

MULL COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on the 4th August by Zoom and live streamed on Facebook

Present; Tom Nelson, Adrian Stephens, Andrena Duffin, Iain Campbell, Jo Prior, Norman Hickson, Bill McClymont, Pam MacColl, Robbie Cameron, Moira Westland, John Maughan,

In Attendance; Cllr Devon, Moray Finch, Joe Reade.

Apologies; Angus Williams, Alasdair McCrone, Vic Linnemann.

Minutes of the meeting held on the 2nd June were approved by Jo Prior, seconded by Iain Campbell.

Correspondence; The Rally had been in contact with J.P. but no change in the rules and we are looking forward to it going ahead in October with the relevant precautions and guidance.

Police Report; no officers were present as they are now not permitted to attend Zoom meetings.

The report was sent and it stated that 45 calls were received this month. 22 calls and 1 crime recorded in North Mull. 7 calls and 1 crime in the Craignure area. 6 calls in the Salen area. 10 calls in the Ross of Mull. There was nothing more to report.

Report on the meeting with A&B Council.

T.N. said a meeting had been held at An Roth with Pippa Milne and 3 other Officers. Numbers were limited because of Covid, T.N., A.S., A.D. and Moray Finch were present. It was hoped to make a fresh start, put past problems behind us and proceed with a good working relationship.

A.S., M.F. and A.D. commented on difficulties in the past and the need for a future work partnership. A good meeting and we left feeling positive having had face to face contact with the Officers. They have 55 other CCs to deal with so we need to establish a good relationship.

A.S. hoped that the Council will prove their good intentions by listening to the Community over the Craignure Pier Development.

Update on ferries; J.R. told us that from Monday 9th the ferries will be working at full capacity altho' the Coruisk will not do her full timetable until the engine problems are dealt with. The Ferry Committee have been trying hard to impress upon Transport Scotland the need for some sort of surety to residents that they can travel for medical appointments etc. CalMac can't discriminate and the present booking system favours tourists booking months in advance. There is recognition of the problem but a fairer system has not yet been found, however something must be done. All Islands have the same problem.

J.M. suggested that we should follow Angus Brendan MacNeil idea of the ticketing system to release 70% of space, then 20% nearer the time, finally 10% for last minute emergencies.

B.M. said we should get behind this proposal and write accordingly.

A.S. reminded us that train strike on Sundays is continuing to cause travel difficulties. Also there are problems booking concession tickets.

J.R. was asked about the possibility of the catamaran being purchased but in spite of all efforts it is looking unlikely to happen.

M-J.D. reported problems with patient transport/ambulances and asked if we could write to CalMac.

J.R. told us that CalMac had renamed their communities board; Ferries Community Board, Clyde and Hebrides. The Board is made up of 14 people, drawn from the Islands to deal with strategic issues other than timetables. They have an important voice. For the moment Mull & Iona do not have a member, Coll/Tiree represent us.

N.H. reported that a meeting was held with A&BC, Turner Townsend Consultants and the Craignure Bay Community Group on the 12th July. Purpose, to show "visuals" of the proposed pier development. This was judged to be of no real value as there were no significant changes. The scale was huge and this did nothing to allay earlier concerns. It appeared no account had been taken of feedback from MCC or CBCG. Visuals included bad orientation, numerous omissions and inaccuracies. In conclusion this only reinforced the community's fears and was unanimously unacceptable.

We were astonished to hear the Consultants had not visited Craignure. M-J. D. then extended an invitation to them to gain a better understanding.

Meeting, 30th July, an altogether more constructive morning. We met at the Isle of Mull Hotel and walked round the Bay in order that a multitude of issues could be aired. Meeting concluded after lunch at Pennygate Lodge, thanks to Tony and Fiona.

Points agreed; Smaller scale vessels require proportionately smaller landward facilities. The existing cartilage of the terminal should not be increased. Amenity land to N & S is precious and should be protected. Night time light pollution and energy conservation should be incorporated in the final design. Maintain Community involvement throughout the design process.

Tobermory Traffic Management; A.D. reported that Jim Smith, A&BC, visited the town on a busy Monday. He and Brian Swinbanks walked along the Main Street and talked to various people including the police and bus drivers. J.S. agreed to the solutions put forward by the TTMG., including more, enforceable signage. Work on the new car park will begin in November.

So far money spent on the town; £300,000 for new railings, sea wall and flood defences. £37,000 for Main St shop fronts. £20,000 for Ledaig floodgate. £850,000 for the new car park.

The 2nd phase of the railings and sea wall are to be completed after that.

Thanks go to B.S. for the maps and plans drawn up to illustrate the improvements needed.

Cutting verges. M.W. asked if cutting of verges could be limited as wild flowers are being destroyed before setting seed. It was agreed to talk to the Biodiversity officer with the Council.

A.O.B.

J.M. reported that complaints had been received about the lack of postal workers and missed deliveries on the Island. He has written to the local manager in Oban, stressing the extra work this is causing our postmen, who are excellent.

J.P. will write about the proposed legislation on short term letting. The legislation could have an adverse impact on B&Bs and small businesses, altho something is needed to stop the loss of local housing.

B.M. has received complaints about the lack of veg. etc. currently in the Co-op. This is not the fault of the Manager or staff. It was agreed to write to Head Office to ask why it is designated as a convenience store and find out if a new Store is to be built.

R.C. waste problems are still on going at Uisken. It is hoped a new waste disposal point at Bunessan will be installed soon. Also there is need for an early bus from Fionnphort, even if it was just 3 days a week.

M.F. reported that talks were ongoing with the Council about our present Rangers also working for them, this might help to police the waste problem at Uisken.

The Scottish Government's Island Bond proposal was discussed and it was agreed this will require that an extra meeting is convened. Comments are asked for by October.

A.D. said there was disappointment that the visit of the Screen Machine had been cancelled. A letter had been received from Jim Smith,A&BC, saying it was a Health and Safety and Insurance matter. Further enquiries will be made.

Tracy Mayo asked that the Islands Bond consultation should consider all aspects of Island life.

T.N. said there would be a broad discussion at the extra meeting.

Date of next meeting; Wednesday 1st September