

COUNCIL MINUTES	Wednesday 11th March 2026	6:30pm
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		Notes/Discussion/Decision
1	WELCOME, ATTENDANCE & APOLOGIES:	Your Council members are: Steph Lowe, Sarah Jones, Ronnie Forbes, Peter Tosh, Eddie Thornton, Alan Hoar, Alex Burton, Dot Dahl. Apologies: Tommy McQuade, Ciorsti Baxter ADG
2	CLUB BUSINESS	
2.1	Minutes & matters arising	8 th January Minutes - Proposed: Peter Seconded: Alex
2.2	President's update – Steph Lowe	Steph's travel back from Sydney delayed
2.3	Treasurer's update – Ronnie Forbes	Treasurer's report – please see Annex 1 Council noted Charities a/c balance – quite high for this time of year. Council discussed <i>de facto</i> annual commitments and whether they were merited or sustainable. Council agreed on balance to continue to support regular events but to seek greater transparency, including information on other sources of funding/sponsorship; and to require advance approval of payments. Budget for 2026/27 – RIBI/District fees for 2026/27 still to be finalised but expected to be broadly similar to this year. Agreed sufficient funds in Club a/c to purchase new pop-up banners . Alan and Ronnie to pursue.
2.4	Secretary's update - Sarah Jones	Discussion of Club meeting schedule and feedback from District presentation on membership - to be continued. Draft Abridged Annual Report – covers full list of sponsors and beneficiaries (minus award amounts) - agreed adequate for use in briefing potential new members or to hand out if anyone asks for more detail. Alex proposed some early ideas for raising awareness and fund-raising at Charities Day on 18 July at the Rockfield. To be developed. Inventory of Club assets now under development. Noted visitors from Dumbarton Rotary Club - offered 21 st April when we have a speaker.

		Council members agreed to make themselves available to meet members of a Finnish Rotary Club on Thursday 21 May at the Royal around 5pm.
3	FUNDING REQUESTS	
3.1	Marie Curie 40th Great Daffodil Appeal in 2026	Rotarians have volunteered for 14 th March collection day. Agreed to donate £540 representing the cost of 3 x 8 hour shifts for a Marie Curie nurse.
3.3	Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival (HIDMF) - application form received	Agreed £500 requested for launch of a new musical event in May 2026 including a Rotary-sponsored trophy – subject to confirmation of event going ahead.
3.4	Rotary Charity Curling Bonspiel	Request from Lachie for £180 entrance fee – Council agreed in correspondence.
3.5	Team Leadership Award	Approved payment of 50% (£415.25) of the deposit for the 2026 5 Day SCQF Level 6 Leadership Development course in conjunction with Lochaber Club.
3.6	End-Polio-Now/Foundation Concert	Agreed to cover £300 costs of International and Foundation Committee concert to add to £1125 raised. This increases donation to End-Polio-Now attracting Gates Foundation match funding.
3.7	Oban Otters – urgent request	Agreed urgent funding for bus hire (£130) and driver (£tbc) to transport children to swimming competition on 17 th March. Agreed to explore longer term relationship and support for Oban Otters.
4	CORRESPONDENCE	
4.1	Idee einer internationalen Club-Partnerschaft	Proposed partnership with the Rotary Club Hückeswagen – Radevormwald.
4.4	WithYou	Drugs and alcohol charity request for help in finding alternative premises in Oban. Still in touch about a date to come and speak at a meeting.
4.5	Irene MacDougall	Thank you for the OLDS Christmas lunch
5	COMMITTEE UPDATES (full list for completeness)	
5.1	Membership - President Steph Lowe	
5.2	Community & Vocational – Ciorsti Baxter	Oban Raft Race – Council approved Club organisation and responsibility for the race on 12 July. Provisional date for Duck Race – Saturday 1 August.
5.3	Foundation & International - Ken Oxland & David Finlayson	Council congratulated organisers of the charity concert in aid of End Polio Now raising over £1,000. See above for Club covering costs.
5.4	Sports & Social – Lachie Beaton	Pickleball resumes on Fridays from 13 th March. Bowling competition final from last year still to play before new season kicks off.
5.5	Youth Services – Dot Dahl	Council heard a report on the Oban & Lochaber Rotary Teams and Leaders Award 2026 . Council welcomed: the achievement of SCQF level 6 accreditation; measures to improve participation and reduce drop-out; the significance of the Outward Bound bursary and golden tickets; and investment of key Rotarians' time in delivery - including relationship-building with Oban High, Lochaber and OB. Council agreed therefore that TLA is a recognised and worthwhile on-going commitment for the Club subject

