

Mull Community Council Meeting

3rd February, 7pm

(Via Zoom)

Present: Adrian Stephens, Billy McClymont, Andrena Duffin, Duncan Swinbanks, Joe Prior, John Maughan, Josh Liddle, Pam MacColl, Ian Campbell, Mandy MacKerl, Tom Nelson, Tracy Mayo, Norman Hickson, Colin Morrison.

In attendance: Mary-Jean Devon, Kirsty Renton, Dominic Grierson

Apologies: Moray Finch

Guest: Nick Turnbull (Fisherman's Association)

Minutes of Last Meeting

- Proposed: John Maughan
- Second: Adrian Stephens

Matters Arising

- AD spoke to Jim Corbett who stated that it is responsibility of land owner to take control of deer numbers.
- AD received letter from James Greig who has removed 4 from stretch of road outside Tobermory but that there is still group of deer who congregate near Linndhu House
- AD to contact deer management group to see if member of MCC can attend one of their meetings.
- Letter from Fiona Scott from Oban Times about A&BC not taking care of cemeteries
- AD responded that our council team do very well at maintaining even the most remote grave sites.
- I.C wrote to NHS highland, NHS greater Glasgow and Clyde, and SAS.
- Has received replies form SAS and NHS highland who were both apologetic and SAS offered apology to patient concerned which I.C has passed on. This apology has been accepted.
- TM, MF and MG met with Tom Murphy surrounding public toilets.
- They now have incremental upkeep costs and have a meeting arranged for Friday 5th.
- JP drafted letter on behalf of B&B services with regards proposed legislation.
- Scottish Parliament has now approved legislation
- JP to write letter to Scottish Parliament as costs are not proportionate.
- JM has agreed to represent MCC on MICT board.

Police Report – Dominic Grierson

- 32 calls across Mull and Iona
- Tobermory: 8 calls, 3 crimes, no incidents of note
- Craignure: 6 calls, no crime, no incidents of note
- Salen: 13 calls, No crimes or incidents of note
- Ross and Iona: 5 calls, no crimes, no incidents of note

Fisherman's Association – Nick Turnbull

- 90% Scottish Seafood goes to EU
- Seafood industry accounts for 57% Scotland's exports (Approx £1.2 Billion)
- Majority of Mull creel fishing fleet are still fishing.
- Prices have dropped due to Brexit and Covid
- Prawn fisherman have suffered the most.
- A number of buyers are not sending produce to Europe.
- Most of Mull prawn fishermen have managed to find alternative buyers which is positive.
- Paperwork appears to be one of the major problems due to translation and abundance.
- Scottish Government have now stepped in with £7.5 Million funding package for the fishing industry.
- NT suggested that MCC write to the UK Government and urge them to simplify the paperwork and digitalise the documentation which would remove confusion over issues such as ink colour and translations.
- It would also be helpful if 6-month transition period for could be introduced for exports, which UK government have put in place for imports.
- Until these issues are sorted, millions of pounds worth of seafood is being sent to landfill.
- Worst spell was in March 2020 when boats were not able to fish but within 2 weeks the Scottish Government offered every boat a funding package, and boats were able to go back to work in the summer months.
- There is lack of demand as the number of open restaurants is vastly diminished.
- JM asked NT what proportion of paperwork problems are generated in the UK.
- NT reported that it was larger on the EU side.
- AD enquired as to whether she should write to Minister of Fisheries.
- NT agreed. NT happy to help AD draft letter.

Crisis Management Report – Duncan Swinbanks

- Vaccine almost all 196 over age 80 have been vaccinated on island.
- Now beginning to vaccinate over age 70.

- At moment vaccinations are coming through, though there were questions surrounding when vaccinations would be delivered and how many will be made available to Mull at one time.
- This is causing concern and MCC may need to help MCM lobby to ensure that supplies are available.
- Patients will receive phone call from health team and asked if they would like the vaccination.
- If patient does not want the vaccine, it will be passed on to someone else.
- By phoning patients, an immediate answer is given and saves time.
- All people who have had vaccine have said that the local organisation and experience has been fantastic.
- IC asked how it is decided who is getting vaccination.
- DS stated that it was decided via geographical, medical priority, age range.
- A couple of individuals who were involved in the local delivery service visited the Co-op to check the availability of food.
- It has been reported that the range of food being provided is not diverse enough and that much of the freezer space is taken up by ice cream and junk food.
- These individuals are contacting co-op directly about this and to try and encourage them to supply larger packs of foods etc to make it more affordable for families.
- MCM are receiving representation from members of community who are struggling to make their budget work on what is available in local shops.
- AD stated that the local co-op is classed as a 'Convenience Store' which limits the range of food available and means that prices are higher. It was originally classed as a 'Super Market'.
- A basket check was carried out and it was found that smaller stores on the island were more affordable. The smaller stores prices were competitive with those of the coop with little difference between the totals for a basket of basic food items.
- BM asked MG how shopping is in the Ross
- MG has not had any representation surrounding it. Tesco have doubled number of click & collect slots.
- Community Transport are still delivering shop to those who can't get out and about.
- JM attended the MCM group meeting today to talk about the Western Isles Covid announcements. These announcements keep island communities informed as to how many cases there are on each island, and JM has had representation that many in the community of Mull would like to be involved.
- DS stated that MCM are all in agreement. M-JD has already written regarding this, but MCM will try again.
- AD to liaise with DS on matter.

Any Other Business

Plans for Craignure Pier

- BM asked members for feedback on Pier meeting from Monday 1st February.

