

## MULL COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held at An Roth on Wednesday 5th December

Present: Billy McClymont, Andrena Duffin, Adrian Stephens, Jim Corbett, Josh Liddle, Iain Campbell, Moira Westland, Alexander Anderson, Nancy Somerville, John Maughan, Fiona Brown.

Apologies: Pam MacColl, Sarah Padley, Susan Campbell, Lindsay, MacDonald.

In attendance: Moray Finch, PC Helen Mason, PC Clare Chalmers.

Minutes of the Meeting held on the 7th November were proposed by Josh Liddle , seconded by Nancy Somerville.

Matters arising: N.S. Had been in touch with Janie Steele who will send the information about a Plastic Free Island to us. She had also met with Ewan Baxter from MICT who is setting up a steering group of which she will be a member, to coordinate beach cleans. J.C. said that the Otter Group comes to the Lochbuie beach. Loch Don School also gets involved. Ewan Baxter will contact all groups.

A list of signs to designate suitable roads for Campervans had been received however none was suitable and J.M. offered to photograph the sign on the Grasspoint road put up by the Council several years ago to illustrate what was needed.

A.D. to be in touch with Brian Rattray from the Council.

### Police Report:

PC Helen Mason gave the report. The total calls for Mull and Iona this month were 43. 22 calls in Tobermory included 1 minor traffic accident, 1 drunk driver. 3 crimes, including 2 for theft. In Craignure there were 4 calls, 1 minor traffic incident, concern for persons, vandalism and 1 theft. Salen area had 11 calls, minor road traffic incident and 3 concerns for persons. The Ross and Iona had 8 calls, including 3 concerns for person and minor road traffic incidents.

The Division Festive Policing Plan will run from the 30th November 2018 until 1st January 2019 and will align/support Police Scotland's focus on 'Keeping people safe'. The main priorities will be; Violence and Disorder, Antisocial Behaviour, Acquisitive Crime, Drug Misuse, Road Safety and Road Crime, Crowded Places.

If anyone wishes to contact Police Scotland call 101.

### Ferry Committee report:

The report was given by S.C. and A.D. The Committee had been working hard for the inclusion of an early and late boat on the Winter Timetable, to enable a full working day in Oban. There are various reasons why this is difficult, including the necessity to upgrade the pier. However meetings have been held with Transport Scotland, Calmac, Mike Russell and Paul Wheelhouse ( the relevant minister)

It was noted that the Ferry Committee had chosen the site proposed by STAG to the South of the present pier. A general discussion followed, each member expressed their view, all agreed that the actual development was too large for the village and the infrastructure of the Island as a whole. A better and less costly project would be to upgrade the present pier in the same way the Railway pier in Oban had been done. B.M. has had a plan drawn up which we will put forward.

The new pier has to be large enough to accommodate the two larger ships already being built, however what we need is three smaller boats with less windage which would lead to fewer cancellations.

PC C.C. said from a policing perspective smaller boats would be preferable.

B.M. thanked the Ferry Committee for their hard work on behalf of the Island.

Update on TRO.

Acknowledgement from the letters of objection are now being received. However it seems that A&B Council are paying little attention to them. Our request for an Island Impact Asses has been ignored.

J.C. said that perhaps there was no legal requirement for them to do it but there was a moral obligation as the proposed parking charges will affect all Islanders.

N.S.said that Argyll and Bute Council's own website welcomes the Islands (Scotland) Act:  
<https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/news/2018/jul/policy-lead-welcomes-new-islands-scotland-act>

M.F. suggested that we find out the date of the meeting when the TRO is finally decided on and we should write to all Councillors.

It was also decided we should write to Paul Wheelhouse, the minister for the Islands, Mike Russell MSP and Brendan O'Hara our MP.

We appreciate the need for A&B Council to raise money but there are other ways including a tourist tax of £1 which would actually raise more than the parking charges.

The Craignure and Fionnphort parks are a lifeline for the islanders and the proposal for Tobermory would lead to traffic chaos with no place for Campervans and tour buses.

N.S. pointed out that the proposed lorry park was in Bunessan which is not at all relevant to the need.

B.C. noted that they are treating us as an urban town centre. £475 for a residents permit was totally out of order.

Update on Medical situation.

B.C. said there was to be a meeting of the Locality Planning Group the next day. It is hoped that a new advertisement for 5GPs, to be based, one on the Ross, one in Salen and one in Tobermory, as well as 2 extra as needed, will soon be ready to go out.

F.B. told us about the meeting that had been held on the Ross. It was noted that the Ritchie plan that has been adopted for Skye was very similar to the one that was drawn up by the PPG on the Ross two years ago.

M.W. said a similar advertisement had been drawn up a couple of years ago which perhaps could be of use.

Forestry path at Apair Mor.

Jan Dunlop had got a price locally to do the job but it has to be funded. It was agreed to look into different ways the money could be found. The path was well used prior to becoming overgrown and it was agreed it should be cleared before the start of the season.

AOB

M.W. had been asked about the problem of getting newspapers on the Mondays in December. The Royal Mail does an earlier delivery because of the volume of mail and Menzies were delivering the papers too late. A.D. said she had a contact at Menzies and would see if he could help.

N.S. had been asked about the bench opposite Aros Castle as it is in bad condition and they would like to restore it. Research is needed to find the original donor.

A.S. had received an unsatisfactory letter in answer to his objection to TRO and will reply affirming his objection. He also asked about the derelict Sheneval House, Lochbuie. The Council has already been informed about it but the owner will not sell and is now out of contact..

J.M. asked about the new houses at Loch Don.

Eight of the houses can be bought through a Shared Equity Scheme, so far one sale has been agreed. Those for rental will only be allocated once they are completed. The completion date is next July. Anyone seeking a place should register on the Home Argyll list. M.F. offered support for anyone requiring more information or advice.

The next meeting will be Wednesday 9th January.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm