

MULL COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held at An Roth on Wednesday 5th September

Present: Billy McClymont, Jim Corbett, Andrena Duffin, Adrian Stephens, Iain Campbell, Pam McColl, Sarah Padley, John Maughan, Fiona Brown, Josh Liddle.

Apologies: Moira Westland, Ben Reade, Susan Campbell, Alexander Anderson, Lindsay MacDonald, Councillor Devon.

In Attendance: PC Sharon Carr, PC Neil Thallon, Angus Williams.

Minutes of the meeting held on 1st August were proposed by I.C., seconded by J.C.

Matters Arising: Japanese Knotweed, Ian Elwes had been approached and reported that the Council are intending to spray where possible. Scottish Water are also aware of the problem.

S.P. agreed to write an article about the concerns and problems with the weed for Round and About. This is an extremely invasive plant, not good for the environment and can cause difficulties when selling a house if it is in the garden.

Police Report.

PC Sharon Carr introduced PC Neil Thallon who is now based in Tobermory, we now have the full compliment of police on the Island.

PC Thallon reported that their had been 74 calls for Mull & Iona last month, 39 in Tobermory, 8 in the Craignure area, 16 in Salen and 11 for the Ross & Iona. A couple of calls about assault, drunk driving and general drinking problems. Two cases of sudden death, a neighbourhood dispute and one wildlife crime that was dealt with.

Incidents of note: a few calls received re youths drinking and causing a nuisance at the Memorial Park, Tobermory. Night shift, when available will carry out patrols in that area.

Parking issues- Tobermory, it is still an issue that the Council need to address. Local police officers are aware and carry out patrols when they are available. They are liaising with A& B council who are sending parking attendants to carry out regular patrols and have the means to issue parking notices to those not adhering to regulations.

Incidents of fraud have been reported by the Clydesdale Bank in Tobermory/

Angus Williams from Tobermory Campsite spoke about the problems the Island is having coping with camper vans. There are 2 types of van, one built on a van chassis and the other, larger, built on a coach chassis. The smaller one is able to cope with most of the roads, however the larger one is not. Information should be given out to all drivers on how and where to drive on the Island.

M.F. noted that Calmac has recently agreed to distribute the advisory leaflet produced 3 years ago at all 3 ferry ports to Mull .

A.W. emphasised that we need to recognise that Campervans help the economy of the Island and should be encouraged to act responsibly. By next year there will be adequate facilities so the problem of dumping waste should be eliminated.

J.C. said that it seems possible that the proposed campsite and toilets at Lochbuie will not get planning permission. This is a problem as vans have been using the area for years with a detrimental effect on the environment. It was agreed that M.C.C. would write a letter in support.

P.M. raised concern over the damage to the environment of Wild camping and thought it would be a good idea to use social media to ask drivers to act responsibly. Also some of

the hire companies are advising people that Mull is a place where camping can be had for free.

It was agreed to look up these websites to see what can be done.

S.P. said we must have a positive attitude but remain firm to preserve our environment.

M.F. offered to form a subgroup of the Community Council along with Marketing Mull & Iona, MICT and the Ferry Committee to plan the way forward.

Car Parking: Tobermory/ Craignure/ Fionnphort

A meeting has been held to apply to the Rural Tourism Infrastructure Fund for upgrading Craignure and Fionnphort car park. The need for a lorry park at Craignure was stressed to the Council, however as this project for a car park is ready to go, it was thought best to go ahead and apply. There are 3 other projects to prepare for next year, including parking at Ulva Ferry, Tobermory railings and car park, also upgrading and increasing view points to avoid people stopping in passing places.

Calgary Toilets are also in desperate need of renovation and MICT is drawing up a plan to deal with that.

Salen addresses.

A letter was received from A&B Council requesting that they contact Royal Mail in order that 'Aros' be dropped and Salen substituted. The general opinion was that there could be confusion with Salen, Loch Sunart and that 'Aros' should remain in the address.

AOB

I.C. advised that he had been approached by a local business man to start up winter sailings to Kilchoan. As the crew work on a Sunday it was thought that it could be feasible without too much extra cost.

I.C. raised concerns that all vaccinations are now to be done in Bowman Court and not locally. This is a cause for concern and a backward step for health care. It could be a great problem for young families as well as pensioners to travel with no relevant bus services.

N.S. advised that Oban has taken steps to become a plastic free town, there should be a possibility that Mull could follow suit. To be on the Agenda for the next meeting

M.F. said that a new Project Manager had been appointed to improve recycling for the Council. Also that waste from beach cleans cannot be placed into existing recycling due to sand and salt contamination. He suggested by co-ordinating beach cleans around the Island the waste could be collected by a bulk lorry for specialised recycling rather than going to landfill.

J.C. said fish boxes had been set out along the beach at Lochbuie and were being regularly filled.

J.L. and others raised concerns about the tree cutting along the verges. It was appreciated that the Council had done it, but not the way it was done.

A request has been received from Marine Biopolymers Ltd. to support kelp dredging commercially, this was totally opposed by all and a letter has been written to them expressing our concerns.

Ben Reade has resigned from the Community Council.

The meeting closed at 9pm. The next meeting will be on Wednesday 3rd October.