

MULL COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held at An Roth on Wednesday 6th February.

Present: Billy McClymont, Andrena Duffin, Adrian Stephens, Josh Liddle Iain Campbell, John Maughan, Fiona Brown, Lindsay MacDonald, Susan Campbell, Nancy Somerville

Apologies: Moira Westland, Alexander Anderson, Sarah Padley, Jim Corbett, Pam MacColl.

In Attendance: Councillor Devon, Moray Finch, Norman Hickson.

A proposal to alter the Minutes of the meeting held on the 16th of January was received from Joe Reade of the Ferry Committee. This was not accepted and the Minutes were deemed true and accurate by the Council. The Minutes were then proposed by Josh Liddle and seconded by Lindsay MacDonald.

Matters Arising: as agreed a letter had been sent to Argyll & Bute Council complaining about the lack of maintenance to the Craignure Pier resulting in the inability to berth a boat on the South side and the dire state of fendering. Their reply stated that now that the STAG report had been completed a new project is under consideration. A meeting with the Council and Transport Scotland

has been arranged for the 28th March. Meanwhile we will arrange meetings in various parts of the Island to listen to the community's views on the number and size of the new ferries and the development of new facilities at Craignure. The CC expressed a view that 3 smaller ferries would suit the needs and infrastructure of the Island. Our Mission Statement and the dates and venues of the meetings would be placed on Everything Mull.

The Campervan leaflet is ready to go however there could be a problem with getting it handed out on the Kilchoan and Lochaline ferries as the crew have a lot to do.

TRO. An unhelpful letter had been received from Michael Matheson in reply to our letter about parking charges, so a second letter had been sent to Paul Wheelhouse, the Minister responsible and had been noted. The Iona Community Council had written a very detailed letter to A&B Council and we have sent a letter in support.

M.J.D. said that the draft report was now out and she would let us know when it would be discussed at the Council. It was agreed that anyone who was free should go to the meeting and if possible state our objections.

I.C. noted that the money raised from parking charges could be illegal as A&BC had not gone through the due process.

B.M. said we should take it to the Ombudsman if we are not listened to.

A.D. had attended a meeting with 2 Govt. officials, 2 members of the Council of the Isles and 2 reps. from Strathclyde University legal dept. who had offered their help and support in opposing the parking charges.

Police report

PC Dominic Grierson was called out so sent in the report.

In North Mull there had been 19 calls mainly weather related traffic matters and 1 crime recorded. Craignure had 4 calls, none of note. Salen had 10 calls, again mainly weather related and 2 crimes recorded. The Ross had 4 calls, none of note and 1 crime recorded.

Craignure Committee

Norman Hickson, from the recently formed local committee, brought to our attention the significant changes the implementation of the STAG report would have on the village much to the concern of the majority of residents. They felt that no notice had been taken of the people who live and work around the bay. Progress needs to come but the needs of the village should not be overlooked, it must not become just a ferry port.

The new committee requested the support of the MCC they realise that Craignure is relatively small compared with the bigger picture but it is important for the residents.

B.M. asked what were their main concerns?

N.H. said none of the STAG options were suitable not only for Craignure but infrastructure of the whole Island, however it would have an immediate impact on the village. He felt that there had been a lack of understanding, they were happy to have Craignure as Gateway to Mull but it is still a residential village.

I.C. was worried about the scale of the proposal.

N.H. said that the scale and lack of understanding of the effect was worrying. We would be better off with smaller boats and try to keep the infrastructure of the village as it is by a development in the same place.

S.C. said the rest of the Island must think of the effect on Craignure.

M.J.D. reported that she had 40 letters of objections so the Council would revisit the options.

A.S. said that repair and regeneration were the responsibility of the Council. If there was a new pier the funding would probably come from elsewhere.

M.J.D. commented that the majority of people were worrying about the impact of the large ferries.

B.M. said we would extend our support to the new Committee and co-opt N.H. on to the CC.

M.F. offered that if MCC is not constituted to be able to apply for grants and to employ consultants that MICT could do this in support of MCC & the Craignure Committee.

Planning

A letter had been received complaining that a plot on a residential street in Lochdon had been advertised for sale with planning permission for 2 holiday houses.

M.J.D. advised that the planning permission can be revoked and then regranted for a main house. It was decided to write to Angus Gilmour, planning, to express our dismay that planning for holiday houses should be encouraged in a residential street.

Councillor's report.

A traffic counter has been requested for Craignure and is on the waiting list to be sited.

A meeting has been arranged between the MCC, Transport Scotland and A&B Council for the 28th March in An Roth at 10.45 am to discuss the STAG report.

Roy Pederson, author of 'Who will pay the Ferryman' will come to the next MCC meeting. He has made a study of the benefits of smaller ferries in Scandinavia and British Columbia.

M.J.D. had attended meetings about the budget cuts and was concerned the the Islands were to suffer most. Social work, Road Safety Unit, music tuition, Community learning model, street lighting, all are in danger. The budget is 8% down on last year. It is 40 million less than 7 years ago.

The Local Participation groups set up to meet once a month to meet with GPs and Patient Participation Groups to deliver a better service have been stopped, one group will serve Oban, Lorn & The Isles

A.O.B.

MF discussed the paper previously circulated. He noted that there is a lack of childcare on the island and that A&BC are working towards Government funded increase of 1,140 hours free childcare for pre-school children - previously 600hours. There is insufficient capacity at Tobermory and Salen to provide the additional childcare. The 1,140 hours would be offered over 38 weeks of term-time and 6 hours per day. MICT has been working for several years to assess the needs of the community on Mull and Iona. The conclusion is that there is a need for year round flexible wraparound care from early in the morning through to the evening which would allow parents to take on a full time position. MICT has worked closely with the Early Years department at A&BC and has developed a proposal for a brand new nursery at Aros Mains which would accommodate such a facility. The new nursery would work alongside the existing pre-school units at Tobermory and Salen and would meet the additional demand for the free childcare as well as the wraparound care - parents would pay just for anything over and above the 1,140 hours. However, there is concern that the council are restricted to delivering just the basic 1,140 hours and are unable to be involved in construction of the wraparound nursery. MF requested support from MCC to write to Cleland Sneddon (CEO of A&BC) seek a meeting with the Early Years Team and the Economic Development Team at the council as well as other potential funders of the nursery.

J.L. informed us that the toilets at Ulva Ferry had reopened..

The meeting closed at 9.10. The next meeting will be on Wednesday 6th March.