

MULL COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

2nd December 2020

(Via Zoom)

Present: Graham Alexander, Billy McClymont, Angus, John Maughan, Alasdair MacCrone, Adrian Stephens, Duncan Swinbanks, Tracy Mayo, Vic Linneman, Ian Campbell, Norman Hickson, Annie Hall, Pam MacColl, Mandy MacKerl, Angus Williams, Joe Prior, Moira Westland, Josh Liddle.

In Attendance: Stuart Willshire, Moray Finch, Julie Ward, Morven Gibson, Finlay MacDonald, Colin Morrison, Cameron MacLean

Apologies: Tom Nelson

MATTERS ARISING

Council Run Public Toilets

- M.F stated that he has not yet heard from M-J.D regarding potential funding to open public toilets on island through pandemic. Members of public are being forced to ask into people's homes to use their personal facilities and concern has been raised about safety.
- M.F couldn't afford incremental increase in costs for enhanced cleaning requirement.
- M.F would like to determine what these costs are and find out if it is possible to raise funds.
- M-J.D is not present at meeting and G.M will follow up matter with M-J.D.

MULL RALLY REPORT

- G.A has had correspondence from many individuals who compete in rally and has advised them that organisers of Mull rally have consultation period until 30th December, and has provided them with details of consultmullrally.org.
- R&A article was published, and it is important that the community is encouraged to respond to organisers.
- G.A would like to establish what deadline for information is.
- Cameron MacLean speaking on behalf of local team who are concerned with published proposal.
- The last rally had full entry and record time in the current format, and so local drivers are questioning the drive behind radical the changes.
- BM enquired as to what concerns have been raised by competitors.
- CM stated that the rally was always based on night time stages which made the event unique and is a selling point for competitors who have been coming for decades.
- IC stated that moving towards day time stages would have more of an impact on local traffic, trade, ferries as scheduling and road closures would be in place which other wise would not be.
- TM – Would like to see organisers from rally coming back into schools again to do safety discussions with children. This has not been done in recent years.
- JP Significant number of holiday accommodation providers have changed to Tuesday – Tuesday scheduling for the rally, 60 properties have been identified that are still Friday – Friday, meaning that their staff will have difficulty accessing property to carry out changeovers and cleaning, and new guests will not be able to get to property.

- 25 business owners will have to cancel bookings which have already been made, prior to proposed change.
- CM stated that this has a negative impact on island economy, especially since stages have been reduced from 3 -2 which means that competitors will also be spending less time on the rally.
- AC will contact Andy Jardine as meeting goes on and provide an update where possible.
- DH stated that he has spoken with Duncan Brown and was informed that organisers have no intention of consulting with competitors past or present about their opinions on the proposed changes.
- TM enquired as to what is the best way to communicate with event committee.
- AM stated that all members e-mail addresses are linked to the Facebook page.
- JM has been a regular competitor and started as a spectator, and due to the night time format was inspired to compete in a unique event. The current format fits well around local daily lives which makes economic sense.
- Stuart Wilshire - Current format works best for Mull, as roads are closed at times when local people, visitors, post vans are using the roads.
- GA enquired as to whether MCC should make direct contact with organisers to invite to next meeting and convey local concern.
- JP suggested that all opinions discussed at meeting should be conveyed.
- BM suggested that a separate meeting between organisers and competitors should be held.
- AW suggested holding meeting after the consultation so that all information and opinion is readily available.
- A.C stated that he has spoken with Andy Jardine and he is happy to join meeting tonight.
- A.J offered apologies to community council as this is not a platform for competitors to air grievances about changes.
- There have been enquiries made both on and off the island to see if there would be any opportunity for changes to be made to the format. Organisers have taken made proposals for suggested changes and are now consulting with community to see if these changes would be welcome.

MULL HEALTH UPDATE - DUNCAN SWINBANKS

- It is hoped but not confirmed that vaccine will be made available to front line medical staff in the next 2 weeks.
- Vaccine must be kept at minus 80 degrees, but once it has been transported it can be kept for 5 days in normal fridge. Distributed in batches of 1000.
- Argyll and Bute are seeing a surge of cases, though Mull has had no cases reported this week.
- Concern has been raised for period after New Year after surge was identified in US and Canada after Thanks Giving.
- DS asked that community council contribute ideas towards advising community on social distancing and safe conduct over the festive period.
- Mull Health has been involved in organising Santa visits. Santa will be visiting by travelling round the towns via road.

