

**Mull Community Council**

**14<sup>th</sup> March 2017, 7pm, An Roth, Craignure.**

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

**In Attendance:** Cllrs Mary-Jean Devon, Moray Finch and Jenny Reddaway.

**Apologies:** Joanne MacDougall, Susan Campbell, Rory Forrester, Ronnie Campbell, Cameron Anson, Cllr Alistair MacDougall and PC D Grierson.

**MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

Owing to a technological breakdown, the February Minutes could not be circulated in time for Community Councillors to consider them and therefore adoption was deferred until the meeting in April.

- SW expressed thanks to WH for putting the meeting's agenda together.

**MATTERS ARISING**

- JC advised that he had not found anywhere for the bins in Craignure but would continue looking.

**POLICE REPORT – 15/02/2017 – 14/03/2017- PC D Grierson**

Crimes/Offences that have occurred in community area since last meeting	For period 15/02/17 – 14/03/17. Total number of incidents recorded = 25  Crimes / Incidents of note: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <u>LB30 – Tobermory area:</u><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Attempted fraud, enquiries continue.</li></ul></li><li>• <u>LB31 – Craignure area:</u><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Theft of firewood, enquiries continue</li></ul></li><li>• <u>LB33 – Salen area:</u><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- No incidents of note</li></ul></li><li>• <u>LB34 – Bunessan area:</u><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Report of internet fraud, enquiries continue</li></ul></li></ul>
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Updates on any actions from previous meetings	
Incidents of note or crime trends	Divisional priorities remain as: <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>
Forthcoming events	

### RET QUESTIONNAIRE

- DP gave a Powerpoint presentation on the RET questionnaire responses. DP and JV had put together all the results from responses received; these had been circulated by email and some copies tabled. DP and JV were thanked for their work and particularly for the effort put into covering all the points noted for responses as this was a lengthy task.
- FB pointed out that the comparison information on vehicle types provided by Calmac was inaccurate because of the change from 5m to 6m for small camper vans and commercials and the change to 3.5 tons; BM pointed out that Calmac says that there were less small campervans but these now appeared in the cars category. It was estimated that the figure was 45,475 more vehicles.
- One of the key issues raised was the need to educate drivers unfamiliar with single track roads. BM referred to the camper van leaflets that were prepared with MICT last year; these have now been handed over to Visit Mull and Iona. BM reported that Calmac has produced a new leaflet. JC felt that people unfamiliar with single track roads had a different philosophy and tended to focus on vehicles in front rather than to remember to use their mirrors to check for following traffic. BM reported a difference in driving since the passing place signs had been restored and felt that the Community Council should press A&BC to continue with the replacement programme; SW to write to Stuart Watson about this.
- As ever, the state of the island's roads was a major concern; BM advised of someone who had not visited Mull for several years being "gobsmacked" that the road from Salen to Tobermory was still single track! BM thought that the jet patcher was required again and AC advised that the Kinloch road was being repaired. Major concerns were expressed about the amount of timber that would be extracted and hauled over the roads and MJD advised that A&BC will send bill to the appropriate people/businesses for the cost of repairs.
- A further infrastructure concern is that there were insufficient public toilets for the number of visitors, something that the Community Council had been raising for many years. BM advised that, if the toilets are to be renovated, they have to be brought up to the standards to comply with rules for disabled access. MF advised that, since 2012, MICT had failed to get funding for improved passing places and toilets as these were not perceived by those granting funding as attractive enough. JV asked if the results from the RET survey would help MICT with funding applications and MF advised that they could be referenced in any application, although FB wondered if the number of responses would be sufficient.
- Regarding viewpoints, as the responses had indicated that more off road viewing places were needed, MF reported that the situation had deteriorated since last season with

Hugh Boa unhappy with abuse of the one at Dervaig Hairpins and that the viewpoint would close.

- Concerns about funds for island infrastructure raised the question of whether the local elections offered an opportunity to raise the possibility of raising pier dues with additional funds going towards funding additional work. Whilst this is a matter for Transport Scotland, if A&BC would support the proposal, it might highlight the issue. MJD advised that Charles Reppke could only advise the Council, not other bodies; it was decided that MCC would write to MJD and AM regarding the Council seeking legal advice. Two options were suggested: firstly an increase in pier dues in the form of a tourist tax or visitors' tax or, secondly, an increase in the ticket price. MF pointed out that the Council could take the pier dues and the tourist tax and ring-fence the tourist tax for the islands. JC pointed out that this would be an indiscriminate charge and both DP and AC felt that any charge should be across the board. MJ advised that, when the concessionary fares went up to £1.30, there were many complaints. MJD was asked to find out whether this idea was feasible; if it is there needed to be a robust plan in place as to how to spend monies received. MF to forward details of options to BM
- DP agreed to drop the Calmac slides from the presentation prepare a short article for R&A with a link to the website.
- AC, referring to the imbalance for commercial vehicles, said the Government were supposed to be looking into this. It was agreed that SW would write again.

