

## Mull Community Council Meeting

14<sup>th</sup> June 2016, 7pm, An Roth, Craignure.

**Present:** Billy McClymont, Steve Willis, Fiona Brown, Rory Forrester, Jim Corbett, Jane Stevens, Allan Camerson, David Pollard, Cameron Anson, Willie Hume, Juliet Vines and Graham Alexander.

**In Attendance:** Acting Sergeant Jamie Toal, Councillor Mary-Jean Devon, Councillor Alastair MacDougall, Marion MacLean and Jenny Reddaway.

**Apologies:** Susan Campbell, Joanne MacDougall, Ronnie Campbell.

### MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Proposed: **DP**

Seconded: **AC**

### MATTERS ARISING

- **SW** asked about progress with the removal of the abandoned car. **AM** advised that he had just received permission for its removal and this would be done whilst the meeting was in progress.

### WELCOME/INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS (BM/SW)

- **BM** welcomed new Community Councillors Juliet Vines and Willie Hume and returning Community Councillor Graham Alexander.

### POLICE REPORT

**Date of Report:** - 11/05/2016 – 13/6/2016. Temporary Sgt. Jamie Toal

Crimes/Offences that have occurred in community area since last meeting	For period 11/05/2016 – 13/06/2016 Total number of incidents recorded = 53  Crimes / Incidents of note:  • <u>LB30 – Tobermory area:</u>  29 incidents recorded, of note:
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- Child protection, noise complaint (private premises), Missing person, Road Traffic matter, positive drugs search on person, vandalism

- LB31 – Craignure area:

12 incidents recorded, of note:

- Concern for person, Road Traffic matter

- LB33 – Salen area:

8 incidents recorded, of note:

- Missing person, Road Traffic matter

- LB34 – Bunessan area:

7 incidents recorded, of note:

- Road Traffic matter, public nuisance

<p>Updates on any actions from previous meetings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Confirmation from Brian Rattray (Technical Officer, Argyll &amp; Bute Council) that he has been to Killiechronan and spoke with Liz Henderson regards 'Horse and Rider' signs. These are a cost of £1000, and a request for funds has been made from the Road Safety budget.</li> <li>- Speed checks have been carried out at identified areas, including Lochdon.</li></ul>
<p>Incidents of note or crime trends</p>	<p>Divisional priorities remain as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Public Protection</li><li>- Serious Crime &amp; Terrorism</li><li>- Violence, Disorder &amp; Antisocial behaviour</li><li>- Road Policing</li></ul>
<p>Forthcoming events</p>	

- **JT** said the main concern was the supplying of alcohol to underage teenagers and the Police were aware of three adult males allegedly doing this. **JT** had spoken to one male and all officers would be watching out for anyone supplying youngsters with alcohol. Two drinking dens (at Baliscate and in Aros Park) had been cleared. **JS** was concerned that people were discussing this on Facebook and not necessarily reporting incidents to the Police. **JT** advised he had spoken with one parent over the situation and anyone concerned should call 101 and details would be sent to officers on duty. Facebook did serve a purpose in reaching out to other parents but the Police should always be notified.
- **RF** asked about the breakdown of road traffic incidents between locals and visitors. **JT** advised that this were mainly visitors with a few locals. Of the two missing persons, one was a visitor and one local and the public nuisance was caused by a visitor.
- **MJD** thanked **JT** and his colleagues for following up on many lines.
- **MJD** also advised **JT** that the plaque missing from the sports field in remembrance of Kenny MacIntyre had been found.
- **JT** had spoken with Liz Henderson regarding the horse and rider signs and £1000 for two signs would be made available from the Road Safety budget.
- **JT** advised the Police were carrying out speed checks as much as possible. Following the complaint about speeding in Lochdon, a check had been made and only one driver was exceeding the 20mph limit by the school.
- **BM** asked about the incident with the coach near Pennyghael that blocked the road for some four hours. **JT** advised that the Police were responsible for ensuring that the buses and ferries were informed and to act to minimize the risk. **FB** said that the buses were very good but many residents and visitors were not able to progress until the specialist recovery vehicles came from Oban. **MJD** considered that this incident highlighted the lack of resources with only one Police officer and the local fire brigade helping control the situation. **JT** agreed that effectively the islands were one officer down but stressed that there were three secondments over the summer.
- **JT** reported that Lt. Commander Higgins of HMS Shoreham had written to thank the Police and the people of Tobermory for their support and excellent hospitality during the ship's recent visit. (Lt. Commander Higgins' letter is attached at Annex 1.

