

MULL COMMUNITY COUNCIL

6pm, 11th January 2021, via zoom

Present: Billy McClymont, (BM), John Maughan, Pam MacColl, Tom Nelson, Adrian Stephens, Tracy Mayo, Iain Campbell, Duncan Swinbanks, Jo Prior, Alasdair MacCrone, Norman Hickson, Vic Linneman, Mandy MacKerl, Angus Williams, Andrena Duffin,(AD),

In Attendance: Seonaidh MacKenzie (BBC ALBA), Joe Reade (Ferry Committee/FC), Mary-Jean Devon, Local Councillor, Ailsa Henderson, Colin Wilson, Moray Finch (Mull & Iona Community Trust/MICT), John Clayton, Robert Chalmers, (Youth Representative), Dot Stewart, Terry Hegarty, Dave Hopwood, Fred MacLean, Morar Honeyman, Finlay MacDonald , Morven Gibson,(Sound of Iona Harbours Committee/ SWMID), Cameron MacLean

Guests: Colin Wilson and Ailsa Henderson, Boundary Commissioners

Apologies: Jim Lynch, (Local Councillor) Dominic Grierson, (Local Police) Colin Morrison (Northwest Mull Community Woodland Company/NWMCWC), Josh Liddle, Marie Robertson

Minute Taker: Kirsty Renton

MCC BUSINESS

Minutes of last meeting

Proposed PM Second AS

Notification of resignations

- Graham Alexander has resigned, Mandy MacKerl has resigned as Secretary but remains a member of MCC .
- BM thanked them for putting themselves forward for the roles and for the hard work they did.

Appointment of new convenor and secretary

- M-JD requested that members propose new convenor: Billy McClymont was proposed by AS and seconded by TM
- BM requested that members propose new secretary: Andrena Duffin put herself forward and was seconded by TM.
- Andrena has been co-opted onto MCC for maximum period of 2 years.

Amendment to day of meeting to the 1st Wednesday of month

Proposed BM Second: AS

Argyll & Bute Council have been notified and the constitution has been changed.

ARGYLL & BUTE COUNCIL BOUNDARY CHANGES – Colin Wilson & Ailsa Henderson

- Local Government Scotland is main legal framework governing reviews.
- Within framework parity main factor of reviews.
- Reviews can move away from parity where special geographical circumstances apply.
- Island Scotland Act highlights importance of island communities and allows the use of 1- and 2-member wards in wards that contain inhabited islands.
- It also requires reviews to be carried out for all island council.
- Recent review was not been implemented by ministers in 2016 and councillor numbers have remained the same since 1999 and ward boundaries have not changed since 2007.
- Island Act requires review to take place.
- Within the review there will be focus on islands and are considering the flexibility to use single member island wards.
- Engaged with stake holders and area community planning groups and
- Consulted with A&BC in Autumn 2020.
- Public consultation closes 26th January.
- Aim to submit final recommendations in May 2021 so that they come into force at elections in May 2022
- A&BC stated concern over relative remoteness of certain island communities and difficulties of travel links.
- Also travel required for councillors covering a large area with large number of community councils.
- The also stated concern over expectation of local representation.
- This also applies to remote parts of the mainland.
- Drew up recommendations with consideration of A&B 4 administrative areas, community council and historic boundaries.
- Proposing 34 councillor solution, four 2-member wards, six 3-member wards and two 4-members wards.
- Reducing overall councillor numbers by 2.
- This includes 3 island-only wards; Islay, Jura Colonsay; Mull, Iona Coll and Tiree; Isle of Bute
- Mainland wards boundaries have also been adapted due to population changes.
- To minimise disruption, no changes have been made to 5 of existing wards.
- M-JD stated that it would be preferred if the councillor representing community lived on island.
- Coll and Tiree would also prefer an island-based member.
- TN stated concern that is we limit ourselves to having an island resident as local councillor, we may not get the best candidate for the job.
- DS suggested having island-based members but also having a councillor who goes between all island communities.
- It is a legislative framework rather than a political one they have to follow.
- AH There is a capacity to merge smaller islands into larger island ward.
- AH It is essential that A&BC follow legislative framework when making changes like this.
- There would have to be enough members on these islands to make an umbrella ward.
- AH It is essential that A&BC follow legislative framework when making changes like this and legally deviate from parity.

- AS stated that it is essential that even if a candidate does not live on the island they should be tasked solely with representing the islands.
- M-JD stated that there is currently a requirement for candidate to live in administrative council area but not necessarily live in the ward.
- BM stated concern that in this case the representative may be even further removed from island life.
- Appropriate member of the community should be encouraged to put themselves forward to ensure strong representation.