- Donations are being made towards providing transport and lights for occasion.

COVID -19 VACCINATION - VIC LINNEMAN

- Long standing concern that vaccination priorities have been decided remotely. V.L raised concern for vulnerable teachers will not be priorities when vaccine is rolled out.
- VL requested support from MCC on matter, to help represent vulnerable teaching staff.
- IC has written to Scottish government voicing the same concerns.
- JM suggested MCC write letter to same effect.
- MF suggested that the letter be addressed to Mike Russell.
- JM suggested that Vic write the letter as a former Dr and co-opted member of community council.
- VL happy to take forward.
- JP expressed concern that it may be seen that MCC are favouring one sector of a front line workforce, over another.
- All agreed that VL should write letter and circulate for further discussion.

PUBLIC COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS EVENTS

- There are so many positive Christmas enterprises going on throughout the island which is a real demonstration of community spirit and positivity.
- AM stated that the community has gone to great lengths to organise events which can be run safely and adhering to regulations

ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL BOUNDARY CHANGES

- Dr Holiday from Tiree joined meeting.
- It has been years since Tiree has had own councillor, though older members of the community do support having a councillor resident on Coll and Tiree.
- B.M stated that the Mull community see the value of having a resident community councillor.
- Dr Holiday stated that Argyll & Bute Council were to be consulting on the matter in November/ December 2020.
- A.M enquired as to what benefits there would be from having an island-based councillor.
- B.M replied that representation and interest from other ward 4 councillors has been very lacking in terms of input to Mull Community Council.
- Dr Holiday reported that visits to islands by councillors are rare and that the Tiree Community Council are dealing with councillor's work.
- Tiree would be keen to have own councillor, but are also interested in having the islands working together.
- GA asked councillors for opinion on how to move this forward in a constructive way.
- BM suggested making sure the community is aware of the consultation and encourage local people to contribute.
- TM suggested pointing out the implications of not having a community-based councillor without casting opinion.

- AS suggested reaching out to members of the community who are not active on social media and advertise on notice boards.
- MF suggested canvassing views of those not on social media and then reporting back.
- AM to take care of social media reporting.

SOUND OF IONA INFRASTRUCTURE - FINLAY MACDONALD AND MORVEN GIBSON

- Argyll and Bute Council Project.
- Issues with infrastructure as is.
- No overnight berth for ferry.
- Berthing at Iona pier is difficult.
- Intense community consultation was carried out and improved infrastructure from Fionnphort to Iona was high on priority.
- SWMID restarted Sound of Iona Harbours Committee made up of pier users from Fionnphort and Iona.
- Master planning exercise carried out in 2014.
- Difficult to get A&BC to engage and commit to making any changes and improvements necessary.
- 2017 harbours committee created paper sent to A&BC highlighting health and safety.
- Mike Russell arranged meeting where all stakeholders attended and agreed on where improvement on infrastructure was needed.
- Stakeholders also attended a meeting in Fionnphort.
- After which A&BC agreed to spend some of their Marine Asset budget to upgrade and redevelop piers on Fionnphort and Iona.
- For 2-3 there has been successful engagement with A&BC and Harbour committee have had input to design.
- Recent stage feasibility and planning, communication with A&BC has become slightly disconnected and so committee were not able to publicise with community in advance of the planning.
- Lots of correspondence with Stuart Clarke who has reassured that there will be plenty of time for community to get involved in consultation.
- Committee gathering information about stages to come.
- MG suggested that MCC invite Stuart Clarke to next meeting to discuss further.
- FM stated that plans that have been submitted contain comments from both Iona and Fionnphort.
- Sedimentation issue on Iona side which needs resolved and this will not be resolved until spring-time at earliest.
- As a result there are 2 separate applications, so as not to delay changes to Fionnphort side.
- Concern raised from residents in Fionnphort about change in view as result of structural change.
- Unfortunately A&BC have not provided photo montage in plans and so it is difficult to gauge size.
- FM has spoken to Stuart Clarke and he is looking into matter.
- FM stated that there has been no environmental impact survey carried out.

