

Mull Community Council Meeting

12th January, 7pm, An Roth

Present: Billy McClymont, Fiona Brown, Steve Willis, Ronnie Campbell, Cameron Anson, David Pollard, Jane Stevens, Allan Cameron, Kirsty Renton, Calum MacLachlainn

In Attendance: Councillor Mary-Jean Devon, Councillor Alastair MacDougal, P.C Grierson, Catriona Noble, Iain MacDougal, Neal Goldsmith, Alistair MacCrone, Dawn Reade, Rebecca Lewis

Apologies: Jim Corbett, Susan Campbell, Rory Forester, Joanne MacDougal, Moray Finch

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Proposed – Fiona Brown
2nd – Alan Cameron

MATTERS ARISING

Jessie's Memorial

- **A.C** enquired as to what the budget is for the bench. His range costs between £150 and £500.
- **M-J.D** stated anything up to £300. M.C.C agreed to provide the funding.
- **M-J.D** asked if **A.C** has a robust wooden seat that would withstand the weather.
- **A.C** replied yes.
- **B.M** asked M.C.C to vote on matter.
- All voted in favour.
- **A.C** will deliver the seat to wherever it is to be situated.
- **C.M** suggested that Bert is mentioned on the memorial seat.
- All voted in favour.

Meeting with Jim Smith

- **F.B** reported that the families on the Carsaig road received their oil and are extremely grateful.
- **F.B** asked **S.W** to write to **J.S** and thank him for his help on the matter.
- **A.M** reported that he has found a driver who is interested in taking up the gritting post in Fionnphort subject to pay etc.
- The matter will be discussed further at the next meeting.
- **S.W** reported that Jim Smith had been very impressed with the proactivity of M.C.C.

Community Development Plan

- **D.P** reported that a questionnaire has now been sent out and is also available on-line.

- There will be a meeting on the 26th January.

Campsite

- All members are now in full support of the Pennygowan Campsite plans.
- **S.W** reported that the MacGillivrays are happy to put up otter signs at either side of the campsite to warn traffic.
- **A.M** reported that he had circulated a paper stating the regulations concerning otters and planning.

POLICE REPORT Dec/Jan 2016 – P.C Grierson

Tobermory

- Male reported following theft of money from bank account. Vandalism- graffiti spray painted at various loci – enquiries ongoing. Domestic incident – enquiries ongoing.

Craignure

- Road checks during festive drinking driving campaign.

Bunessan

- Male reported following complaint of vehicle being taken and driven away.
- Male reported for road traffic offence following collision.
- **D.P** reported that there is still a disused car parked at Craignure. **P.C Grierson** to look into matter

- **D.P** reported that there is still a disused car parked at Craignure.
- **P.C Grierson** to look into the matter

UPDATE ON FERRY MATTERS – Neal Goldsmith

- **N.G** reported that a form of multi-journey tickets has in principal been agreed just waiting for Derek MacKay to sign off.
- RET – Meeting has been arranged for A&B to meet with island Campsite owners to discuss way forward with campervans, waste disposal etc. (MCC to be involved)

- Moray Finch has arranged a meeting with Argyll & Bute Council to discuss Craignure Marshalling area and parking in preparation for summer timetable.
- **N.G** further reported that the figures from the 1st two months of R.E.T show a 32% increase in traffic but a slight decline in foot passengers. However the fact that there have been more sailings this year than last has off-set the results.
- The next draft of the winter timetable for 2016 will be out at the end of January/ early February.
- Operators are looking to maintain a fairly static timetable in the future with only minor changes between summer and winter.
- Discussion has been ongoing regarding vessel replacement and also vessel deployment over the next three to five years. M.V Isle of Mull retires in 2024.
- A sub-group of the Ferry Committee has created a Facebook page which is successfully up and running. A twitter page is also being developed.
- In discussions with other Ferry Committees over various matters and work together when possible to have a collective voice.
- Sub-group collating and interpreting data
- **N.G** also reported that there are currently 2 new vessels being built in Glasgow. When they are completed, they will replace the M.V Hebrides and M.V Caledonian Isles giving potential for different vessels on the Craignure – Oban route.

Q&A

- **C.A** enquired as to whether Iona will be included in the multi-journey ticket books
- **N.G** stated that this would be discussed with CalMac.
- **M-J.D** stated that none of the extra sailings, beginning in April, tie up with the buses.
- **N.G** stated that he is aware of that problem.
- **M-J.D** stated that it feels like the extra sailings have been designed for those who can drive only, and those who can't and rely on the buses have been disregarded.
- **N.G** reported that he has raised this issue at several meetings.
- **N.G** requested that a member of M.C.C liaise with a member of the Ferry Committee to try and resolve the matter.

MULL & IONA SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT – Rebecca Lewis

- Mull and Iona Sustainable Transport (M.I.S.T) is working towards creating a sustainable transport network for Mull.
- They are currently funded by the Climate Challenge Fund and will be until March 2016.

Electric vehicles

- M.I.S.T are promoting the use of electric vehicles and have recently purchased a Nissan Leaf and Citroen Berlingo all-electric van through the initiative.

- Free test drives of these vehicles are available through a booking system.
- Training in fuel efficient driving is also available.
- There are a network of 7 charge points across Mull. Ledaig carpark and Fionnphort have rapid charge points installed which can fully charge a vehicle in 30 minutes. These are not yet switched on.
- M.I.S.T is also looking to increase awareness of businesses and individuals of government grants and funding available for 'going electric'.