#### **PRESENTATION BY MARION MACLEAN (THA) – AROS PARK WATERFRONT**

- **MM** thanked Community Councillors for inviting her to come and talk about the THA's plans for the development of the Aros Waterfront.
- The THA has been in discussions with FCS with regard to enhancing Aros Park's pier and derelict buildings.
- The THA has received funding for a structural survey of the derelict buildings and an independent economic assessment of the business plan.
- Plan falls into three main areas: waterfront development; historic buildings restoration and outdoor forest adventure park activity.
- The waterfront development included the restoration of the old pier and slipway and refurbishment of the boathouse; a water taxi service from the pontoons to the pier; a shellfish hatchery with tours and a water sports facility with sailing school and boat, etc., hire.
- The old sawmill would be restored into a heritage centre, possibly with a cafe for sub lease and it was hoped to restore the old watermill as part of hydro scheme. Other opportunities might include bunkhouse style accommodation and a shellfish hatchery with tours.

- The adventure park could include a playground, “Go-Ape” type attraction, tree-top trail and orienteering trails.
- **MM** explained that most of the activities and services would be franchised out but the THA intended to run the water taxi and other water based facilities.
- **MM** reported that, with over 100 replies to the online questionnaire 98% had been positive. **RF** considered it would be very beneficial to Tobermory.
- **WH** queried whether the Forestry would be concerned about the additional traffic these attractions would generate? **MM** advised that this had been discussed with FCS and they were satisfied with the traffic pressure although more passing places might be required.
- **JV** queried the hatchery project as this would surely be commercial. **MM** agreed that this proposal was possibly outside the general list but it had been included at the Aquarium’s request.
- **MM** thanked Community Councillors and appreciated their general positive responses.
- **DP** asked whether the proposal for the hydro scheme had been mentioned to Garmony Hydro and offered to pass one a leaflet describing the scheme to them.

#### **JET PATCHER (BM)**

- **MJD** reported that the organisers of the Mull Cycloportive had been very grateful for and impressed with the work done by the jet patcher. **MJD** advised that we now have a member of the island staff trained to use the machine and he had done very well.
- **WH** reported that the Ardtun road was done barring two spurs and Uisgen had also been completed; Fidden to Knockvologan was still to be undertaken.
- **JC** said that the Lochbuie road was very good barring a section about halfway along the length that was picking up during the hot weather. **WH** said this would be resurfaced as would the Croggan road.

#### **DERVAIG TOILETS (BM)**

- **MJD** said she would support any Asset Transfer process that NWMCWC
- **DP** advised that the asset transfer process was lengthy and that NWMCWC were seeking Community Council support.
- **AC** suggested that the Community Council should ask NWMCWC for a guarantee that there would be public toilets and to provide plans for the longer term future.
- It was noted that there was.

#### **MOTOR HOME ISSUES (JS)**

- **JS**, supported by **JV**, expressed concerns about motor homes in terms of parking, spoiling scenic views and waste.
- Amongst the parking issues were: the Pharmacy had the two disabled parking spaces occupied by a motor home driven by a disabled driver preventing local disabled people using them; tour operators are unable to park their vehicles in the viewing areas along Salen Bay; bus lanes in Ledaig being blocked by motor homes and long motor homes overlapping pavements forcing pedestrians into the road.

- **GA**, a former motor home owner, advised that, for most motor homers, the cost of parking was one of the biggest problems. **GA** also said that people now perceived Mull as cheap with RET fares and largely free parking and suggested that Motor home monthly magazine, which has a vast circulation in the motor home community be invited to visit Mull and write an article; it was agreed that a letter would be sent to the Editor.
- **GA** also pointed out that some roads are not suitable for motor homes but that most would not park if there were signs stating no overnight camping.
- **JT** advised that the Police had very limited powers to deal with parking under Section 34 if the vehicle was located 15 yards off road. **JT** to email **MJD** on this and other issues concerning the Police.
- **RF** said that motor homes should not be allowed to stop overnight along the shore at Loch na Keal as it ruins the amenity of the area and suggested they should park in a designated site. **RF** suggested that, if necessary, we should try and get a by-law passed to enforce this.
- **CA** reported that Fionnphort was “mental” over the English half term holiday period.
- There might be a possibility of a small site near Tiroran.
- **MJD** reported that the Council would be repainting the disabled and other parking bay lines and would see if anything could be done about the bus lanes in Tobermory.
- All felt the island needed more sites for motor homers to stay with the associated facilities such as **CDPs** (chemical disposal points) and waste bins, etc. Hopefully the two Salen sites would be operational by next year.
- With regard to parking in passing places, **JC** pointed out that most single track roads have diamond- or square-shaped signs; the striped poles are unique to Mull and many have faded or fallen or been mowed down by the verge trimmer.
- **SW** considered that the Council should provide **CDP** points at Tobermory, Craignure and Fionnphort. **SW** to contact Scottish Water to enquire if the chemicals used in elsans affected septic tanks.
- **BM, JC** and **MJD** felt that it would not help if the island were too negative as visitors do support a lot of island businesses and jobs. Some concerns were expressed that many bring food with them to the island, whilst others advised that the Co-op and the Spar in Salen for example often had bare shelves.
- **SW** was to write to the estate owners to get their feedback. It was agreed that there should be a meeting and possibly a survey in the autumn to get feedback from the islands regarding issues.
- **AC** was concerned that, after three years of asking the Council to connect Salen toilets to the sewage treatment plant, there had been no progress. There was also an issue regarding the emptying of the septic tank which has not been done since the end of last season and, with additional use, is becoming smelly. **MJD** to get an update from Cllr Roddy McCuish as he said when he was over last he would look into it.