- Stuart Clarke has guaranteed that there will be a community consultation to allay any concerns raised.
- AS has heard concern raised about the movement of sand and sewage outputs in Fionnphort bay. Will these issues be addressed in an environmental impact study.
- FM can confirm that sedimentation will definitely be looked at.
- Although FM cannot confirm that sewage outlet will be covered, SEPA have made comment on plans with regards to Scottish Water.
- JW enquired as to whether the proposed extended breakwater arm would affect other pier users negatively.
- FM stated that it should not affect fishing boats etc. though smaller vessels such as kayaks will need to take greater care as visibility will be reduced, though it is expected that the ferry will sound it's horn as it enters or exits bay.
- JW enquired as to what the next stage in the process is.
- MG stated that committee are pushing Stuart Clarke for a clear forward process.
- JW stated concern that many members of the community might not know about plans and proposed changes.
- Stuart Clark to be invited to next meeting for discussion.

FERRY COMMITTEE UPDATE - JOE READE

- JR stated that Fionnphort - Iona service is the most unreliable in network.
- This impacts on Oban - Craignure service.
- New breakwater will have beneficial impact on wider network and safety of crew.
- Document on potential catamaran has been circulated to members and also advertised in Round & About.
- The main principle is finding a solution to address known user problems and is driven by feedback collected by community.
- Priorities are reliability, availability and frequency.
- The catamaran provides a solution to many of these problems.
- JR looking for broad view from community councillors, the objective being to persuade TS and Scottish Government to purchase. A strong and coherent voice from the community is paramount to this.
- The likelihood of success at this point is low at this point.
- FM stated the importance of getting information about the benefits of a catamaran out to the community and to is vital to succeeding. If not with this particular vessel, then perhaps another in the future.
- AS enquired as to whether catamaran has open or closed car deck.
- JR open at front and back with passenger accommodation at sides. This is essential for carrying dangerous goods.
- JM enquired as to whether there will be further community consultation.
- JR will ask same question to all representative groups on island for feedback.
- JR is looking for confirmation from MCC that vessel purchase should go ahead if possible.
- GA requested that MCC vote on matter;
- Proposed : IC Second: AM

- All in favour.
- BM stated that at last meeting with Calmac, it was suggested that the Glen Sannox might take up service, potentially providing a spare boat for Mull.
- It may be possible for Mull to redeploy our boat in the winter to the Islay route, and make use of M.V Hebridean Isles instead, which berths comfortably at Craignure Pier.
- JR from 2023, the MV Isle of Arran or Hebridean Isles could potentially be our year round ferry, though this is all speculation at present.
- BM suggested that an immediate solution to our problem would be to swap MV Isle of Mull with MV Hebridean Isles this year.
- FM stated that change of use was discussed with Calmac last week and they are to seriously review vessel deployment.
- NH suggested that we forward our preferred solution to Calmac.
- JR stated that the positives of having catamaran removes politics and difficulties of re-deploying vessels.

PENNYGHAEL SCHOOL HOUSE - MORAY FINCH

- MICT have received grant funding from the Scottish Land Fund to purchase Pennyghael Schoolhouse to become a year-round rental property for local community.
- MF offered vote of thanks to MCC for support on matter.

NORTH WEST MULL COMMUNITY WOODLAND - COLIN MORRISON

- CM enquired as to whether MCC would be happy for Tracy Mayo to become MCC representative on NWCW board.
- All in favour

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- PM enquired as to whether Fiona Boa could be invited as an advisor to MCC on local agricultural matters.
- All in favour

COMMUNICATION

- TM suggested that a general summary of action points should be made at the end of the meeting.
- MM expressed concern that community councillors do not get an opportunity to further discuss matters after meetings.
- AM we have open Facebook page but there is scope to create private Facebook group to take in discussions from Facebook page and the MCC meetings.
- TM expressed concern that it is unclear who correspondence should and shouldn't be sent to, and should co-opted members be receiving e-mails.
- GA gave clarity that MCC are now a fully constituted Community Council and are no longer allowed co-opted members. MCC can however have advisers.
- The e-mail chain simply involves all current members.
- AS has spreadsheet containing correspondence for all members and advisers and will circulate.
- AM happy to set this up.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

16TH January 2021

