

Minutes taken on [Thursday 21st March 2024](#)

1	Present	Actions
	Duncan MacDonald (RJM) Michelle Hinch (RJM) Emily Currie (RJM)	
	Cllr Callum Munro (Cllr THC), Garry Smith (THC) Iain MacLennan (THC) Andrew MacIver (THC)	
	Donald Beaton (Calmac)	
	Alan MacRae (Local) Martin Madigan (Local) Vicki Dunkel (Local) Yvonne Gerrard (Local) Angus Ross (Local) Nick Sands (Local) Margret Freestone (Local) Sandy MacLean (Local) Claudia Marshall (Local) Vicki MacLean (Local)	
2	Apologies	
	Stewart Macpherson (Local) John MacLeod (RJM) Cllr Millar (THC) Cllr Finlayson (THC) Caroline Connelly (TS)	
3	Approval of Previous Minutes	
	<p>MF- There is one sentence I was supposed to have said and can't make sense of. Page 4 at the end. MF- <i>One more thing, at present there isn't much in the way for the truck driver's area or in the Marshalling area so why is it so intrusive now?</i></p> <p><i>I would like that to be amended to – 'Previously there isn't much in the way for the truck driver's area or in the MA so why is it so intrusive now?'</i></p> <p>Cllr Munro- Is there anything else on the previous minutes? Approval of minutes?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Vicki MacLean 2. Margaret Freestone 	
4	Matters Arising	
	<p>Cllr Munro - I have picked out a couple of things AOCB regarding the seaweed issue. We will talk about the terminal building, toilet access, the foot bridge and the steps at the Pier. Is there anything else arising?</p> <p>Can we now see the Presentation from the Contractor RJ McLeod</p>	
5	Presentation & Open Forum	
	<p>DMD - Thanks Callum, it has now been two months since the last meeting – I will run through the presentation in the traditional fashion.</p> <p>**Shows presentation.</p> <p>DMD – During the last meeting I recall there being some questions relating to the large panels on the berthing structure which were visible in the distance. Those panels were the forms for the concrete (moulds) all the concrete has since been poured and the panels</p>	

stripped leaving the permanent wavewall structure.

SM - What are the other two foundations for?

DMD – The strips of concrete are the beginnings of the final concrete deck of the berthing structure.

MM - When you say jacket, do you mean concrete jacket?

DMD – The jacket refers to the overcoating system that protect the pile from continual erosion – typically a synthetic wrap that is sealed with a clamping system.

DMD - **Shows a slide with a typical example.

Cllr Munro - Any questions for Duncan?

AR - What is going to happen at the nice new area at the end of the pier? Now the end of the pier looks like a third world Country with all the junk. Is this going to be repeated along the whole of that new space, or is there a plan as to what it will look like?

GS - A water tank is to be installed and master tank unit for moving the gangway. We have received a request from CalMac and are just awaiting approval from TS. There are no plans for anything else.

AR - So you're not going to move all the junk out of there?

AM - the existing old pier will remain largely unchanged. We are not moving anything from the end and there will still be an office there.

AR - The office is fine, but the rest seems to be a missed opportunity.

Cllr Munro - Who does it belong to Angus?

AR - The Council.

MM - When we spoke about that you said that it would be great if the council put the money into do that piece up.

AM - That is correct, and the redevelopment of that area will be a separate project. It is not part of the project that is funded by TS, it is a THC project.

AR -Could it be put on the radar?

AM -It is on THC radar now.

AR - I have a few more questions.

When we were asking for a Pontoon there was also mention of getting around the problem for small boat access on and off the boat by using the linkspan, has that been built into the design of it?

AM - We have looked into that and there was an issue with the gradient. The issue was that

the slope is quite steep to get down to the boat at low tides.

VD -Would it be different for disabled access/access? (Pontoon)

AM - Yes, we have been through that process before and as it was a TS funded project they didn't have any funding to put towards that and there was also a petition from the local community about why we weren't putting that in and that also went to the Scottish government(Petitions committee).As it was a commercial operation for passenger sightseeing and excursion boats we are not required by the regulations to put in a hinge walkway pontoon.

AR - It is not what your own survey in 2017 said. It said that you were required to put it in, but you didn't do it and that's fine but the solution at a later stage was to be able to use the linkspan and the question is has that been built into the operating procedures? The linkspan that is there (you have told us now that it is too steep) it doesn't look like that has been done. The solution that was found is not going to work so we need to look for another solution.

AM - Use the linkspan for what purpose?

AR- To have disabled access to small boats and to land people in if there were injuries and other difficulties which is impossible to land people off fishing boats and up a ladder. It's been made worse now since part of the solution was to fendering on the steps reassessed which it hasn't been if anything it is slightly worse.