Lift Share Scheme

- M.I.S.T are also producing a Lift-Share Scheme for Mull.
- The aim of which is to reduce the amount single occupancy journeys.
- There is currently a Facebook page for the Lift-Share which is proving very successful. It is a closed group for Mull and Iona residents aged 18 and over.
- **C.M** reported that he was involved with a similar project which was very successful and offered **R.L** the business plan to look at for ideas.
- **M-J.D** reported that she had worked with **R.L** to see about getting a parking spot allocated in Tobermory near the Co-op specifically for the elderly and disabled residents using Lift-Share.

Q&A

- **F.B** enquired if owners of electric vehicles can charge them at home.
- **B.M** reported that the government will supply a £750 grant to install a charge point in the home. It costs approximately £2.40 to fully charge from home.
- The charge points elsewhere are currently free to use.
- **C.M** raised concern that introducing electric vehicles to Mull will have a severe impact on the islands garages and in turn the whole economy.
- **A.C** stated that between the introduction of R.E.T and electric vehicles, local garages and businesses stand to gain very little.
- **R.L** stated that she would contact other islands with an electric car network and find out what implications there have been for the local economy.
- **A.C** enquired as to who pays for the electricity used to feed the free charge points.
- **R.L** stated that Energy Trust and the government are subsidising the scheme.

ROAMING LIVESTOCK – Cameron Anson, Catriona Noble, Ian MacDougal

- **C.A** invited Fionnphort crofters Catriona Noble and Iain MacDougal to the meeting after being approached by a number of people regarding the amount of livestock droppings in and around the main street of Fionnphort and some damage to gardens due to animals grazing there.
- After thorough investigation it was found that Catriona Noble had the most up-to-date plans of common grazing boundaries in the Fionnphort area which she presented to M.C.C.
- The plans clearly show that the main street falls within the common grazing boundary and so the animals are free to roam there.

- **B.M** stated that, this being the case, the onus is on the home owner to ensure that their gardens are fenced off adequately etc.
- **F.B** enquired as to whether pigs fall into the 'livestock' category or whether it was just sheep and cattle.
- **F.B** reported that there are pigs grazing at the side of the road near Pennyghael.
- **M-J.D** stated that as far as she was aware, an animal kept by the crofter comes under the 'livestock' category but that she will look into it further.

UPDATE FROM COMAR – Dawn Reade, Alistair MacCrone

- Dawn Reade and Alistair MacCrone from Comar attended meeting to give brief update on the position of the business to date.
- **D.R** and 4 other members from the shadow board joined with the transition board to find an alternative to the proposed redundancies and a way of ensuring financial stability.
- On the 24th November, after a considerable amount of work and time, the shadow board were able to have the redundancies lifted.
- Alistair MacCrone is now the chief executive.
- A paid membership scheme has been set up. Currently there are 140 members paying £30 per annum.
- The members have elected a board of 4 people, with room for a further 4 in the future.
- The membership scheme is open and on-going.
- Comar are looking to attract as many members as possible to strengthen support for the business.
- Once the new regime has had time to settle, they will then look at establishing a permanent structure.
- **A.Mc** commended the community for the tremendous support and input it gave throughout the process.
- **A.Mc** reported that Creative Scotland continue to be supportive

NHS – Fiona Brown

- **F.B** stated that Scottish Ambulance Service has now delivered version 12 of their report since the options appraisal in June 2015.
- No progress made as they are still proposing the status quo & G.P car out of hours.
- M.C.C voted unanimously that they could no longer support the hub & spoke health care design as ambulance service upgrade was not implemented. This was regarded as very high risk to patients out of hours.

COUNCILLORS REPORTS – Mary-Jean Devon

Child Minding

- **M-J.D** reported that there are groups of mothers from Mull who are in great need of a childminding service.
- At the moment this is an impossibility because of the lack of facilities.
- **M-J.D** has suggested looking at each village and gauge what it can offer. If each village offered its facilities for a day or 2 a week, the problem may be solved.
- To be continued.

Bed-blocking at Bowman Court

- **M-J.D** reported that there is still an issue of bed-blocking at Bowman Court.
- Patients are continuing to wait vast amounts of time for a bed.
- There are able bodied patients at Bowman Court and so a stepping stone facility is required to get patients home after their stay, ensuring that beds are given to those who are of greater need.

Christmas Shows

- M-J.D had attended the school Christmas Shows at Ulva, Tobermory, Dervaig and Lochdon.
- She commended the local schools for their brilliant performances and talent.

A.O.B

Salen Public Toilets

- **A.C** reported that he has tried to get in touch with Tom Murphy several times through his secretary but has so far been unsuccessful.
- **M-J.D** stated that a meeting is to be held with Tom Murphy on 13th January.
- Hopefully it will become clear why there has been such a hold up.
- **A.C** reported that the toilets septic tank may need replaced. A costing is required.
- **M-J.D** expressed concern that if the septic tank needs replaced, the toilets may be permanently shut down to save footing the bill.
- **M-J.D** will try to get a response from Tom Murphy's Team.

Speed signs and markings for Ulva Primary

- **K.R** reported that Ulva Primary are having difficulty in having speed measures instated outside the school. There have been discussions but progress has been slow.

- **M-J.D** stated that the school could have either have road markings or 20mph signs installed.
- **M-J.D** stated she would look into the matter.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING 09/02/16