

MULL COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held at An Roth on Wednesday 7th November

Present: Billy McClymont, Andrena Duffin, Sarah Padley, Pam MacColl, Josh Liddle, Iain Campbell Alexander Anderson, Susan Campbell, Nancy Somerville, Lindsay MacDonald, Adrian Stephens, John Maughan, Fiona Brown.

Apologies: Jim Corbett, Moira Westland.

In attendance: Councillor Devon, Moray Finch, Janie Steele

Minutes of the Meeting held on 5th October were proposed by P.M., seconded by J.M.

There were no matters arising.

Janie Steele, from 'Surfers against Sewage', gave us suggestions on how to make Mull a plastic free island with a programme most suited for the island. 'Surfers against Sewage' is a marine charity organisation recognised in 2012 and one of 7 charities chosen by the Duke and Duchess of Sussex for donations in lieu of wedding presents.

The island could be split into sections to organise beach cleans focusing on plastic pollution. Organisations such as the Scouts, Brownies etc could be encouraged to help. A steering group is needed to take things forward and Nancy Somerville agreed to be the coordinator.

Already the Co-op has agreed to reduce their usage of plastic and other businesses should be encouraged to do the same and use compostable items. Awards can be given which can be displayed.

Colgate is sponsoring collection boxes for old toothbrushes and toothpaste tubes which can be set up. Other companies are following their lead. In Oban cigarette waste is collected.

We already organise beach cleans and these could be coordinated so that a special container lorry could collect the sand polluted plastic to take to the mainland for recycling.

This is already happening in N Argyll and we could link up with them.

Police report

There were 72 calls from Mull and Iona last month, 31 from north Mull, 16 calls from Craignure area, 15 calls from Salen and 8 from the Ross and Iona. The incidents included a large lorry causing obstruction having come off the road, 2 crimes recorded, a male arrested for a Breach of the Peace, trees on the road, cattle struck by cars and minor traffic matters. Also the Coastguard dealt with and disposed of an unknown metal device on the Treshnish Islands.

Careful driving, keeping speed within the law and to drivers ability and paying more attention in areas where livestock roam will decrease these incidents.

I.C. noted that the door to Station in Tobermory had been painted.

Car parks and proposed charges

M.F. said that 4 Councillors would come to the meeting in Craignure, it was hoped the weather would be kind.

There would be a short, preliminary meeting with stakeholders and representatives from Iona. Moray Finch and Brian Swinbanks would co chair the meeting.

M-J.D. said that 2 years ago a meeting had been held about problems at the Music Festival. A&B Council had totally ignored their request. The same thing had happened to letters from the Community Council and suggestions from the THA.

People are prepared to pay but not the excessive charges which have been put forward in the TRO.

The Craignure park is a lifeline for the island as is the Fionnphort one for Iona so should not be charged for.

The current situation in Oban with the new charges is chaotic

M-J. D. advised that the new Islands Bill should help us as an Impact Assessment must be carried out. This is the third time parking charges have been threatened.

B.M. questioned the cost of installing meters and employing a full time warden. People would be encouraged to shop in Fort William rather than Oban..

The Community Council are against parking charges on the Island but to cope with the increase in tourist traffic something must be done about the infrastructure on the island.. A&B Council must listen to us.

STAG report and proposals

B.M. commented on the plans and approved of the interim suggestions however it seems the Council are not prepared to spend the money. Most residents in Craignure are not happy to have such a large development on top of them. The 102 metre ferry would carry too many cars which unloaded at one time would block up the roads, the infrastructure cannot cope. What is needed are smaller ferries more frequently.

There is still no two way road to Tobermory or through the Glen to Iona. Local businesses would not benefit from the proposed development.

A smaller development would be much cheaper, suit the present infrastructure and the village.

It was noted that the Masters of the ferries were not consulted, these new ships would have more windage so leading to more cancellations in bad weather.

The pier was built in 1964, the ferries using the seaward side and smaller ships, ie cruise ships on the other.

We should ask the Islands MPs to come and also an Impact Assessment should be carried out.

Medical situation

We had been led to believe that there were 2 applicants as lead Doctor for the island, this proved to be incorrect and there were no applications. Morven Gemmell had been asked for an update but none was forthcoming.

M-J.D. said that the LPG meeting would go ahead as planned and a new advertisement would be submitted.

The Doctor's house in Salen needs work.

B.M. said the situation was becoming dangerous.

The next meeting will be on 5th December.

The meeting closed at 8.55 pm