#### **OTTER PROBLEM (KILLIECHRONAN) (JS)**

- **JS** reported that a complaint had been received that camper van noise had disturbed an otter which then went away. Otters that are disturbed may be unable to feed themselves and three post-mortems had shown malnourished animals. The landowner had been asked by MOG if they could erect one of their signs explaining about otters and how to behave in

areas where they are around. The estate declined, pointing out that the location is only a temporary place.

- **SW** asked for details of the sign. **JS** advised that such signs are in place at Croggan, the hide and Loch na Keal.
- Agreed **SW** to write to Estate owner.

#### **UPDATES:**

Craignure Path. **SW** advised that the deadline for applying to the Tesco fund was too close as they required very detailed costings. The situation was not helped by a power cut that affected Norman Hickson's computer programs. It has been decided to go for the next round. NH has come up with another variation and a walk-through with **SW** was planned for the following week. **SW** reported that the area had a wealth of wildflowers and there was a suggestion to retain some of the wild area as well as creating a more formal space. **SW** advised grants were between £8000 and £12000.

Website. **SW** advised that Zac looks after the website and had added thumbnail pictures of Mull throughout the seasons. **SW** asked all to look at the website and bring back comments; **SW** felt more pictures would be welcome on the home page.

Mull Rally. **SW** had received the dates for the Mull Rally; these were Friday 14<sup>th</sup> October to Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> October.

Library Cuts. **SW** has written to Donald McVicar asking for details of the budget for space; Mr McVicar is away until Monday.

Hustings. **SW** advised **JS** to pay the full bill and this was agreed.

#### **COUNCILLORS' REPORTS**

##### Mary-Jean Devon

- **MJD** announced that the Trustees of the Waterfall fund had been appointed. There were ten members, most of who had been chosen on the traditional basis of upstanding members of the community but also included Brigadier John MacFarlane and Professor Drew Noble. The AGM will take place on 12<sup>th</sup> August 2016 and it was anticipated that meetings would take place three times a year, probably in October, February and June. Grants would be available for small and large projects and for business start-ups, plus grants for community assets. There would be a separate group overseeing Community Crisis grants.

##### Alastair McDougall

- **AM** had attended the opening of the National Trust shelter on Iona.
- **AM** reported on the Tioran Forest Community Ownership celebrations which had been very well attended and had been great for children.
- **AM**, speaking in his transport role and following the Coruisk discussion, advised that the Lord of the Isles was leaving Barra at 7am and returning at 5pm to do only one run to Mallaig.

- **DP** congratulated and thanked **AM** and Stewart MacDougal for achieving the removal of the abandoned car.

#### **AOB**

- **FB** advised that the health services review had been moved down to the locality planning group. This originally comprised Mull, Iona, Coll, Tiree and Colonsay but there is now a Mull and Iona group. **FB** said no progress had been made but we would keep fighting.
- **SW** referred to the number of caravans and trailers lying in the lorry park at Craignure and suggested if these were cleared it would provide more parking spaces. **SW** to write to Peter McLuckie at Oban.
- **MJD** reported that the cattle pens are leased to MICT but the land is now back with Chris James. **JC** said the NFU needed to make an arrangement with Chris James and he would raise it at the next NFU meeting.
- **BM**, referring to the traffic problems at Craignure with the additional ferries, felt that there were two issues: the lack of marshalling space and most importantly the fact that traffic from the south had to make a right turn into the marshalling area. There had been a plan to put in a roundabout at the Java turn; all traffic from the south would go up to the roundabout and turn so all ferry traffic would approach from the north. **JC** suggested that, as the Council owned the pier and collected the pier dues, those monies should be used to acquire additional land for car parking. **MJD** advised that the £978,000 from pier dues was used to fund works on all the Council-owned slips. It was suggested that MCC should approach Chris James regarding additional land. The RET group formed under the Ferry Committee were to be asked to come to a Community Council meeting and provide an update on the situation.
- **SW** asked if any Community Councillor was prepared to take on the Oban FM Communities slot and **GA** volunteered.
- **MJD** advised that a plaque had been ordered for the bench for Jessie MacQuarie and it would be located at Bowman Court.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING: July 12<sup>th</sup>, 7pm, An Roth.**

The meeting closed at 9.45pm.