

MULL COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING  
1st May 2019, 7.30, An Roth

Present: Billy McClymont, Fiona Brown, Andrena Duffin, Iain Campbell, Adrian Stephens, John Maughan, Jim Corbett.

In Attendance: Councillor Devon, PC Chalmers

Apologies: Susan Campbell, Nancy Somerville, Justin Liddle, Moira Westland, Pam MacColl, Lindsay MacDonald, Sarah Padley, Marie Robertson, Moray Finch

Minutes of the meeting held on the 3rd April were proposed by John Maughan and seconded by Iain Campbell.

Matters arising: M-J.D. reported that the video regarding the recruitment of GPs was not completed. After discussion MCC agreed that a token payment be made to the High School pupil who had carried out the work.

A.S. Requested that it should be minuted in order to have a reference for the treasurer's account.

Action: Treasurer to send a cheque.

B.M. reported that at the last meeting with A&B Council, Transport Scotland and the Ferry Committee it was agreed that another meeting should be called in the near future to include CalMac and CMAL.

M-J. D. stated that a doodle poll had been released suggesting 4th, 7th, 10, 12th June as potential meeting dates but that not all MCC members have been notified.

It was noted that the 12th June was the date that the Area Committee would be making the decision regarding the TRO 201,

Police Report: North Mull had 23 calls, none of note, 4 crimes recorded including assault, theft, fraud and Breach of the Peace. Craignure had 4 calls, none of note and no crimes. Salen had 3 calls, none of note and 2 crimes including theft and Breach of the Peace. The Ross of Mull & Iona had 13 calls, none of note, 3 crimes, including vandalism and Internet fraud.

Various road traffic calls, normal for this time of year with the increase of traffic on the Island.

Nothing serious, thankfully. Some animal concern calls due to lambing season & on going joint working between Animal Health, A&B C and SSPCA.

The Mull Music Festival went without serious incident. There were 2 crimes recorded during the event, Sect 38 (Breach of the Peace) and a minor assault.

Forthcoming events : Cycle training at Bunessan Primary School in May & June

A school classroom event covering Wildlife Crime to be held at Bunessan Primary working with one of the Rangers.

Calls to report crimes should be to Police Scotland 101 or Crimestoppers 0800555111

Councillor's Report: It was reported that there were over 100 Campervans parked in Ledaig carpark during the Mull Music Festival 2019. There were less complaints this year. Most complaints involved the irresponsible dumping of sewage in the path adjoining the car park. A number of the calls made were regarding the pile up of parked cars on the Eas Brae. The police dealt with this very quickly.

M-J.D. gave a vote of thanks to local and Oban Police for their efforts in clearing the parked vehicles.

M-J. D. offered a vote of thanks to the staff of Tobermory Distillery who embarked on a major clear up of Ledaig carpark after the music festival.

THA made the decision again this year to close the Aquarium on the Friday and Saturday

M-J.D. reported that Dr Holliday on Tiree is attempting to unite the voices of the Inner Hebrides as one.

Health

9 local planning groups were previously set up in Argyll and Bute by the previous Cabinet Minister for Health, Shona Robison.

B.M. stated that he, M-J.D. and F.B. met with her on numerous occasions.

M-J.D. stated that there are now only 4 local planning groups within A&BC., Oban Lorn and the Isles are represented by 1. There are 93 invitees on this LPG.

M-J.D. is speaking to Coll, Colonsay, Tiree, Mull and Iona to have their own designated group.

M-J.D. reported that she had attended a meeting in Tobermory regarding the 'Island Bill'.

It was a positive and well attended meeting. The priorities, needs and concerns of the Islanders were all duly noted by the Scottish Government representatives.

She reported that after 2 years of the pre 5 unit being built on Iona, works have still not been completed. A letter has been received stating concern regarding health and safety, particularly in the garden area. TBC

Education Authority has been notified.

Retirement to Tobermory Street Sweeper

M-J. D. informed the MCC that our local street sweeper, Alec Livingstone, is retiring on the 7th June after 39 years service to Tobermory. Alec has also served with the local Coastguards for more than 40 years and voluntarily winds the Town Clock.

