

MULL COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held at An Roth on Wednesday 3rd October

Present: Billy McClymont, Andrena Duffin, Adrian Stephens, John Maughan, Fiona Brown, Josh Liddle, Moira Westland, Lindsay Macdonald.

Apologies: Jim Corbett, Sarah Padley, Pamela MacColl, Iain Campbell, Alexander Anderson, Susan Campbell, Nancy Somerville, Moray Finch.

In Attendance: Councillor Devon, PC Neil Thallon

Minutes of the Meeting held on the 5th September were proposed by A.S., seconded by L.M.

There were no matters arising.

Police Report.

PC Neil Thallon reported that there had been 61 calls for Mull & Iona last month, 31 in Tobermory, 12 in the Craignure area, 8 in Salen and 8 in the Ross and Iona. The fraud incidents are being investigated. Other calls concerned drunk drivers, theft, missing persons, careless driving and minor road traffic accidents. There were reports of a diesel spillage in Salen and highland cattle on the road on the Ross. Also reports of dogs left unattended in cars.

L.M. asked what should be done if dogs were seen in distress in cars, PC Thallon said to call the police unless the dog was in dire need and then a window could be broken.

Parking is still an issue in Tobermory and vehicles inconsiderately parked have caused some issues for school bus drivers.

Extra care to be taken on the roads as winter sets in, watch out for deer!

A new police officer PC Kevin Bonar has joined the team and will be based in Salen.

Councillor's Report..

M-J.D. suggested that the community should join the commemoration for the end of World War 1, the Beacon of Light celebration, and organise an event in Tobermory and on the Ross for Saturday 10th November.

M-J.D. asked that if constituents have a problem at a weekend please could they contact her by email.

A.D. suggested that people on the Island could contact a member of the Community Council to help, their addresses are listed in Round and About. This should be their first option.

Car Parking, Tobermory

Brian Swinbanks has put forward the ideas of the Steering Group to A&B Council. It is important that all residents get involved to state their views when the Council come back with a proposal. Hopefully by next year's Music Festival there will be a solution to the Campervan problem. Still no definite answer from the Council concerning the condition of the railings.

Ferry Committee Report.

The Strategic Transport Appraisal Group have completed their report which will be available for public scrutiny on 2nd November between 4-7.30 pm at An Roth. The following day stakeholders, the Community Council and the Ferry Committee will be consulted.

The need for an early and late ferry to enable people to work in Oban has been stressed to CalMac. The pier should be adapted so that ferries can tie up overnight.

It was hoped that MSP Mike Russell would visit the Island, but the visit was cancelled due to the ferry breakdown! A video conference was held instead resulting in a letter being written to the Government about the dire state of transport facilities for the Island.

The commercial vehicles fare review started in 2014 has got nowhere. The problem of Campervans was discussed and the production of a new leaflet to be handed out by Calmac welcomed.

The Iona ferry development has begun, boreholes have been dug and tidal buoys placed to study wave heights. A drop in session will be arranged at the end of the year. With the final plan by March.

There have been 8 major incidents of ferry breakdowns this year. The building of two new ferries has had problems as the new "green" technology is proving difficult.

There is a problem with car alarms going off, especially upsetting for horses in transit but also annoying for the crew. Also the problem of booking animal transport was highlighted.

A weather station recording wind speeds is to be erected on the Craignure pier to record accurate wind speeds. MICT will collect the data.

Campervan planning report.

B.M. reported on the sub-committee meeting. Wild camping is actually illegal for people in vans, tents only are allowed, however we need to welcome responsible wild campers but stress the use of facilities. By next year there will be several new facilities. A new map has been drawn up to advise on unsuitable roads. The new leaflet will be ready for Calmac to hand out next year.

J.M. requested that the Croggan road should be deemed unsuitable for large vans. There has been a problem there as no toilet facilities.

Purchase of Craignure Pier.

B.M. said we should recognise the opportunity, with the plans from the STAG report about to be produced, for a Community buy out of the pier. A discussion followed and all were in agreement although it was recognised there were significant problems to overcome.

Update on the Medical situation.

B.M. had attended the LPG meeting and reported that there had been a couple of applicants and their suitability was being assessed.

M-J.D. said the intention of child vaccinations being moved to Craignure was being re-evaluated.

A.O.B.

F.B. reported that the toilets in Bunessan were in poor condition altho kept very clean.

A proposal by A&B Council to alter the existing speed limit on the Salen loop road was agreed.

A complaint has been made about the undergrowth on the Aros to Appermor footpath.

The trees on the Fishnish road and the hill crest at Loch Don are over hanging the road making it dangerous for pedestrians.

The meeting ended at 9pm. The next meeting will be on 7th November.