POLICE REPORT – Dominic Grierson

- **Total Calls** – 40
- **North Mull** – 14 calls, 2 crimes recorded
- **Craignure and Surrounding** – 5 calls, no crimes recorded
- **Salen and surrounding** – 10 calls, 2 crimes recorded
- **Ross of Mull and Iona** – 11 calls, 1 crime recorded
- No actions to update from previous meetings
- Increased calls relating to allegations of Covid-19 noncompliance.

MULL CRISIS MANAGEMENT – Vic Linneman & Duncan Swinbanks

- Immunisation program has begun in Craignure hospital.
- Most frontline staff have been vaccinated already and a few highly vulnerable individuals.
- Waiting for Oxford vaccine to arrive, though it is still unclear when that will be after which the numbers of people being immunised numbers will begin to increase, though it is unknown how this will be co-ordinated at present.
- The solution will come when the vaccine can be distributed to GP surgeries.
- DS stated that as Mull is still in tier 3, we are missing out on tier 4 financial support, though Mull's economy has been severely impacted.
- Mark Strivens had suggested starting credit union on island.
- Mike Russell has contacted DS to say that this has been acknowledged and work is being done to fix the issue.
- The Mull Health website has had 125K visits from 110 countries including Yemen.
- DS stated that when crisis is over, MCM would like to hand website over to MCC. It could be used should another crisis arise.
- Problems with keeping stock levels high in Coop, and there are problems with the freezers. MCM have written letters to appropriate people.
- Increase in calls in covid-19 non-compliance.

COUNCILLORS REPORT – Mary-Jean Devon

- Working on welfare and hardship cases.
- Beginning to see financial impact of first lockdown .

- Budget meetings are taking up a considerable amount of time.
- SSE subcontracted out to OVO energy to install electricity meters in new build properties.
- OVO announced that they were not able to distribute to islands.
- Robin Currie has since sorted this but SSE are continuing to sub-contract to companies who are not necessarily staffed to distribute to islands.
- On Coll, the residents of over 100 houses have to queue up to a standing pipe to access water. There are only 80 houses on islands with mains water.
- Meeting planned on Wednesday 13th with Coll residents to discuss matter.
- AD highlighted that the foodbank is always available to struggling families and individuals.
- MJD stated that the foodbank is signposted and that the waterfall 'Hardship' fund has also been very supportive.
- MF enquired as to whether the incremental costs of public toilets are available as he has not had response from Jim Lynch.
- M-JD asked that MF to send her an e-mail on matter and she will follow up.
- IC has been contacted by family who had a family member admitted to hospital in Paisley prior to Christmas.
- When patient released from hospital, she was told by staff that she was responsible for booking ambulance on ferry.
- This is not the case.
- The family have asked IC to investigate situation to ensure it does not happen again.
- IC contacted ambulance service and Calmac who are both aware of correct procedure.
- M-JD asked IC to copy Joanna MacDonald (Chief Officer for NHS) into e-mail.
- BM suggested also contacting Wendy Quinn (Operational Director Scottish Ambulance Service).
- IC stated that this is where island is really missing Locality Planning Group.
- M-JD stated that they are always looking for new recruits to join Locality Planning Group.

PLANNING – Jo Prior

- 2 new properties in Craignure.
- 3 in Aros which are resubmissions.
- Pennygowan campsite asked for permission for camping pods.
- JP has spoken to planners about submission which may go against LDP and is waiting for response which she will feedback at next meeting.

BUDGET CUT MEETING

- 12 Individuals attended and wrote response to A&BC budget cut proposals.
- A&BC Impressed with calibre of answers.
- Attendees discussed; Trading Standards, cuts to children's panel, grass cutting and ditches, planning, cuts to plant nursery provisions, classroom Assistants and PSA's, Roads and infrastructure, clerical staff in schools, young people who have challenges in learning. Other things discussed included the introduction of a charge for shellfish movement documents.
- M-JD stated that many of the tourism businesses and other local trades are suffering badly.

- M-JD stated that there were no fishing boats at the pier and is concerned that the industry is suffering.
- BM suggested asking Fisherman's Association representative to attend MCC meeting to see if there is anything MCC can do to support them.
- AD mentioned Ian Blackford MP has been dealing with issues affecting the Scottish fishing industry.
- MG reported that all boats in Ross of Mull are still operating.

CORRESPONDENCE

- Letter received from organisers of Three Peaks race, looking for feedback and guidance on safety measure should the race take place. This will be circulated to all members.

