

## Mull Community Council

14<sup>th</sup> February 2017, 7pm, An Roth, Craignure.

**Present:** Billy McClymont, Steve Willis, Jim Corbett, Joanne MacDougall, Jane Stevens, David Pollard, Rory Forrester and Susan Campbell.

**In Attendance:** Cllrs Mary-Jean Devon, Roddy McCuish and Alastair MacDougall, Seonadh MacKenzie and Jenny Reddaway.

**Apologies:** Fiona Brown, Cameron Anson, Willie Hume, Juliet Vines, Allan Cameron T/S Jamie Toal and Moray Finch.

### MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Proposed: **SW**

Seconded: **SC**

### MATTERS ARISING

- **SC** advised that Chris James had had a meeting with two Council officials in October regarding additional land for marshalling vehicles at Craignure but had not met with the Council since that time.
- **JC** enquired if there had been progress on relocating the bins at Craignure. Both **BM** and **SC** had tried to find alternative locations without success. It was generally thought that car parking space was more important than the bins and many locally did not want to host them. **JC** tasked with trying to find a location.
- **RM** made mention of charges for parking after the Craignure car park had been improved. This was unanimously disapproved of and **JC** pointed out that there would be serious consequences for islanders who may have gone over to Oban on a morning ferry and been unable to return on their intended ferry due to service disruption. It was also pointed out that small car park was rarely used. The Community Council is against parking charges and would continue to resist charges being made. **RM** suggested that the Community Council should lobby for a greater percentage of parking charge revenue to remain on the island and communicate the island's needs to A&BC. **RM** also advised that putting charges in place was a very long process and required public consultation.
- **DP** wanted to acknowledge **RF**'s part in the RET questionnaire and to thank Round&About for providing the pull-out. It was noted that there had been some problems for people trying to complete the questionnaire online. **SW** to contact Janna to express the Community Council's thanks.
- **MJD** asked **JC** and **RF** how the meeting with the Forestry regarding larch die-back had gone and was advised that it had not been very productive. The situation remains that any larch within 250m of an infected larch tree must be removed. The restrictions have been put in place to protect the Scottish forestry industry. Dumfries and Galloway had been accepted as a special case because the die back was deemed to be endemic with 90% infected trees whereas on Mull it was only 17%.
- **JM** confirmed that she had taken the paintings and money raised for Dr Frank to him.
- With regard to the signs for campervans, **SW** had received some comments but a final decision was required. It was felt that, as the signs would only serve as a warning and did not represent a ban, it would not affect certain attractions etc. and therefore should be placed at the junctions of the roads in question. It was agreed that the signs should read "Unsuitable for vehicles over 6m long" although the cost needs to be determined.

- **POLICE REPORT – 10/01/2017 – 14/02/2017- T/PS Jamie Toal**

Crimes/Offences that have occurred in community area since last meeting	<p>For period 10/01/17 – 14/02/17. Total number of incidents recorded = 30</p> <p>Crimes / Incidents of note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>LB30 – Tobermory area:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Damage to truck (Aros)</li> <li>- Theft from shed (Dervaig)</li> <li>- Road Traffic collision (Main St, Tob). Through enquiries, 23 year old local male traced and arrested for drunk driving</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <u>LB31 – Craignure area:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Nothing of note</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <u>LB33 – Salen area:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Attendance at minor fire (Salen surgery)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <u>LB34 – Bunessan area:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Theft of heating oil (Bunessan)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Updates on any actions from previous meetings	
Incidents of note or crime trends	<p>Divisional priorities remain as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Public Protection</li> <li>- Serious Crime &amp; Terrorism</li> <li>- Violence, Disorder &amp; Antisocial behaviour</li> <li>- Road Policing</li> </ul>
Forthcoming events	

Other:

Following on from 3 vehicles being vandalised on Main Street, Tobermory over the evening of 19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> November 2016, PC Carr carried out a thorough investigation, which has resulted in a 21 year old local male being charged and reported to the Procurator Fiscal.

If anyone wished to report anything to Police Scotland please contact 101. Information can also be reported anonymously to Crime Stoppers on 0800 555 111.

#### **PENNYGHAEL FOREST (ALL)**

- **RF** advised that a concerned member of the public had raised the issue of hazardous chemicals used for treating trees to stop weevils and the possibility of these getting into domestic water supplies. There was considerable discussion about this topic and although SEPA and other agencies felt there was little risk, concerns remained. CA advised that SWMID had an interest in the forestry and would be holding a meeting in the near future to which the concerned party would be invited. It was felt that the Community Council should be kept aware of developments and **RF** and **JS** would be attending the meeting with CA.

