

## MULL COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, 6th November, 7pm at AN ROTH

Present: Billy McClymont, Andrena Duffin, John Maughan, Joe Reade, Sue Hawkes, Pam MacColl, Moira Westland, Iain Campbell, Marie Robertson, Norman Hickson.

In attendance : Councillor Devon, Moray Finch, PC Kevin Bonar

Apologies: Josh Liddle, Jim Corbett, Sarah Padley, Fiona Brown, Adrian Stephens.

Minutes of last meeting.

Matters Arising: S.H. said that it should read 'Buessan and Salen were the final schools to provide the 1140 hours childcare'.

The Minutes were proposed by P.M., seconded by M.W.

### Police Report

PC Bonar reported that there had been 61 calls this month. Tobermory had 37 calls, including several to do with flooding on the Main Street and 4 crimes recorded. Craignure had 7 calls, 4 relating to deer being struck on the road. Salen had 10 calls, nothing of note. The Ross and Iona had 7 calls, nothing of note.

Action from previous meeting: concerns had been expressed about the speed of traffic at the Glenforsa junction. On inspection the junction is open with good visibility and no obstruction for road users to give way to Traffic. Road markings clear and in good order.

The Mull Rally had gone well without significant incident for police.

Concern was expressed about the problem of deer on the road. Jim Corbett should be asked for advice. A.D. suggested deer warning signs could help.

### Councillor's Report

M-J.D. reported on the proposed council budget cuts especially for children's education and services, 45 jobs are to be lost in that field, as well as support for vulnerable adults and children. She stressed how important it was for all to fill in the questionnaire the Council has circulated regarding cuts. A.D. reported that it was on the CC's Facebook page for all to participate.

Home Start is one of the casualties and it was agreed to write a letter opposing cuts to these essential children's services. We have until the 16th December to fill in the questionnaire.

She had met with the Pupils' Parliament at the High School to hear their views. It seems that the Islands are hardest hit by the cuts so we must make ourselves heard.

Tobermory Main Street and Ledaig have been designated by S.E.P.A. (Scottish Environmental Protection Agency) as a flood risk area. Two planning applications have been refused because of this. It was agreed to write to SEPA for clarification as this has not happened before and could stifle development and improvements on the Main Street.

I.C. enquired what was being done by the Council about the problem. M-J.D. said that nothing at the moment but the Tobermory Traffic Management Group had mentioned it. If the plans for a new wall and railings are agreed this could help. I.C. suggested we should write to the Council illustrating the problem to highlight the need for new railings.

M-J.D. said the application for Ledaig included a much needed Tourist information centre and the one on the Main Street was for the Old Post Office, an historic building in need of restoration. It would help if there was representation from the C.C. at the next hearing to put forward their case.

### Craignure Marine Infrastructure Report

J.R. reported on their recent meeting to liaise with the Council re pier improvements. The Outline Business case to justify spending the money is being done by Consultants and will be ready by February. M-J.D. objected to the fact that Mott MacDonald were carrying out the pier survey without input from the Community. This is now an emergency and there is so far not the commitment from the Council to prioritise this.

B.M. commented that the Council do not seem to recognise the VRDP(vessel Replacement & Deployment Plan) issued by Transport Scotland and are making no effort to prepare the pier to take these new vessels.

A.D. stated that it was a year since the STAG report had come out. In February meetings had been held all over the Island to get people's views, we had reported back to Council yet were no further on with any sort of plan. This could become an emergency situation.

J.R. said the Council were following due process but it takes a long time to go before various committees, he had been trying to emphasise the urgency of the situation. We have not even been given the contact details of the consultants carrying out the Business study in spite of frequent requests.

After a lively discussion it was decided to contact the Minister for Transport or even the First Minister as A&B. C. must be made to realise their obligation to the Islanders.

Tobermory Traffic Management.

A.D. reported that a meeting had been arranged with the Council for Friday and so far our ideas had been received positively by them. It is to be hoped improvements to the situation can be achieved by next year.

AOB

A.S. sent this message regarding the TRO; Despite challenges from the community groups (acting as one), Cleland Sneddon has declined to change anything about the internal review

· The community groups have therefore decided with regret that we cannot be a part of the review and have asked for an independent review & issued a press release to that effect.

I.C.had been contacted by the chairman of the Audit &Scrutiny Committee (ASC) to say that the internal review would go before them. The Committee thereafter has the right to agree to carry out its own scrutiny exercise. It should be noted that the membership of the ASC has a majority of Councillors who are not members of the ruling administration of the Council.

M.F. said the purpose of the press release was to make it clear to the Council that the terms of reference & people involved in the internal review was a flawed process, an independent enquiry was needed. The meeting with Mr Sneddon had been positive and his apology had been accepted but the terms of reference, when they were revealed were not acceptable.

B.M. questioned the worth of continuing the battle with the Council.

M.F. replied that we must make sure lessons are learned and it should not happen again.

N.H. reported that the Craignure Group had failed to achieve funding but had raised money to plant 3500 bulbs

A.D. congratulations to Ann Fraser for being selected to attend a world wide leadership course in Boston, USA. The second person to attend from the island, the first was Morven Gibson.

Also thanks to Morven Maclean and her band of helpers for clearing the Apper Mor path.

M-J. reported that Tobermory High School had achieved top attainment for schools in Argyll.

The next meeting will be Wednesday 4th December