		<p>to annual costs approval. With this in mind Alan agreed to give a presentation to members at lunch on 17th March.</p> <p>Young Chef District Competition – Council congratulated Oban participants on a good performance and agreed to continue relations with relevant teachers at Oban High School to make this an annual fixture.</p> <p>Council noted the Club's organisation of a Pickleball session on 18 February with Young Police Volunteers.</p>
5.6	PR & Reputation – Alex Burton	<p>Council noted Alex's plans to gain coverage of the recent charity concert in aid of End-Polio-Now.</p> <p>Welcomed that Alex also routinely promotes Club speakers and specific good causes.</p>
5.7	Am-Am – Alan Hoar	Council noted that planning had kicked off in earnest - the full committee would meet in mid-March e.g. to allocate sponsors' letters. Great news that Oban's Police Scotland Young Volunteers will support the event as 'ball spotters'.
5.8	OLDS – David Mudie	Council agreed to request a meeting with the OLDS sub-committee/representative. Eddie agreed to facilitate via Dave Mudie.
5.9	Club Service – Eddie Thornton	Nothing to report.
5.10	Safeguarding	Agreed to ask Ciorsti Baxter to become Club Safeguarding Officer.
5.11	Inventory Controller – Iain MacKinnon	Inventory is now in draft – for discussion at next Council.
6	SPEAKERS UPDATE Co-ordinator - Peter Tosh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alan Hoar – TLA, 17th March • Adventure Oban – Emily Austin and Dave Bleazard - 21st April • District Environmental Lead – Debs Carmichael tba • Pending a date – Drugs and alcohol charity WithYou.
7	DISTRICT UPDATE	Steph and Peter to attend the Stirling Club Centenary Dinner on 10 th April
8	ATTENDANCE REPORT for weekly lunch/dinner	<p>Month: January 2026, No of Meetings: 3, Attendance Rate: 59.5% Members with 100% Attendance over the month: Lachie Beaton, Alex Burton, Davie Finlayson, Ronnie Forbes, Ken Oxland, John Strettle, Eddie Thornton</p> <p>Month: February 2026, No of Meetings: 4, Attendance Rate: 66.1% Members with 100% Attendance over the month: Dot Dahl, Ronnie Forbes, Iain MacKinnon, Ken Moncrieff, Roger Parry, Eddie Thornton</p>
9	ANY OTHER BUSINESS	
10	NEXT MEETING:	Thursday 9th April 6:30pm

Annex 1:

Treasurer's report for council meeting 11 March 2026

Charities

31/12/25 £17,258.88

Concert receipts 285.00

Concert posters (118.00)

TLA deposit (415.25)

28/2/26 £17,010.63

Ringfenced:

OLDS (2419.89)

Feis (500.00)

St Columba's (1470.00)

TLA (2733 less deposit) (2317.75)

"Available" £10,302.99

Club

31/12/25 £2,313.61

Members' subs 165.00

Web site costs (129.12)

RIBI subs (1204.00)

District subs (350.00)

28/2/26 £795.49

Meals

31/12/25 £2105.37

From members 3303.15

From guests 18/12 30.00

Bank Charges (22.60)

4Q refunds (962.20)

To hotel (2878.50)

28/2/26 £1575.22

Sports

31/12/25		£786.48
Curling	(180.00)	
28/2/26		£606.48