

MULL COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting held on 11th July 2017,
7pm, An Roth, Craignure.

Present: Billy McClymont; Steve Willis; David Pollard; Jim Corbett; Jane Stevens and Cameron Anson.

Apologies: Willie Hume; Susan Campbell, Rory Forrester and Fiona Brown.

In Attendance: Cllr. Mary-Jean Devon, Ewan Masson and Jenny Reddaway.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING.

Subject to the completion of a sentence on page 2, these were agreed to be a correct record and were proposed by DP and seconded by JS.

MATTERS ARISING.

- DP, referring to the possible purchase of the Salen Telephone Kiosk for a £1 to provide a book loan facility supported by the Red Cross, advised that the phone was still available for emergency use. DP suggested that the Community Council write to BT to ask that notices be put in each one where this facility is available.

POLICE REPORT.

- None received.

THE ISLANDS BILL.

- BM introduced Mr Ewan Masson, Outreach Services Officer from the Scottish Parliament.
- Mr Masson advised that his role is to support the Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee to engage with community groups around the issues most affecting those who live on the islands. He had already met with some groups and would be meeting more the following day.
- Mr Masson explained that the Islands Bill was an enabling Bill to island proof any future legislation. This means that any future legislation would have to be examined to assess the impact of that legislation on island residents. Mr Masson gave the example of the legislation that allowed GPs to opt out of out of hours work and said, had the Islands Bill been in place, the impact of this on island communities might have been mitigated. Likewise, with the Social Security legislation, the higher cost of living on islands and seasonal employment could have been taken into consideration for those on benefits.
- The Bill called for a national islands plan to be prepared every year.
- The Bill offers statutory protection for the Western Isles as Orkney and Shetland already have.
- In Council areas wards which include islands may have to be re-organised to ensure at least one or two Councillors are island representatives.
- The Bill also proposed

- Mr Masson advised that the full Committee would be coming to the island on 24th and 25th August to engage in site visits and discussions with groups and organisations with the public meeting on 25th August at the Craignure Hall as an open Community meeting for all.
- Mr Masson advised that there was a consultation period live at present and also an online survey on the Scottish Government website. The consultation period ends at the end of September. The link to the Bill is at <http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/105168.aspx>
- MJD referred to the Island Connections meeting earlier in the year where a number of points had been made but were not referenced in the outcome. She highlighted a number of issues of major concern to the people of Mull and Iona including various health care issues, lack of home care/care home facilities and the cost of getting goods and materials. Mr Masson said that MJD's passion is just what it is needed by the Committee.
- MJD, as did others, felt it was unfortunate that the public meeting would be in the daytime as many families would not be able to attend. Mr Masson acknowledged this and stressed that people should use the online system to contribute. The link is: <http://www.parliament.scot/gettinginvolved/105389.aspx>
- Anyone with no access to a computer could contact Heather Lyall on 0131 348 5229. Ms Lyall's email address is heather.lyall@parliament.scot.

GLEN IOSAL.

- MJD reported that, on 14th June, residents were advised that the Housing Support Funding would be withdrawn from 1st April 2018; that staff hours would be reduced from 39 to 25 hours and the designation of the complex would be changed from Supported Living to Retirement Housing. The reduction of 14 hours per week means that there will be no overnight warden and support would be given from 8am to 1pm, Mondays to Fridays, only.
- MJD reported that this had led to very considerable distress amongst residents.
- MJD advised that Trust Housing had indicated that they were trying to put together a plan whereby they could deliver home care to residents. MJD pointed out that, with the current lack of home carers on the island, this would not be possible.
- MJD also advised that Trust Housing was not doing a public consultation or an impact assessment.
- MJD advised that the residents of Glen Iosal and their families are asking that the decision to withdraw the funding be reconsidered.

ROAD TO TIRORAN.

- MJD advised that, at a recent meeting, it had been agreed that dispensation had been given to remove the timber from the roadside. The agreement would be for six loads a day and Ian Moody would use the special axle vehicle.
- JC wants his timber removed and has found a contractor; it was agreed that he should provide MJD with the relevant information.