VD - It said in the minutes from the last time that it was a smaller gap, but it is a larger gap.

AM – The fenders have not been recessed as the designers were concerned that too small a gap would cause a hazard. The gap has reduced from what it was previously. Access to small boats can now be taken from the landings which they were unable to do previously where fenders obstructed access from the landings.

What AR is talking about on the linkspan, we looked at that and there was talk about hoists being fitted onto the linkspan but that was considered unsafe.

Tony Usher, THC Harbours Manager, did say that if can be demonstrated to be safe for small vessels using the linkspan for access, then he will be willing to allow the linkspan to be used.

Cllr Munro - But only at certain times?

AM -Yes, out with ferry berthing times.

Cllr Munro - We don't have disabled access on the pier.

AR - One question on someone else's behalf.

As this will be a two-boat operation will the MA be large enough to cope with the traffic?

AM - Yes, the marshalling area will be large enough to cope with the two-vessel operation and the new boat is smaller than the original one and has a larger vehicle capacity.

VD-Regarding the pontoon that was donated to Staffin is it possible for another to be donated to Uig?

DMD - We do have two or three pontoons in our stock at the minute which we have been using for the works. There is a possibility for the company to donate one, but I couldn't commit to that just now.

VD - Maybe that is something that we can have access to?

AR - That would be helpful if possible.

Cllr Munro - Anymore questions?

Item six on the agenda is construction works. What is the timeline?

AM - October is programmed completion.

DMD - Yes, it looks like October at the moment.

VD - is that including the new terminal?

AM - No that is a separate contract which has been awarded to Robertson. It is likely to be finished in April 2025.

AR - Are RJ's doing that or THC?

AM - No this is a separate contract with a third party.

AR - When will the fisherman's compound be open for use?

DMD - We can't confirm that at the moment, but the furniture and copes will be complete by May 2024.

VD - What about the steps?

DMD - The steps were commissioned and have been available since November 2023; we have since installed the handrails, mooring rings and bollards which were an addition to the original design.

CM - Is there a timeframe for the steps to be finished?

DMD - The original specified works have been completed however we are now reacting to additional changes i.e. removal of timber rubbing strips and replacement with galvanised steel wearing ones.

CM - Can someone communicate an overall timeframe for the steps? (THC)

Cllr Munro - I think that someone can do that. (THC)

AM - **Shows a slide provided by CMAL for the new terminal building which was also provided at the Little Minch Routes community event held in March 2024. This slide, along

with other harbour updates, can be viewed at the following link:
<https://www.cmassets.co.uk/project/little-minch-routes-infrastructure-works/>

AR- I would like it noted that I did ask the CMAL rep if they are going to level the building and he confirmed but that is not shown on that slide.

AM- that's what we talked about at the consultation.
That isn't something that is under THC control.
CMAL have been waiting on the contract to be awarded as they also now have a fixed timescale that they can work on.

AR - Can we have a visualization of what it will look like at each stage? We are the ones who is going to be living with it. If we could have a visualization of the lighting, then we would have highlighted a degree of discomfort a long time ago.

GS - Visualisations were carried out before.

AR - It would be good now the get the visualization update as we are near the end.

AM - The job will be completed in six months' time, so I am not sure whether there is much value in providing visualization. You have seen some real-life photographs from RJ's.

Cllr Munro - Is there anything else on the Terminal Building?

AR - Are you going to cover toilets?

Cllr Munro - I will come back to that.

Cllr Munro – Duncan, is that all the slides?

DMD - Yes

Cllr Munro - Gary what has been going on in terms of the lighting in the last few months?

GS - There was an issue with the angle of the lights, they are intended to be horizontal. There were various angles that they were set at and now that has been resolved. The lighting circuits have been installed to allow the lighting to be switched off when it is not in use. As far as I know that after the last Ferry has gone, they are off

MM - They are still on.

DMD - The north sector which is closest to **MF** house (where the lorry park is). That circuit has been divided from the rest of the lights and a timed switch has been applied which should operate between 7am and 7pm. In the event of the ferry being late there is an option to press a button and advance the lighting for one hour at a time. The rest of the lights have been kept on.

SMcL- Do you not think that the six or so lights in the north sector are more than acceptable

for the marshalling area without the other lights?

AR - **Shows pictures of the lighting of MA from **MF** house when there was no works being carried out.

MF - Last night they weren't on at all, is there a reason for that?

MF – (reads through EIA leaflet regarding the visualisation).

There is no way that you can say that this has not had an impact on both residents and visitors, and they are certainly not to a similar scale to the existing facilities.

GS - The scale of the development was shown at consultation stage.

