

MULL COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held at An Roth on Wednesday 3rd April

Present: Billy McClymont, Adrian Stephens, Andrena Duffin, Iain Campbell, Pamela McColl, Susan Campbell, Nancy Somerville, Fiona Brown, Lindsay MacDonald, John Maughan, Marie Robertson.

Apologies: Moira Westland, Josh Liddle, Jim Corbett, Sarah Padley, Councillor Devon.

In Attendance: Moray Finch, Joe Reade, Adrian Fitness, PC Kevin Bonar

Minutes of the meeting held on the 6th March were proposed by Pam MacColl and seconded by Nancy Somerville.

Matters arising: Joe Reade had ongoing concerns with the minutes of the January meeting which he and Neal Goldsmith had attended, they were minor issues but he was not happy that the Community Council had decided not to alter the minutes at his request at the February meeting. It was decided that in future the minutes would be circulated to all participants prior to being published in Round and About.

J.R. agreed that this was good practice and he would be happy to attend Community Council meetings on behalf of the Ferry Committee.

Report on the Meeting with A&B Council, Transport Scotland and Councillors.

Members of the MCC and the Ferry Committee had attended a meeting with A&B Council and Transport Scotland, chaired by Councillor McCuish, to discuss the STAG report.

B.M. was disappointed that the Council had not accepted the need for the interim measures put forward in the STAG report. The short term measures should not be overshadowed by the main report, they are two different things. We need repairs to the pier to enable boats to berth overnight to provide a commutable service for the Island.

I.C. said it was also disappointing that the Council claimed they did not know that some of the recent cancellations were due to the state of the pier rather than the weather.

A.D. said that they must know as the most recent letter from the Ferry Committee and the CC had been sent in January and it had also been reported in the Press.

J.R. said he was astounded that in the Council's conclusion to the report there was no mention of the interim measures needed. It needs to be separate from the STAG. Transport Scotland and the Council need to decide who will pay for the interim work.

B.M. said that option 1a, building on the site of the present pier had been added but this would necessitate building a slip which would mean we would have to accept the smaller Loch class boats during the renovation. His idea would be to build a new link span on the south side of the present pier.

J.R. said that the positive points were that they were considering the option of a pier on the same footprint as the present one and that Transport Scotland had a preference for smaller (70-80) boats and a more frequent service. The larger ferries were not scheduled to come to Mull but the new pier should be able to accommodate them if necessary.

I.C. said he was under the impression from the meeting that the larger developments had been ruled out. However it was agreed that we should continue to lobby against the large boats unsuitable for the infrastructure of the Island.

J.R. confirmed that A&B Council would consult an engineer about a second link span. The long term ideas were positive, it was the lack of planning for the short term option that was missing.

F.B. noted that if the present pier was upgraded there might not be need for a completely new one.

L. M. asked if Roy Pedersen had been consulted as his ideas seemed so sensible

J.R. told us the Ferry plan was up for renewal and there was a need to produce a coherent, well thought out detailed plan to put to CMAL, CalMac and the Council. He also said there were two reviews coming up, the Ferry review and RET. The Ferry Committee and the Community Council should keep in close contact and have a strong input to both.

There is to be another meeting with the Council, to include CMAL and CalMac, in 3 weeks time.

Proposed timetable.

J.R. advised us that after much consultation with the Ferry Committee and with the support of the Minister, Paul Wheelhouse, CalMac had produced a new timetable giving an early and late boat during the week in the winter. This came at the cost of weekend boats and revision of the daily timetable and was not proving popular so probably will not happen.

Transport Scotland had put extra money aside to provide this service.

Police Report

PC Kevin Bonar from Salen reported that there had been 35 calls in the Tobermory area, including one for shop lifting, also threatening and abusive behaviour, in total 10 crimes had been recorded. In the Craignure area 9 calls recorded, nothing of note and 1 crime. Salen had had 9 calls with nothing of note and no crimes. Only 5 calls in the Ross of Mull and Iona area, nothing of note. (So they are the winners for this month!)

MICT

M.F. updated us on the childcare project. This is to provide wrap around childcare for the Island. A meeting is to be held with the Education Dept. on the 18th April, also a meeting with Marie Todd, the Minister at the Scottish Govt. on the 5th May, looking for support.

A new Defibrillator has been sited at Fishnish, Scottish Sea Farms base.

A grant of £2000 has been received from Tesco 'Bags of help' for another one at Lochdon Primary School. This one will have a child key adapter so it can be used for infants.

An application has gone in to Scottish and Southern networks to fund a First Responder's Bag at Ulva Ferry and another Defibrillator cabinet to be sited at the Boathouse.

Good news regarding the Fionnphort to Creich Hall path, part of the Pilgrims Way to Craignure and eventually St Andrews. The grant has come in, thanks to Colin Young of SusTrans, £600,000 for the start of the path to be completed by the 28th June. There was some comment as to the cost. MICT have been working with Friends of Calgary Bay to put a bid in to the Land fund in order to take over the Toilets there.

Another major funding application is being prepared to fund a Visitors Centre at Ulva Ferry to be submitted in the middle of April. This will replace the present portacabin and will have toilets, showers, laundry, booking office for the tour boats, interpretation centre and two small bunk rooms. Work continues to oppose the parking charges (TRO), it looks as if it will come up at the Council area Committee meeting in June. The MCC and the ICC are working together with MICT to challenge the Council. A meeting with the Councillors is to be arranged. Councillors Devon and Lynch are backing us in a call for an Island Impact Assessment.

J.M. asked about the purchase of Ardura Forest, the application for funding is to be decided at the end of May.

Ambulance service.

F.B. had been asked by the community on the Ross of Mull to question the ambulance service over recent emergency response times, also to find out where the relief paramedic is stationed.

The Mull Locality Planning Group has been closed and is now part of a wider group in Oban.

B.M. said there was no information about the result of the advertisement for Doctors. Fergus Reade had made a short video for it and would be given a donation to go towards the school minibus. Alasdair Satchel had also advised, so a donation was given to him for his 'What we do in the winter' podcasts, which he gratefully acknowledged.

Community Council of the Islands.

Dr John Holliday, Convener of the Tiree CC had written to ask for support for the formation of a Council of the Islands in Argyll and Bute. This would give us the opportunity to form a united body to meet regularly to put the Islands' case to A&B Council. All agreed and contact will be made with Dr Holliday as to how it should be set up.

AOB

A request for a letter of support had been received from Glengorm Estate for their planning application to renovate the steadings in order to provide 5 affordable flats for rent. As there is a shortage of rental accommodation for locals and seasonal workers it was agreed to support it. A.S. asked that the donations to Fergus Reade and Alasdair Satchel could be minuted for proof for the account and that the donation to Roy Pedersen for his informative talk should also be noted. A.D. noted that some of the railings in Tobermory were being replaced and painted. It was only a partial job just for safety leaving the majority in their rusty state. The Facebook page has been set up as a notice board for the MCC. N.S. had not managed to set up the steering group to run Plastic Free Mull. It was suggested that a school might be able to take it on. J.M. the cairn at Pedlars Pool needed attention, it was suggested the Forestry could help. B.M. had noticed the Mary Macdonald memorial was needing attention. It was suggested the Mull Museum could be contacted to see what could be done. L.M. asked if we were involved in the campaign against neonicotineoids on the Island. B.M. said we had come out strongly against their use. The majority of the forestry groups on Mull were not using them and were looking for alternatives.

The meeting ended at 9pm. The next meeting will be on 1st May which will be the AGM.