

Mull Community Council Meeting

3rd June 2020, 7pm (Telephone Conference)

Present: Andrena Duffin, Billy McClymont, John Maughan, Susan Campbell, Fiona Brown, Jim Corbett, Pam McColl, Norman Hickson, Adrian Stephens, Moira Westland, Iain Campbell, Sue Hawkes, Sarah Padley, Duncan Swinbanks, Vic Linneman,

In attendance: Mary-Jean Devon, Kirsty Renton, Jane Martin, Moray Finch, Joe Reade, Reuben O'Connell, Colin Morrison, Wendy Reid, Morven Gibson

Police Report- P.C Kevin Boner

Beat 30 (Mull North):Total calls 10. Calls of note - 3 Calls related to alleged breach of Covid regulations. Crimes recorded 2.

Beat 31 (Craignure and surrounding):Total Calls 5. Calls of note -1 call relating to alleged breach of Covid Regulations. Crimes recorded 0.

Beat 33 (Salen and surrounding area):Total calls 10. Calls of note – 2 incidents relating to breach of Covid regulations. Crimes recorded 2.

Beat 34 (Ross of Mull & Iona): Total calls 9. Calls of note –3 calls relate to alleged breach of Covid regulations. Crimes Recorded 1

Problems with Holiday Lettings - Reuben O'Connell

R.O sent letter to MCC outlining concern for hospitality trade on Mull and increased negative impact that further restrictions with regards ferries etc. may bring to island economy. A.D Calmac is not changing policy until June 30th. J.R concern over how national guidance is interpreted locally and by Calmac. Trying to get clarity. R.O Cap on ferries could completely shut down tourism economy and effect entire community. Need to try to secure practical connection to islands which moves in step with government guidelines. A.D suggested that MCC should lobby and take the case forward to Calmac and Transport Scotland. M.F suggested that Ferry Committee takes forward. A.D suggested that MCC write to Michael Russell

Testing Machine for Mull – Moray Finch

M.F No confirmation from NHS whether or not they would be happy to operate machine on Mull. Sample, test and result process has a 24 hour turnaround. This would not be viable without testing machine on island. A.D Would Mull need to raise £35K to provide it. M.F Yes, though this is unlikely to be the problem. The biggest hurdle would be getting permission to have the machine installed and the staff available to operate it. V.L there are so many different scenarios that a testing machine could be used for and what would be deemed acceptable by NHS. All policy surrounding it will need to be fully discussed before any decisions are made. M.F to take forward to next stage.

Mull Rally- Letter from Duncan Brown

A.D asked members for opinions on whether or not rally should run this year. Concern was raised about vast numbers of people coming to the island when it is uncertain when a second wave of the virus may hit. A.D will write to Duncan to state that MCC have discussed matter. Final decision will be left to organisers.

Ulva Project – Wendy Reid

W.R Master Plan submitted to Argyll and Bute Council to lay out range of aspirations for developing island over next 5-10 years. The document covers housing, tourism, agriculture etc. and gives flexibility to do these things as and when opportunity arises. This is available to see on A&BC planning page. Looking to refurbish 6 properties on island. Looking to fund this through grants and loans. Rural and Island Housing Fund. Looking to refurbish Ulva House as heritage centre and self-catering accommodation and run workshops and projects. Working with Isle of Mull Oysters to see if it is possible to restart oyster farm on Ulva. Working with Primrose family on Gometra to refurbish second bothy on island. Looking to do long-term improvements to pier to improve capacity for fishing boats. Accepted onto governments Agri-environment program and will be farming cattle according to guidelines provided by Agri-environment scheme. S.H have A&BC made any commitment to maintenance of road between Killiechronan and Ulva? W.R had not heard anything to that effect. C.M keen to raise issue with council. W.R asked if MCC could assist with contacting council A.D How are materials going to be transported to Ulva W.R Working with Scottish Salmon Company who have so far been very helpful in transporting cattle to Ulva. Put offer in to purchase landing craft but it did not get to point of purchase due to complications with paperwork. C.M vessels are available for rent when needed. MCC commended all involved for fantastic progress and planning so far.

Donation to Volunteer Fund

A.D reported that Mull has been awarded £1550, A.D requested that money is donated to Mull Waterfall Fund to cover volunteer expenses. A.D asked A.S if it would be possible for community council to round figure up to £2000. A.S agreed that this is possible. A.S and B.M suggested donating the 'Keep Mull Moving' fund to the volunteer fund. All in agreement.

Councillors Report - Mary Jean Devon

Works will be carried out to extend landfill which will extend capacity until 2025. Limited capacity for fish waste, abattoir waste and builders plasterboard. Smaller businesses across the island are having difficulty researching funding available. Outer Hebrides chamber of commerce successfully established. M-J.D has written to 16 islands within inner isles proposing idea and consensus is very positive. A.D stated that M-J.D has full backing of MCC in setting up Chamber of Commerce for inner Hebrides. M-J.D attended Communities Board Meeting. Calmac will not be operating any summer timetable this year. Passenger capacity

will be greatly reduced. Approximately 14/15% of maximum capacity. Children travelling to and from school will be given priority. Calmac are measuring all boats in order to mark them out for social distancing. Still essential travel only on vessels. Calmac are following government guidelines when making decisions.

A.O.B

Concern raised by members regarding tourists travelling to the island. A.D will publish post on MCC Facebook page advising community to contact police with concerns. N.H enquired about status of pier redevelopment business plan. M-J.D and J.R confirmed that it is still moving but there have been considerable setbacks due to Covid-19. B.M enquired about meeting with Dr Jespersen and ICC. J.M Dr Jespersen and John Lloyd attended Iona Community Council meeting. Understood frustrations surrounding medical cover and took questions from members. Members generally satisfied by outline and looking forward to take over.