CELTIC SEA UPDATE.

- SW explained that he had written to the Crown Estate giving the Community Council's concerns. The Crown Estate has responded that the issue is not within their remit. SWMID were free to apply for a Several Fishery Order.
- SW advised that there were two applications, one for oysters and one for mussels, into A&BC and he had informed the Council that the Community Council was not opposed to development but to the developer. SWMID's interest was also communicated.

ADOPTION OF PRIVATE ROAD IN TOBERMORY.

- WH had asked for the, at present un-adopted, section of Erray Road could be formally adopted by the Council following repair at the cost of the Council and residents.
- MJD advised that the residents of the spur did not want it to be adopted and did not want the bin lorry down the road.

COUNCILLOR'S REPORT.

- MJD advised that the new role she had taken on with the Council involved visiting Inverness twice a month for two days. The positive side of this was being able to engage with NHS Highland at the ground level.
- MJD reminded all that, when we had the new hospital built, the people of Mull and Iona had been promised that clinics would continue on the island. In the six years we have had the hospital, clinics have been moved to Oban and we are now seeing some of those moved to Glasgow. There were serious concerns that people were unable to afford to travel to those clinics because there is only an allowance of £35 per night for accommodation and most rooms in the area are between £70 and £80 per night.
- SW advised that the child care pilot had been abandoned as three people were required and only two were available. MJD pointed out that only Tobermory and Salen were available. It was felt that people from the Ross were unlikely to travel that kind of distance to avail themselves of the facility.
- BM asked if Lochdon would be an option as it might assist the school which would have four children next year and one child the following year.
- CA reported that the housing scheme had reverted to the original 14 houses and he was taking over the role of Development Officer for the Rural Housing Scotland's Our Island Home project, previously occupied by Jodi MacLean. Hopefully, this would encourage more families with young children to the school. MJD advised that she was aware of some people wishing to downsize but the application forms are only available online and some did not have access to a computer.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

- SW advised that there had been issues with the marquee at Duart at the Clan Gathering recently. JC reported that there had been a breakdown in communications as to the time the marquee should be delivered and erected. As

a result, when the team arrived to erect it, it was late and the wind had got up, so it was left and by the time another group had been found to erect the marquee it was lying in a soggy heap on the ground and hence not usable.

- Acknowledging the difficulties of finding people to erect/dismantle the marquee, JC suggested he put an ad in R&A for someone who would undertake the responsibility, who would put together his own team and to whom enquirers for the marquee could be directed.
- SW reported that both a visitor and a local had noted raw sewage near the coffee shop. SEPA were looking into the matter. MJD suggested that the Community Council should write to Environmental Health at the Council, in particular Ian McKinnon.
- DP had been in contact with Jim Smith and the latter had confirmed that spraying the Japanese Knotweed was on the list of actions to be taken.
- DP reported that the road sign at the Crescent in London had gone, with only the pole remaining and needs replacing.
- JC advised that he had applied for grants from MESS and the Waterfall Fund towards repairs to the Dugald MacPhail memorial; he had been successful and it was suggested by MJD that an appeal was made to the community. Crowd-funding was suggested.
- JC requested that the grass be cut at the cemetery at Lochbuie, prior to an event taking place on 25th August. MJD suggested JC contact Steve Crichton.
- JS advised that Mull First Aid was now up and running to offer first aid cover for island events. The group comprises the former Red Cross event first aiders. The establishment of this group has been welcomed by many local events that have been very supportive.
- JS reported considerable traffic problems in Tobermory Main Street, citing an occasion when the bus had to reverse back from the Laundry when a campervan refused to give way. MJD said that it was a Police matter.
- CA advised that he had emailed Stuart Watson last week with regard to getting white lines painted at the junction on the main road in Fionnphort with the Fidden road. Lines were also required on the Fidden road as people are parking along the both sides of this road and there are serious concerns should an emergency vehicle need access. It was agreed a list should be made up for the lining machine to tell them what's needed when they next come over to the island.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 8th August 2017 at 7pm at An Roth.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm.