

MULL COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday 4th December 2019, 7pm at An Roth

Present: Billy McClymont, Jim Corbett, Adrian Stephens, Andrena Duffin, John Maughan, Sue Hawkes, Pam MacColl, Moira Westland, Iain Campbell, Fiona Brown, Norman Hickson, Susan Campbell.

In attendance: Councillor Devon.

Apologies: Justin Liddle, Sarah Padley, Marie Robertson, Joe Reade.

Minutes of the previous meeting.

Matters arising: A.D. said that SEPA had been contacted about the refusal of planning permission for two developments on the Main Street. It seems that they do not object to commercial development but are not happy with residential development. I.C. said what they were worried about was viable escape route for residents in new development.

M-J.D. said she still had concerns about the refusal as flooding was fairly rare. It was agreed that the CC would attend the hearing in support of the development at Ledaig.

The Minutes were proposed by I.C., seconded by P.M.

Police report.

Owing to an on going incident no police were present.

The report read that there had been total of 48 calls this month. 28 in Tobermory, calls of note; domestic cat shot and fatally injured by air weapon or similar. This is despicable and if anyone has information please contact the police. Other calls were a male reported for assault, two males reported for fraud and 3 crimes recorded. Craignure area had 5 calls, one crime recorded and of note, the theft from locked Church collection box, St Kilda's Church, Lochbuie. This is similar to one reported at Iona Abbey, again a nasty incident and if anyone has information please contact the police. The Salen area had 4 calls, one of note was the theft of tools from locked container, Fishnish, enquiries continue, one crime recorded. The Ross & Iona had 6 calls, none of note. Following last month's report of deer on the road J.C. said that the recent deer count showed that there were over 7000 on the Island. The density varies from place to place, also the Forestry were still shooting quite a few. The double track road between Salen and Craignure seems to be the most affected area, four incidents had been reported in the last month and the ambulance and fire engine had reported problems. There followed a discussion about reflector posts as had been done near Aros Park but the distance was too great. There is a difficulty as more deer fencing is forcing them on to the road. Also there are too many in the vicinity of Tobermory causing problems. S.H. said more deer had been reported in the Bunesan area. SNH (Scottish Natural Heritage) can serve a Section 7 on a landowner if there are too many on his property. Many properties now have no sheep so deer have increased. J.C.. would talk to the Forestry about the situation.

Ferry Update.

J.R. was unable to be present but sent a report.

It was hoped people had completed the MIFC's surveys as the outcome will be submitted to CalMac for an Island Focussed Service for next winter. A budget request has been submitted to Transport Scotland. It is hoped to set up a study looking at the positive impact of this new timetable for Islanders and tourists. The Oban/Craignure route is the most congested of the network. Together with the CC we are working towards a meeting with Paul Wheelhouse, the Island Minister.

Craignure Pier. Mott MacDonald have begun work on the OBC, outline business case. He is still waiting for copies of the final STAG report, lighting survey and confirmation of the scope of the OBC from Jim Smith, A&BC.

It was agreed to write to Pippa Milne, the new Chief Executive Officer, to invite her to a meeting with the MCC and other Island groups.

Councillor's Report

M-J.D. had attended a meeting of HighTrans Ferry Users Group. All Islands had been represented. There had been an update on the STAG report and a discussion on extending Craignure Pier. CalMac Communities Board were in attendance and spoke about reduced fares for school minibuses. It was agreed to write to Angus Campbell from CalMac CB and ask for more information.

A positive meeting had been held with the Tobermory Traffic Management Group. Hylde Marsh had done a survey on Main Street to find out about residents and businesses car parking needs to add to the information already highlighted for more parking spaces.

The hustings last week had been reasonably well attended but blighted with some bad behaviour, apologies had been given.

The good news about new Tobermory railings was welcomed and a letter of appreciation would be written to all who had worked hard on the project.

B.M. asked about the outcome of the TRO enquiry and hoped it could all be put behind us.

A.S. said there were on going communications with the Council about it, what was needed from them was an assurance that this sort of thing would not happen again. A CPR (community participation request) should not be a basis for such documents as a TRO.

F.B. said we need the support of the Islands Bill to ensure the right of free lifeline car parks such as Craignure and Fionnphort.

A.S. suggested that at this point in time we are happy to draw a line and we should go forward and work in good faith with the Council. We should ask Pippa Milne to meet with us to discuss the future.

AOB

A.D. had attended the AGM of MICT, it had been well supported, Cllr Jamie McGrigor had been in attendance. The subject of empty homes had been raised, there are 99 on Mull, 44 in Tobermory. This problem had been recently raised in the CC and it was agreed we should work with MICT.

M-J.D. said this was an on going problem which is difficult to solve.

A letter had been received from Mull Native Woodlands Group requesting the support of the CC for the project to create a Tree Nursery using seeds collected around Mull. A site has been identified adjacent to the Dervaig Community Orchard. The CC are delighted to support this project as well as a similar project in Buessan.

I.C. raised the subject of the winter timetable for the Kilchoan ferry, now that their Church has been closed their nearest one is Tobermory, could a Sunday sailing be added, the crew were on duty that day, however two other sailings during the week would have to be forfeited according to Transport Scotland's budget.

M.W. added that there was no GP available there on a Sunday.

We should liaise with their new CC.

The meeting ended at 8.40. The next meeting will be Wednesday 8th January