M-J.D further reported that Alec has been awarded the BEM for his services to the Coastguards and community.

A ceilidh is being arranged on Friday June 7th, the day of his retiral in the Aros Hall. There is a sheet in the County Buildings and the Tobermory Pharmacy where members of the public can show their appreciation. It was agreed that the MCC would give a donation towards his retirement.

A.D. to send a card and write a letter of thanks for his services to the community

I.C. enquired as to whether Alec knows about the ceilidh.

It was agreed that MCC will donate to Alec's retirement.

Alec keeps Tobermory so clean and tidy we ope that his replacement will do the same.

B.M. suggested that residents do more to maintain the street/road on which they live

J.C. stated that in Lochbuie they have placed fish boxes every 200 yards along the road, with signs requesting that tourists litter and put it in the boxes, this has been a great success.

A.S. enquired as to whether J.C. had considered doing the same at Porterfield.

J.C. replied that he intends to do so

Report on TRO meeting.

This had taken place in the Creich Hall, Bunessan and was attended by all 5 Councillors

F.B. stated that it was a positive meeting and gave opportunity to say what we want for the Island, but unfortunately, they were not given any definitive responses

It was stated that Councillors had been contacted to say that it was a 'Quasi-Judicial' item which had to be given due consideration therefore Councillors were not allowed to share any views as this would be seen as prejudging the matter prior to the decision.

F.B.stated that Mull representatives as well as Shiona Ruhemann and Mhairi Killin from Iona had given a forceful presentation on behalf of the Islands.

B.M. stated that there were still huge challenges to be addressed and that the Council have not answered the objections.

F.B. enquired as to whether or not the Council will listen to the local Councillors' opinions.

M-J.D. replied that they must listen

B. M. stated that it was clear that protocol is not being followed.

J.C. suggested that the Council are hiding behind the Island Bill.

B.M. stated that not one reference was made to the Island impact Report

He further stated that the Minister who responded to the letter written by the MCC on the matter did not address any of the stated concerns. The challenges ahead are not going to be overcome until concerns are addressed.

A.D. stated that she had posted a report of the meeting on the MCC Facebook, page and that Shiona Ruhemann had written a longer account. After a discussion with Brian Swinbanks and Moray Finch both accounts were submitted to the Council.

F.B. enquired as to who enables the transfer of lease from A&B C. to Tobermory Harbour Association

M-J.D. replied that it was the Crown Estates

B.M. stated that currently nobody knows whether Crown Estates have been notified about the transfer, and that it is unlikely that they have been.

A.D. said she would make enquiries.

B.M. stated that it is a material change and that they must be informed. MCC has had previous success in the dealings with Crown Estates and that it is likely that a representative would be sent to Mull to discuss concerns.

A.D. reported that Shiona Ruhemann is putting together a petition to send to the Scottish Parliament on the matter.

M-J.D. stated that the public were welcome to attend the Area Committee in the Corran Halls, Oban, on the 12th June. There is a Public Question time on the agenda where the public can ask questions.

They cannot however take part in the debate regarding the TRO

#### Ambulance Service

F.B. reported that a meeting has been set up with the SAS on the 21st May at Craignure Hospital.

B.M. stated that the topics for discussion would be the location of GP residency, particularly residency of locum staff.

F.B. stated that it will be a good opportunity to find out what the Ambulance Service plans to offer Mull.

M-J.D. enquired as to whether it was a public meeting

F.B. responded no. She reported that 1 paramedic is retiring but they have recruited another who will be based at Craignure.

I.C. enquire as to whether or not F.B. had written to Wendy Quinn, and if so had she received a response?

F.B. replied that she had written and received a response.

I.C. reported that he too had written but no response or acknowledgement had been given.

B.M. stated that keeping a GP in the Ross of Mull is essential to the island.

F.B. stated that the Ross cannot rely on the Ambulance Service to get to a call out on time.

B.M. stated that there is a problem getting locum Drs to stay at the flat in Craignure Hospital.

Throughout the health review, MCC had been given assurance that any locum staff would live in or around the hospital but this is not happening. This leaves hospital staff in a vulnerable position and lowers staff morale.