AOB

MICT and Waterfall Fund Representatives.

- MCC representative on MICT board has resigned.
- MF invited members to put themselves forward to take up role.
- MCC representative is also needed on the Waterfall Fund.
- BM volunteered to represent at Waterfall Fund meetings.
- JM to speak to MF after meeting.

Notices

- NWMWCW AGM will be held on Sunday 24th January 4 pm
- SWMID AGM will be held on Monday 25th January 7 pm

Calmac Sailings

- JM received suggestion from member of public that Calmac re-enter restricted sailings similar to last lock down to reduce spread.
- JR stated that Calmac lockdown sailing numbers are down by 83% of normal years.
- Comparatively to the last lockdown these carryings are higher.
- JM stated that member of public had asked that MCC write to Paul Wheelhouse on matter.
- M-JD stated that she had raised the issue at a meeting she had attended today and leader of council has been speaking to TS.
- M-JD has asked that they compare passenger numbers to last lockdown.
- Findings will be reported back to M-JD.
- JP stated that it is important not to judge individuals who are shopping on the mainland, attending hospital appointments as it may be essential to them. Especially when financially it may be difficult to do grocery shopping in local shops.
- MCM is currently trying to work out solution in order to guide community.

Deer

- Concern has been raised about the number of deer freely roaming on roads and built up areas.

- It is up to each land owner to control them as well as they can.
- MF stated that landowners have an obligation to keep numbers at certain level.
- BM suggested writing to SNH and to Jim Corbett to come up with a solution to the problem.
- All in agreement.

B&B

- Morar Honeyman raised that new legislation surrounding B&B's are very complicated and costly for business owners.
- Same licensing and costs of £2401 apply to all B&Bs regardless of size which is crippling to small businesses.
- MH stated that B&B owners are urged to write to MP on matter and enquired as to whether MCC would be happy to support.
- JP stated that she has looked closely at matter and is happy to draft letter on behalf of MCC in support of B&B owners.

Mull Rally Response– Tracy Mayo

- MCC shared consultation link on Facebook page to widen audience.
- JP and TM collated all e-mails received in response and composed interim report which was approved by MCC and sent forward to Andy Jardine and Duncan Brown:

Dear Duncan/Andy

Mull Rally Consultation- Proposed Changes to the Mull Rally Route 2021

Further to the Completion of your Community Consultation, and your decision, that was communicated at the Mull Community Council on the 11th January stating that the organisers intend to follow the "traditional route" as per 2019, we wish you all the best with your preparations for the Mull Rally 2021.

As discussed, the Mull Community are not opposed to change per se, however, they would like to be consulted in more depth about any proposed changes so, that they have the necessary time to make any informed decisions and make any necessary adjustments.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for co-operating with us and giving us the opportunity to discuss the communities concerns directly with you. It was extremely helpful and productive.

Finally, The Mull Rally takes a great deal of preparation and planning and the Mull Community are grateful for all the hard work you and other volunteers undertake. There are long established Mull Rally relationships that the Mull Community greatly value, and it is their hope that, they continue to go from strength to strength.

All the best,

Tracy Mayo & Jo Prior

On behalf of The Mull Community Council

- After closing date for consultation e-mails were still sent.
- TM thanked Duncan Brown and Any Jardine for responses and for attendance to previous meetings which all parties found useful.
- It became apparent that the community was not opposed to change, but wanted an indication of what stage the consultation was at, who was consulted and a better understanding of process.
- Comments received from community were considered and well balanced.
- TM thanked Motorsport UK for helping TM understand how consultation process in motorsport work.
- Many long-established relations within rally and it is important that these are not damaged and that Mull Rally will continue to go from strength to strength;
- AW thanked JP and TM for their contribution and hard work throughout process.

iPad/tablet appeal

- MJD stated that over this lockdown period it was hoped to organise online coffee mornings and social gatherings for the older generations via Zoom. They are feeling a sense of isolation and need to be able to interact.
- MJD appealed to all present to donate any unwanted/unused iPads or tablets to help older generation stay connected with friends.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

- No questions

ACTION POINTS

- AD to write to SNH and Jim Corbett about deer crisis and look at re-establishing nappy service.
- DS to write to Coop and report back.
- M-JD to contact Jim Smith about figures for public toilets.
- IC to write to NHS and Ambulance service
- AS to circulate e-mail surrounding Three Peaks Race.
- JM to talk to Moray about MICT board
- JP to draft letter on behalf of B&B's
- AD to invite member of Fisherman's Association to next meeting

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- 3rd February 2021 at 7pm

