

MULL COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held at An Roth on Wednesday 1st August 2018

Present: Billy McClymont, Jim Corbett, Andrena Duffin, Adrian Stephens, Iain Campbell, Pam MacColl, Sarah Padley, Moira Westland, John Maughan, Lindsay MacDonald.

Apologies: Fiona Brown, Nancy Somerville, Ben Reade, Alexander Anderson, Josh Liddle, Susan Campbell.

In Attendance: Councillor Devon, Morven Gibson (SWM&ID), John Addy & Colin Morrison (NWMCWC)

Minutes of the meeting held on 4th July were proposed by I.C., seconded by P.M.

There were no matters arising

SWM&ID report.

Morven Gibson reported that the group is responsible for bringing development and employment for the area from Gribun to Iona. With the purchase of Tioran Forest they have already created two jobs. Felling is continuing in the forest with fencing planned for this year and replanting for next. The white tailed eagles' nest has been a popular attraction again.

5 or 6 Woodland Crofts, of 3.5ha each, have been delineated and there is good local interest especially from working age families. These are to be sited where there was an old village, a good area which will sustain the 80% tree planting each Croft will need. They will also come under the Crofters Commission.

SWMID currently lease half of the Columba Centre from HES and have aspirations to buy the building in the future. They sub-lease an office to Rural Housing Scotland and the exhibition area to South West Mull Makers.

There are also plans for the buyout of Martyrs' Rest Cafe and a feasibility study for a sea weed farm. They have lobbied A&B Council, for a number of years, to develop infrastructure in the Sound of Iona. At the moment the Council have commissioned a study to investigate borehole testing there and this is happening now.

B.M. suggested the Housing Association could help with housing.

M-J.D. congratulated Morven on the progress.

Ulva developments.

John Addy and Colin Morrison from NWMCWD gave a presentation on the ideas for the Island.

The main aim is to repopulate the Island to give sustainable benefits to the community. The population was 30 in 1990 and has now sunk to 5. It is hoped to have 15-20 people in 5 years, then 20-30 in 10.

There are 6 existing houses as well as Ulva House and Ardellum. These have been inspected and are structurally sound but need a good deal of updating. There are also bothies at Bernis and Craigaig.

A great deal of work is needed for the infrastructure. Slipways, piers and roads all need upgrading. The ferry is there but no barge for transporting larger items.

There are good opportunities for tourism development with the natural and cultural heritage and the MacQuarrie connection. The Australian MacQuarrie's have given a very generous donation.

Advice is being taken on a land management plan with short term measures in place to slow the decline. The grazing is to be leased for cattle to help control bracken. Ideas for starter units, crofting and leasing.

J.C. advised the units should be large enough to work economically.

There is to be a deer cull in the autumn as the present population of 400 is unsustainable.

J.C. said that SNH is to do a helicopter deer count for north Mull in the spring.

M-J.D. foresaw problems with access for building materials and hoped local builders would be used.

Moray Finch reported that an application had gone in for phase 2 at the pontoons including showers.

Brian Rattray from A & B Council had visited the site and had given advice on signage at the ferry area in order to maintain access to the pier and stop cars driving down and turning.

A plan for new parking facilities and a new pedestrian walkway has been drawn up.

Police Report

PC Sharon Carr reported that there had been 40 incidents dealt with in Tobermory, including 2 of vandalism, 1 assault, 1 drink driving and the rest mostly parking issues. Craignure had 10 incidents, Salen 7 and Bunessan 1. The majority were concerned with parking and road problems. Keith Tennant, Parking Supervisor for A&B Council had been contacted, he said there had been problems all over Argyll, mainly with camper vans. The Government Transport Bill to be enacted next year should address these problems. Also new parking proposals are being worked on for the Island.

PC Neil Thallon is to start work in Tobermory on the 27th August following the renovation of the police house. Also the police station is to be painted.

A discussion followed about parking, it has been decriminalised so police can only deal with it up to a point. A traffic warden is needed on the Island during the summer especially to monitor camper vans. They are not using the available campsites, also wild camping is becoming a problem because of lack of toilet facilities. More view points are needed so vans can pull off the road in safety.

The Craignure car park is a lifeline for the Island, not for tourists but space must be kept for lorries. Also more signage is needed for driving on single track roads.

Councillor's Report.

M-J.D. advised that the new Traffic Regulation Order Process (TRO) is a legislative one and contains a number of steps. Consultation with all stakeholders including blue light services, public transport, freight, local members etc. has begun. The TRO will be made public and objections considered. Once the TRO has been approved it is signed by the Head of Legal Services and re-advertised. It will be a lengthy process.

Ten members from the Danish Parliament will be hosted by M-J.D. on the Island for two days on the 28th August. Last year 30 Estonians were entertained and thoroughly enjoyed their visit. It is planned to set up the same type of entertainments with the Pipe Band etc.

AOB

It was suggested that A&B Council should be asked to check if their insurance would cover an accident concerning the unsafe Tobermory railings.

S.P. mentioned that there were several patches of Japanese knotweed on some verges. This is a notifiable weed and should be dealt with.

The meeting closed at 9.35pm

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 5th September at An Roth