

MULL COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held at An Roth on Wednesday 16th January.

Present: Billy McClymont, Jim Corbett, Andrena Duffin, Josh Liddle, Iain Campbell, John Maughan, Fiona Brown, Lindsay MacDonald, Sarah Padley, Pam MacColl, Susan Campbell.

Apologies: Moira Westland, Adrian Stephens, Nancy Somerville, Alexander Anderson.

In Attendance: Moray Finch, PC Neil Thallon, Marie Robertson, Neal Goldsmith and Joe Reade from the Ferry Committee.

Minutes of the meeting held on the 5th December were proposed by Iain Campbell, seconded by Susan Campbell.

Matters Arising: F.B. had a request from Mr Smith, Ardalanish, that the road to the Weaving Mill should not be listed as unsuitable for Campervans and no sign should be erected.

A.D. reported that suitable signs had not yet been identified. She was awaiting a reply from A&B Council.

Police Report.

PC Neil Thallon reported that it had been a quiet month with 43 calls in total. 27 calls in North Mull including domestic incidents, road traffic incidents, concern calls. There were 4 crimes recorded including vandalism, assault and driving without insurance. 6 calls for Craignure, none of note and no crimes. 6 calls for Salen, none of note. 4 calls for the Ross, again none of note.

B.M. commented that it was good that the holidays had passed with no problems. PC N.T. added that the New Year celebrations in Tobermory had passed with no incidents.

Ferry Committee.

Neal Goldsmith, ex Chairman of the Committee (Elizabeth Ferguson, the current Chair, was off the Island) said the Committee was a constituted body, set up to deal directly with Transport Scotland, Argyll & Bute Council, Calmac and CMAL on behalf of the Island. There were 20 members representing businesses on the Island (hauliers, farmers, fishermen, tourism, ferry users and 2 members of the Community Council) They meet 6 times a year. B.M. had attended the last meeting on the 9th January, with the important issues facing the Island about the development of a new pier and ferry service it is important that we are in total agreement about the needs of the Island. It had been a very productive meeting.

Joe Reade said the Committee had been working for a long time to get an Island focused service, i.e. an early and late boat to enable a full working day in Oban. The difficulty is that it would necessitate the boat overnighing in Craignure and the pier is not entirely suitable until work has been carried out. A&B Council have been aware of the state of the pier since 2012 and have done nothing, it has now reached crisis point. Two reports were commissioned by them which led to the STAG report. This year we will have the Isle of Mull and the Coruisk, next year, 2020, it will be the I. of M. and the Hebrides. Therefore the pier must be made suitable for the larger vessel.

B.M. noted that it was not only the Council's fault, Calmac should have considered how the plan was to be implemented. He stressed that an interim solution from the STAG report must be chosen and that MCC had unanimously decided that none of the final options were suitable for Craignure or the infrastructure of the Island.

The Ferry Committee and MCC will work together to lobby for a Roundhead or Dolphin to be fitted to the present pier as phase 1 of the redevelopment of the present site. This would enable boats to berth overnight and also cater for larger boats. Meanwhile we will put a plan forward for 3 smaller boats with a more frequent service. These objectives could be achieved at a much lower cost than the STAG plan.

M.J.D. has had requests for the Tobermory, Coll, Tiree route to restart. She has had over 30 letters from Craignure residents concerned about the size of the proposed development. Also in this time of economic restraint people would resent the cost of a large development. We must write a joint

letter to all four bodies making it clear that an interim solution is needed and reject the STAG's long term solutions as too large and would have a detrimental effect on the community life of our Island.

N.G. talked about the £10 cancellation fee. This was to deter block booking by businesses however this was proving difficult to enforce as the booking system needs to be brought up to date. Cancellation needs to be 24 hours before sailing but this is proving difficult for small businesses. S.P. said that as a small business they made use of the Lochaline ferry as it was more user friendly..

B.M. thanked the Ferry Committee for their hard work and said Calmac was in danger of becoming the Ryan Air of the seas!

Campervan Leaflet.

M.F. said the leaflet and the new map showing suitable roads for Campervans was almost complete. The Calgary site had proved a problem but it was agreed it should be for tents only as there are not full facilities. The map and leaflet will be paid for by Marketing Mull and given out by Calmac on all 3 ferries also it will be put on websites for Campervans as well as the media and places where Campervans are hired.

J.R. said N.G. had persuaded Calmac that there was also need for car drivers to be given a leaflet

Councillor's report.

M.J.D. reported that because of budget cuts less music was to be taught in schools. This was worrying as music is of such benefit to pupils. Tobermory School Pipe Band is a shining example. Other cuts will effect Customer Services in the Council Office. They are also cutting services in other islands which is a mistake as these places are where the services are most needed.

It was agreed to write letters objecting to both these cuts.

There is to be a Boundary Commission review in the spring.

TRO.

An inconclusive letter from Michael Matheson had been received in response to our letter, it did not answer any of our points.

A.S. had received details of the result of parking charges in Oban which had not generated as much as expected. The cost of installing meters and employing a warden on the Island would most likely have the same result as in Oban.

M.F. said that the pay park in Fionnphort had only 13% occupancy.

AOB

The railings are scheduled to be done up as part of the flood defence for Tobermory but no dates have been given.

M.F. said the Council were coming to identify sites where they could provide free Child Care as promised by the Government. There are difficulties over funding and MICT plans for a new building have been sidelined. At the moment there is not enough space in the pre school units.

Marie Robertson has agreed to join the MCC.

The meeting closed at 10pm

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 6th February