MF - The height of the lighting wasn't and there is no mention of it on the planning website.

GS-The development itself is in three parts, Permitted development within the Harbour Order, a planning application for the building and consent for the marine works. There were a series of consultations that were followed and we went through the statutory consenting process.

VD - So is anyone happy about the lights?

SMcL- No

GS - It's similar to other harbour facilities. A safe working area is required for ferry operations and marshalling.

AR - It's totally different, they are not similar. I've got pictures of both.

GS - The lighting levels are set to twenty lux which is what our target is for those areas. We have used a similar design to other projects.

AR - Gary that is absolute nonsense, I have pictures of our harbour and of Lochmaddy and Tarbert which you showed yourself and they are completely different. Nobody else has any form of lighting like that.

(**AR** **shows GS the pictures that he has – mobile device)

AR - Ours are on 15 metre columns and there are 18 of them already for a small area.

All the rest are standard height.

It breaks the skyline and a whole line of them in front of MF house.

We want THC to sit down and resolve it and not try to blame someone else. It would be nice to work together to get this right.

GS - I think we are working together to put it right and the elements of switching we have talked about and are implemented as a result of our discussions.

AR - No Gary you are missing the point entirely and I suspect deliberately. The issue is the size and the number of lampposts and the secondary issue is the amount of light that comes out of them the primary issues is the size and number and the disfigurement of the landscape, it doesn't fit with the landscape and it doesn't fit with the EIA. The number of posts and the light is the issue that we wish you to address.

GS - We have checked light levels outside MF property and the design had lighting levels around 5 lux and the actual level is 1 lux.

VD - We would like THC to reduce the size of the lampposts.

AR - He's not answering the question.

Cllr Munro - Ask the question again AR.

AR -The question is the statement that we the community are not happy with the size and number of lampposts, forget the amount of light that is coming out of them. We would like you to remove these lampposts and put in standard size lampposts thank you very much.

SMcL - The six or eight lampposts that will be in front of the terminal building there when they are on themselves at night that is more than enough to light up that area.

GS - I don't think that is the case when you look at the lighting on site.

SMcL - I can assure you that it is.

AR - That picture I showed you is only those lights switched on.

MF -If the other ports can manage the 20 lux with standard lamps, then you can too.

AM - Lochmaddy has a higher column with floodlights located centrally within their MA. Uig has been designed with the columns on the edges of the marshalling area. If we reduce the lighting column height, then we will have to put in a greater number of lighting columns.

MF -But there is 1 of them and the rest is standard lighting.

AM -It's the way they designed it there.

VD -Surely you can adjust the brightness as well.

Cllr Munro - I think it is up to THC to respond to that.

AR - Can we get some sort of consultation with us on what the right solution might look like?

MF - Is THC setting an example to other developers that whatever is stated in the EIA can be disregarded?

It clearly states in the EIA that the lighting should be a similar size to the existing structures. Who is in charge of checking that and seeing that it is in line with it?

GS - My job, this project is lead by Highland Council who will operate the facility.

SMcL - So do we have to wait until the next meeting for an update on this?

Cllr Munro - Yes

CM - to AR why if the lights are switched off between non-operating hours, why is it important how many poles and how high they are?

AR - The poles themselves during the day are intrusive on the landscape.

CM -So it is the landscape and the height.

AR - No the initial problem is the number of the poles and the height.

CM -So it has nothing to do with the light.

Cllr Muro- a few more things on the agenda.

The seaweed

MF -Ian Stewart had a look and the environmental health woman came out and said that she had noted the accumulation of seaweed and recommended to go around all of my corrugated cladding to fill the holes at the bottom to stop the flies getting in. Which doesn't address the problem which is the accumulation of seaweed. What happens when it gets to a certain stage?

AR - Can I suggest, there is a machine that you can hire to take up the seaweed.

VD - Is that something THC would consider doing?

AM - That would be a local community project.

Cllr Munro - Will the toilet access be 24/7 in the new terminal?

GM -There will be a public toilet, but the arrangement is still under discussion.

Cllr Munro - Are there any other questions?

MF - The issues with your drainage?

MF - There is still water.

IMcL - I will come and see you with an update.

Cllr Munro – the footbridge across the play park, Cllr Finlayson has said that it is needing replacing?

MM - Yes, we had a few quotes.

Cllr Munro – We could speak to a contractor and look at it.

DMD – We were asked at our recent progress meeting if we could take a look at the bridge. This will be scheduled in at the next opportunity – findings will be shared.

Cllr Munro - Anything else on the ACCOB?

6.	AOCB	
	None	
7.	Date of Next Meeting	
	2nd May 2024 20th June 2024 22nd August 2024	