out the hole in the side of the shed.</p>	<p>JH to promote clear out & do article for De tha Dol.</p> <p>JH/SCC to order more metal paint. LM to organise painting</p> <p>JH to speak to Julian Morris and liaise with AH re roof.</p> <p>JH to speak with</p>



<p>As noted above, a portable screen will be put in the shed so swimmers can get changed and still have the door open for light.</p> <p>Meeting agreed not to put a lock on the shed.</p> <p>b) Longer Terms Aspirations or as funds become available:</p> <p>Install solar panels and battery in the roof to power some LED lighting in the shed and perhaps a night time light on the shed roof to help vessels arriving in the dark.</p> <p>This electricity could also power a defibrillator?</p> <p>Once tidied and if lit, the internal walls could hold wildlife interpretation boards (RSPB?) , and or heritage information boards (Dualchas?)</p> <p>Arrange a method where tide times could be shown for the month or fortnight ahead. In the short term this could be printed off from one of the tide table Apps and put in the noticeboard (NB. as Brian Evans used to do.)</p> <p>Perhaps another door cut into the western end of the shed allowing access for those with mobility impairment. (If glazed would increase lighting.)</p> <p>Installation of gutters and freshwater collection water butt allowing gravity-fed tap for rinsing off wet suits, shoes and other equipment. (NB. This would also provide water for occasional power washing the slip.)</p>	<p>Tim and get advice.</p> <p>No one took this action to progress tide info.</p>
<p>7. Donations Box</p> <p>We need a new donations box. NG can check it regularly. (Money can then be left at Oakwood in the SCC donation box.) NG to have a key. (If a decent weatherproof box cant be found it will be located inside the shed and a letterbox hole cut into the shed side.</p>	<p>JH to order a new metal box.</p>
<p>8. Jetty & Slipway</p> <p>a) Before 2025 Season:</p> <p>The meeting thanked Thomas for his regular power washing of the slip, installation of extra rings and a rope on the jetty, (previously purchased shackles had kindly been painted by Robbie Robinson), and, removing seaweed with his excavator.</p> <p>Thomas will continue to do the power washing as a contribution to the community, but would appreciate help clearing sand and gravel before a wash. He has another couple of rings to fit.</p> <p>Concreting the surface of the slipway – this needs to be done before the winter. All agreed to help if they could. We need to source a petrol concrete mixer (as we've no electricity there.). TC can bring down water to the jetty for mixing. James will source the cement from Julian Morris who was given the quick setting cement purchased around Covid but never got used. The old plywood sheets in the shed are there to be used for shuttering on concrete day.</p> <p>b) Longer Terms Aspirations or as funds become available:</p> <p>If we could acquire some old mooring blocks from MOWI in Ardgour these could be placed on the eastern side of the slip to enable vessels being dried out to be fastened on both sides.</p> <p>Jetty Extension - Although costly it was agreed that the useability of the slip would be enhanced if another couple of metres could be added to the end of the jetty to infill the undercutting and bring it further out towards deeper water.</p> <p>Floating pontoon E.g. Fusion Marine – the general feeling was that if we invest in the area with better facilities more people will use the area e.g. more swimmers, sailing club?, and donations could also be sought from the small cruise/tour boats to allow passengers to disembark / depart with dry feet. This</p>	<p>TC to share via WhatsApp group when he needs help.</p> <p>JH to check tide times and propose a cement work party date, ideally in October.</p> <p>JH will circulate old plans and costings for info.</p>

<p>would likely be secured immediately to the west of the green shed running out across the beach to deep water. JH said (as treasurer) he was not against securing capital investment provided there was a regular source of revenue for Crown Estate rent, insurance and upkeep. The meeting felt that an application to Sunart Community Benefit Fund could be justified next year once costings had been obtained. Several attendees agreed to informally look at options and gather costs and information.</p>	
<p>9. AOB</p> <p>a) Flotsam – it was noted that one of the block floats from the raft is lodged above high tide near the stream – this needs removed and put on top of the old raft.</p> <p>b) Sinking Moorings – it was noted that the pink and white mooring buoys are invisible at high springs and are a hazard. JH will contact the owners and see if this can be rectified. Either the risers cleaned or lengthened or pick up buoys attached.</p> <p>c) Secure Boat Park – occasionally moorings holders put their dinghies in the shed which leaves no room for swimmers. If these could be padlocked to an outside rack this would help. It was agreed to try to build a tender ‘rack’ as per Glencoe Boat Club on a concrete plinth. (Like a giant toast rack) using galvanised tubing. This could be located immediately to East of the slipway above MHW if we brought in some more rock and created the plinth.</p> <p>d) JH to circulate a current ‘Moorings Map’</p> <p>e) Strimming and weedkiller – twice per year strimming, cutting back brambles and gorse and some weedkiller on car park – was not discussed.</p>	<p>TL/AW/TC offered to try and move.</p> <p>JH to contact owners.</p> <p>AH agreed to get pictures and costing from Glencoe for next meeting.</p> <p>JH to share map.</p>
<p>10. Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>Ideally four times per year, starting in January and March to gauge progress.</p> <p>NB- JH proposed Monday 13th January and Monday 17th March 2025</p> <p>7pm – venue tbc.</p>	