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#### **FERRY TICKETING (DP)**

- **DP** had been approached by someone concerned about the ticket arrangements in that, when you phone to book the ferry, you have to pay using a debit or credit card and some people do not have them. The only option is to drive down to Craignure and book in person. Also, people who book online still have to buy passenger tickets when they arrive at Craignure which presents an issue for some people such as those with disabilities or families with children. The loss of book of tickets also disadvantages seasonal workers. It was suggested that tickets could be sold in the lanes.

#### **SCREEN MACHINE SUPPORT (WH)**

- A letter had been received from the Director of Regional Screen Scotland who operate the Screen Machine seeking the support of communities in practical terms. MCC would respond positively and WH willing to arrange help to cone off areas for the unit.

#### **COUNCILLORS' REPORTS**

- **AM** reported a bid had gone in for funding 1.4kms of walkway in Fionnphort as part of the Columba trail, a long distance footpath linking Iona and St Andrews.
- **AM** advised that the Iona harbour group had had quite a good meeting with Mike Russell and the Council. A lot of work was required and it would be very expensive.
- **AM** advised he would follow up regarding the marshalling area at Craignure (mentioned in Matters Arising).
- **AM** would also be looking into the concerns of Bunessan Fountainhead residents regarding forestry lorries using the road; he had already emailed the Road Safety Group. These wagons are very heavy and it was suggested that a haul road be constructed to bypass the village
- **MJD** advised that grass-cutting had been reviewed and some locations that had had cuts reduced last year were being re-instated. This was welcomed.
- **MJD** reported that a very nice farewell party for Mr Price had been held and was well-attended. **MJD** highlighted the vast improvement in children's dental health and expressed concern that, without the regular school visits and people having to take their children to Oban or Tobermory, parents may not prioritise dental appointments; that they may not be able to afford travel costs and losing a day's work or may not be willing for their children to miss a day's schooling. **MJD** felt it was essential that, if the van was not available, there must be a dental chair in Bunessan and the hospital as well as Tobermory. **MJD** has arranged a series of meetings during the week commencing Monday, 27<sup>th</sup> February beginning with Iona between 3pm and 5pm and Bunessan (Village Hall) from 6.30 – 8.30pm. On 28<sup>th</sup> February, there would be a meeting in the Craignure Hall from 6.30pm to 8.30pm. On 1<sup>st</sup> March, the meeting in Salen would take place at the

school from 6.30pm to 8.30pm, whilst the Tobermory meeting would take place on 2<sup>nd</sup> March in the Aros Hall between 6.30 and 8.30pm. The final two open meetings would take place on Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> March, at Dervaig school between 6.00 and 7.30pm and at Ulva Ferry school between 8.00 and 9.00pm.

- **RM** reported that A&BC would announce its budget on 23<sup>rd</sup> February. He advised that, if Council Tax was raised by 3% (the maximum the Scottish Government allows before imposing claw back), there would still be a deficit of around £4.5million. With regard to the online survey of the public, 1700 people replied and the main concerns were social services, education and roads. **MJD** advised that there was a push to revalue properties to resolve incongruities such as a four bedroom house in Gourrock being in Band D, whereas a four bedroom house in Tobermory is in Band G.
- **RM** also reported concerns over the new business rates which would hurt the tourism industry upon which much of Argyll depends.

#### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- Referring to the poor state of Erray Road and whether or not it had been adopted, **MJD** asked **SW** to advise the member of the public concerned to contact her.
- **SW** advised that there would be community consultation regarding the future of Salen Surgery and no decisions had been made. The question mark over the surgery was primarily because of the condition of the building. It had been suggested that the Surgery could be moved to the hospital but nothing had been confirmed. **BM** felt that the hospital must be protected, pointing out that the island had had six beds at Dunaros but only three at Java. **RM** considered that the NHS must have different contracts for rural communities to allow sustainability.
- **DP**, referring to the potholes on Ardmore road, was assured that the tar lorry was on the island and out filling potholes.
- **MJD** confirmed that Kaz had retired and all expressed sadness and gratitude as she had always been so helpful. **SW** to write to Pippa Milne to ask that thanks be expressed.
- **SW** to write to Derek Crook and Pippa Milne regarding the vacancies at the tip
- **SW** drew attention to the fact that MICT was celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary and were offering a year's free membership to new and existing members.
- **SW** would write a letter of support for Gus Whyte's campsite planning application.