- NH stated that Craignure Bay Community Group are currently compiling their response to the A&BC proposed plans.
- Meeting and response from MCC members and A&BC were very helpful.
- JM stated that the draft plan which has been put together by NH and CBCG was fantastic.
- TM reminded members that the consultation closes on 7th February.
- AD asked that AS compiles response to A&BC.
- AS agreed.
- DS suggested that if there is any opposition from A&BC, that MCC immediately contact Michael Russell.
- MG stated that there is no excuse for A&BC not to have held a public consultation via zoom.
- Other authorities are operated in this way.
- M-JD stated that she was very disappointed that Jim Smith did not attend the meeting.
- M-JD has raised concern that consultations for small communities are open for everyone to comment on and so the local community is not being heard.
- AD stated that she had attempted to contact Jim Smith several times prior to the meeting but he did not respond. He also did not put in his apologies.
- M-JD requested that AD write to the chief executive about this.
- JM suggested that MCC put pressure on A&BC to hold webinar/ live consultation.
- NH stated that his draft was only an illustration of a considered approach but should not be taken as a viable option.
- BM stated that the feedback from the community has demonstrated that all the proposed options, including the plans put forward by CBCG are not acceptable.
- DS suggested that it must be taken back to the beginning.
- There has been concern raised that throughout the consultation there is a labelled 'preferred option'.
- BM stated that A&BC have completed the purchase of land in Craignure which would allow for the 'preferred option' which is concerning.
- TN suggested MCC gets in touch with Minister for Transport stating that the situation is getting out of hand. There is no joined up thinking between the organisations involved, and so viable solution cannot be found.
- All in agreement.
- BM stated that the key element is finding out what type of vessel will be given to the route before the decision on the pier and infrastructure can be made.
- M-JD suggested inviting Paul Wheelhouse to a meeting to discuss vessel choices.
- AS has meeting with Paul Wheelhouse on the 9th March. Subject mater is the Island Communities Impact Assessment.
- AS will invite Paul Wheelhouse to next meeting.
- BM suggested that the letter AS is sending acts as a statement to show people where MCC is standing on the matter. TN happy to help draft letter.
- M-JD suggested a press release to outline community feeling.
- BM stated that it is essential that something is published locally, as the community have filled in the consultation but have had no feedback.
- AD stated that the Oban Times have been in touch looking for stories from Mull.
- All in agreement that this would be a good opportunity.

- BM suggested that MCC represents community at next CMILG meeting as there will be representatives from organisations involved.
- M-JD suggested inviting Councillor Colville, Chair of Harbour Board to next CMILG meeting.
- BM asked members for vote on whether consultation was a flawed document.
- All in agreement that it was flawed document.
- M-JD urged that MCC register vote of no confidence.
- M-JD read out letter which was composed ahead of the pier meeting on Monday night, outlining community feeling about A&BC consultation and purchase of land in Craignure.
- M-JD to send to relevant members for adding and editing and then circulated to members before it is sent out.
- Pippa Milne and Stewart Clarke will receive copy.

Forest Transport Fund

- JP has had representation from community regarding roads.
- There is an area near Crannich Farm which has been damaged primarily by timber lorries, and also an area near Loch Frisa.
- It is not always local authority responsibility to upkeep roads used by timber lorries.
- Funds to repair roads damaged by timber lorries can be obtained by applying to Forest Transport Fund
- JP asked for consent to conduct some investigation on getting roads repaired.
- MG to send JP information surrounding funding from Forest Transport Fund.
- All in agreement that JP should take forward issue.

Attendance to meetings and Consultations

- TM attended SWIMID and NWMWCW AGMs and was impressed by high attendance and very positive work being carried out throughout island especially given the current restrictions.
- Number of MCC members attended Scottish Transport Conference.
- Ferries plan was discussed, it is being updated and Michael Matheson MSP stated in terms of reliability we are as reliable as we can be given the age of the vessels. Continuing to improve resilience is important. Mentioned the importance in relation to depopulation. The right type of ferries and digital connectivity are needed.
- Gaelic Consultation closes on the 19th.
- Robin Currie will be holding online question and answer session.

School Transport

- M-JD stated that there is a family who resides in the Salen catchment area. Their child attended Sgoil-Àraich.
- Parents moved house prior to starting P1 and now their house is marginally closer to Bunessan Primary.
- They applied for placement in Salen Gaelic School which they were given, but as they have moved, Argyll & Bute Council state they are not eligible for school transport.
- The family have asked MCC to write letter in support of them being given place on school bus.

- All in agreement.
- AD to write letter.

Gritting

- JL reported that gritting route stops at Ulva Ferry turn off and so that road between school and Torloisk doesn't get gritted.
- JL enquired if MCC can do anything to have the route extended.
- M-J.D to look into matter.

Gleaner

- BM requested that AD write to Gleaner to ask that their pipe crossing at the road near the depot is repaired. It is falling into disrepair and is causing problems for cars.
- BM also suggested asking for their depot to be tidied up because it is a disgrace.

Bowman Court

- M-JD has had meeting with Joanna MacDonald surrounding making sure that Bowman Court remains as a progressive care service as it was always intended.
- This is excellent news as it will ensure that local elderly people can stay on the island instead of being sent to the mainland for care.

Action Points from this meeting

- AD to write to Ministry of Fisheries.
- JP to write to Scottish Parliament surrounding new legislation for B&Bs.
- AD to write letter requesting Covid announcements for Mull.
- AD to write to Chief Executive about lack of response from Jim Smith.
- AS to invite Paul Wheelhouse to next MCC meeting.
- AS and TN to draft letter about pier.
- JP to investigate Forest Road Fund.
- AD to write letter to School Transport.
- AD to write to Gleaner Oils

Date of Next Meeting

3rd March 2020