#### **DENTAL SERVICE**

- Following the meetings arranged by MJD, sheets of the petition were handed to MJD.
- Various scenarios were circulating regarding what is happening but FB pointed out that no firm plans existed at this time. One proposal was that the dental van would remain in Tobermory for the hygienist with a room being made available at the hospital or in Bunessan surgery and Dr Frank had indicated that he would be prepared to consider the latter. The dental van had not been decommissioned and it would be possible for it to visit Bunessan every six weeks and the van should last for another couple of years; the main problem was finding a dentist.
- MJD reported that there had been a lot of good feedback and she gave some examples of problems people from Iona would have if they had to travel to Tobermory for dental appointments. MJD suggested that the Minister should come to the island to learn about the problems.

#### **SALEN SURGERY**

- Regarding the possible re-location of Salen surgery to the hospital, JC advised that it would be welcomed by the people at Lochdon, Lochbuie, Croggan and Craignure as it would curtail their current 50 miles return trip to the Surgery or to collect medicines but he acknowledged that it would pose problems for those living further out on the west and north.
- AC felt strongly that if the Surgery were moved to the hospital it would be a further denigration of services.
- It was questioned whether there was capacity at the hospital for the Surgery, given that the present Surgery has two Doctors' rooms and one room for the nurses plus four additional rooms. Given the proposal to re-locate the Surgery and any possible dentist provision, it was questioned whether space was available at the hospital; it was also noted that, at Dunaros, there were six emergency beds and at Java, there are three.
- BM pointed out that this represented a major service change and public consultation must take place.
- A petition is available at Salen Surgery and in the Spar shop.
- MF understood AC's viewpoint that the present erosion of medical dental service would cause depopulation and agreed with him. MF also stated that any weakening of the hospital's current status could well see the undermining of the facility.

- MJD considered that Shona Robertson and Christina West should come over to Mull to find out for themselves the problems and the depth of feeling amongst residents.

#### **KNOCK BRIDGE**

- BM reported that a resident was unhappy with the decision to close Knock Bridge for a number of months. Subsequently a meeting took place with JC, MJD and Jim Smith and a plan has been put in place to ensure feedstuff can get to the two farms and the hatchery via Glen Seilister.

#### **LONG VEHICLE SIGNS**

- SW reported that he had not heard back from Stuart Watson at the time of the meeting so no progress made; SW to follow up. It was noted that Tiroran may erect signs of their own making. SW to chase up.

#### **UPDATES**

- FB advised of an interest in the mussel farm at Dererach and asked for a letter of support to be sent to the Planning Dept.
- FB also reported that Neighbourhood Notification had not been sent out for a planning application at Tiroran.
- SW reported that year round parking charges at Fionnphort will stand; the Community Council will write maintaining its objection to charges. Concern was expressed that coaches are not being charged.
- MF reported that, after three years of trying, things were happening in the attempt to make improvement for childcare. The Council has received a Gov't grant for a trial for pre-school cover in Tobermory for the whole year. During the holidays MICT is offering childcare on the same basis and has received a couple of grants towards the costs of this. A new nursery in Salen will be offering wraparound childcare.
- MF advised that a year ago, MICT had purchased the plot for this and now MICT had been successful in getting a grant towards the development of the light industrial park at Tobermory. The grant is for £1.6million which is the largest grant MICT has ever received. Total funding is £2.7million. JS asked when work would be starting and MF stated that a contract could be in place at the end of the year.
- MICT has been active in acquiring 200 hectares of Ardura forest along the lines of Tiroran and north-west Mull.
- Friends of Calgary Bay were concerned that the SSSI machair was not being managed properly and was suffering from overgrazing. The only solution was fencing but A&BC could not fund this. The site would only be closed to grazing for four months of the year during the flowering season.

#### **COUNCILLORS' REPORTS**

- MJD advised that big things were happening at Iona School with the extension for pre- 5 year olds being built.
- MJD advised that Lochdonhead school had won an award as part of National Book Day activities.
- MJD offered congratulations to Susie Carmichael on receiving top marks in the new "Into Headship" qualification.
- The new Ulva Ferry houses were nearly finished and applications were coming in.

#### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- BM asked that the Community Council write to the planning enforcement officer regarding the bus depot.

- JC reported that the MacPhail Monument at Ardura needed re-pointing and asked if the Community Council could apply to the Waterfall Fund for a grant to cover the cost; it was agreed JC would do this on behalf of the Community Council.
- AC pointed out the confusion regarding addresses in Salen. Ardmore Road consists of only six houses and the remainder are on Pier Road, though often it is said to be Ardmore Road. A sign was required for Pier Road and MJD agreed to action this.
- BM and SW thanked JV on behalf of the Community Council and the people of Mull for all the work she had put into the RET questionnaire and wished her all the best as she leaves the island.

The meeting closed at 9.25pm.