M-J.D. stated that the practice manager in Tobermory, Colin Willis, needs to be contacted about this as it is he that organises locum cover for the island.

I.C. volunteered to speak to Colin Willis as chair of the PPG. He requested a copy of the minuted from the meeting where it was states that locums would stay in or around the hospital.

F.B. stated that Anne MacDougal would have the minutes.

B.M. stated that if an emergency case is brought into the hospital and the Dr is in Tobermory the staff have to rely on the Ambulance Service for help. It is totally unacceptable that locums are contracted to provide hospital cover but are not within the vicinity.

I.C. enquired as to whether there was anyone else MCC could write to on the matter.

F.B. stated that she had no response from A&B C.

M-J. D. stated that this is a matter of urgency and suggested contacting Iain Stewart, Chief Executive of NHS Highland.

#### A.O.B.

A.D. said the CC's Facebook page is now up and running.

Also she had received complaints from the public about the high speed of wood lorries travelling through built up areas such as Lochdon and Salen.

PC Chalmers responded that it was difficult without the presence of Traffic Officers but she would highlight the matter to the inspector.

A.D. Had received an invitation from Ellen Kane, who has been carrying out a survey of walking and cycling paths in Mull for the Council, to a meeting in Oban. The invitation had been declined the timings were difficult for us.

M-J.D. stated that the community should take part in the online local 'Action Plan' survey.

F.B. stated that she feels that the Ross of Mull is forgotten about. While there are multiple developments for affordable housing in the North end of the Island, there is nothing planned for the Ross. It is not prioritised. She further stated that one of the main issues for the Ross is that parents don't want to have to send their children to Oban but there is no other option.

M-J.D. stated that she had attended a meeting that day (Islands Bill) where it was asked if there was a possibility of having a High School in the Ross.

F.B. stated that a High School central to Mull would be the solution.

I.C. enquired as to whether there is any scope for hostel accommodation in Tobermory.

F.B. stated that she had had discussions with local families but there had been little interest shown. She said that the children in the Ross of Mull are forced to leave the island to get their education and that there is no accommodation, jobs or incentive for young people to return to the island.

M-J.D. stated that 18 families had registered interest in the housing development at Lochdon, but on completion there will be 14 houses but only 6 available to rent.

F.B. stated that this is not what the island needs.

B.M. suggested getting an action plan gathered for the Ross of Mull accommodation crisis.

I.C. asked if we could find out why the water supply had been cut off to Mary's Well in Tobermory. He has written to Scottish Water but awaits the answer.

J.M. said that KFT had sent proof of the interpretative board for the Dugald MacPhail memorial. This will be printed on aluminium and that J.C. will provide a frame.

J.M. paid £20 for scanning, A.S. To reimburse.

J.M. suggested another recruitment drive for MCC members.

A.D. stated that the creation of the Facebook page should help raise the profile of MCC

I.C. enquired as to what missives and tenancy agreements say with regards to keeping dogs.

B.M. suggested that A&B C would be the best port of call

M-J.D. stated that she would look into the matter.

I.C. stated that it is important that this generation look after the old graveyard at Aros Mains. It is one of the most ancient on Mull. Cill an Ailein. He suggested putting up signage similar to that for the Dugald MacPhail memorial to raise public awareness for the site.

B.M. commended our local team of Council workers for their efforts in maintaining the local cemeteries.

Questions from members of the public.

How can we take advantage of the Islands Bill now that it has been ratified?

B.M. responded that an action plan will be put together, especially for the Ross, an area in need of help.

M-J.D. state that each area has its own Master Plan which addresses issues of population, economy, development, education. All points are covered in the Island Bill. She stressed that it is imperative that everybody feeds into their local Master Plans to share ideas and opinions, so that this information can be collated and represented.

J.M. suggested putting a meeting together with local bodies such as SWMID and MICT to discuss the report and how to take findings forward.

M-J.D. stated that she has recently attended a meeting where the issue of affordable housing on Mull was raised and that currently house prices on Mull are comparable to Central Edinburgh.

It was suggested that Cameron Anson is carrying out a survey for Rural Housing Scotland. This issue should be on the agenda for the next meeting

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 5th June.