

MULL COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting on the 2nd June at 7pm
By Zoom and live streamed on Facebook

Present: Billy McClymont, Tracy Mayo, Adrian Stephens, Andrena Duffin, John Maughan, Alasdair McCrone, Jo Prior, Angus Williams, Pam McColl, Moira Westland, Iain Campbell, Duncan Swinbanks .

In Attendance; Cllr Devon, Brian Swinbanks.

Apologies: Tom Nelson

Minutes of the meeting held on 5th May were approved by Pam McColl, seconded by Tracy Mayo.

Matters Arising:

T.M. reported that it would help if someone from the roads department would come & review the situation re signs etc.. M-J. D. said it could help if the police made representations to the Roads Dept over any concerns.

A.D. reported that the overflow Fionnphort car park was still closed. Nothing had been heard from the Council but it was hoped the road work would be completed soon.

A.D. had received a letter from Highfield Forestry stating that the archaeological survey in Glenforsa had been completed.

No further news on the appointment of an extra Ranger.

A.D. asked to co-opt Robbie Cameron from Uisken as there was a space on the CC for a member from the Ross. He was proposed by A.D., seconded by J.M.

Police report:

No officer from the police was present due to an incident.

Total calls for May were 45.

The North Mull beat had 25 calls, of note were attempted fraud of bank funds via telephone, careless driving at Ledaig and 5 crimes recorded.

Craignure and surrounding had 8 calls, one crime recorded.

Salen and surrounding area had 6 calls, one of note concerning a male walking between Salen & Craignure, he was located by the police safe and well.

Ross of Mull and Iona, 6 calls, 1 theft and two crimes recorded.

Tobermory Traffic Management.

B.S. stated that still, after 30 years, despite several attempted TROs the parking problems around the town have not been successfully solved. In 2005 A&BC said they would look into a parking strategy for Tobermory as a whole, however this still has not been achieved. The present proposed TRO for the town is still only for the Main Street and, Ledaig and, although signs have been erected, they cannot be enforced until the TRO has been passed and parking charges implemented so enabling a warden to be employed.

B.M. said it was clear that the community were against charges.

I.C. said that members of the public had approached him about enforcing the sign “no parking for Campervans “ on the Main St.

A.D. had been told the police could not enforce it.

R.C. reported that there are parking charges in Fionnphort and Craignure.

D.S. said the sign was too small. Also a TRO should not mean charges, the community must stand firm against them. The proposed new car park at Baliscate and the new Co-op store should alleviate problems.

M-J.D. said tourist buses also caused problems. A&BC have met regularly with the Traffic Management Group and plans are being drawn up for the new car park.

B.S. said he would enquire about a TRO without charges.

There was a general discussion about applying to A&BC for funds to finance a warden who would police the whole Island. Also clearer signage is needed, however care should be taken that delivery vans etc. should not be affected.

Education matters

Summary Report – Tracy Mayo

Thanks

Thanks to all school staff for their hard work over the last year. Thanks also to those who take after school and weekend clubs, they have allowed the children/students to socialise again in a safe environment.

Education

After our last meeting I received messages of concern from the community who had the impression that Education was not part of our remit. To determine whether I could help people with their concerns as a community councillor I wrote to Douglas Hendry Executive Director Education AB&C and Melissa Stewart our governance lawyer.

Governance

Mr Hendry and Ms Stewart were on election duty, while I was waiting for a response, I made calls and undertook research. According to my findings from the Govan Law Centre, COSLA, Scottish Government, Education Scotland, and other Community Councils we can discuss education matters/concerns.

Mr Hendry confirmed in an email that education can be discussed by Community Councils. He stated, “I am not sure of the basis for your statement that Community Councils can’t discuss education matters”. “I have been in recent correspondence with Mull Community Council in the course of which I indicated that a number of matters which Community Council were looking to pursue, relation to education, were matters which the Council had engaged with other bodies (local parent councils) who had a specific role in relation to education matters. I confirmed that the Council would be continuing to engage with Parent Councils and would not be undertaking what would be in effect a parallel exercise with Community Council”.

Euan Campbell-Community Empowerment Policy Officer – Scottish Government.

“Community councils are there to represent their communities and are elected for the purpose of representing their community views ultimately the remit it is determined by the local scheme of establishment.”

He continued if you find yourself without the ability to influence decisions related to education you may wish to consider other means of influence submitting a participation request”.

Mr Campbell also shared a link to a Local Governance Review that is beginning run in partnership with COSLA looking at opportunities to develop functional, fiscal and community empowerment. It seems in the future community councils could find themselves make more complex and difficult decisions.

Scheme of Establishment for Community Councils in Argyll & Bute 3.1

“The general purpose of community councils is to act as a voice for their local area. This will involve them articulating views and concerns of local people in their area on a wide range of issues of public concern and making representations to their local authority, other public sector bodies and private agencies within their sphere of interest”.

Letter from Galashiels Community Council confirms they deal with education issues/concerns.

Georgia Satchell’s letter, Community involvement in upgrading Tobermory to a secondary is a fascinating read. It covers the period 1976 to 1986

Summary

The concerns about our school were first raised at Community Council in March. Some parents felt their views were not represented and came to me as a community councillor for help. Since then, repair work and painting has commenced on the school.

The introduction of VC Learning has been delayed. The five-period day is being introduced and it has been indicated it is causing some concern.

Guidance for a Good Consultation

The Scottish Government guidance is on the web, it suggests you plan your consultation, so there should be a clearly identifiable audience, timetable, every attempt should be made to capture missing voices, information should be consistent, responses should be recorded, receipted and responses published. The consultation of aligned timetables and VC Learning does not appear to fit all these criteria.

Passing on Concerns

I have been passing on concerns and questions I receive to Richard and Parent Council. I also passed on to Community Council last night a summary of the key concerns I have received over the last few days.

Education Scotland

I discussed parental engagement at this meeting. I will share resources with parents/parent councils later. We have had concerns about other consultations e.g. on Craignure pier. We need to establish a more effective mechanism of communicating with the Council
A.M. raised concerns that some staff were stressed and this could effect students. The combination of the Salen decant, merger of years 3/4 and aligned timetables were causing concern.

B.M. checked that A.M.,as a member of the PC, this had been passed on.

There were worries that the PC had only received a few complaints. The staff have their unions, education as a whole is the concern of the CC but operational matters are dealt with by the PCs.

These matters could be brought up at the forthcoming meeting with the Council.

A.W. reported on the Salen decant; contractors should be in place by next week, with a penalty clause for overdue work.

Rebecca Adams said that there were worries about escorts on buses for the children to Tobermory. Parking is still a problem around Salen School

A.O.B.

Permission was given to ask Mark Strevens to takeover the CC website.

P.M. reported that an access road in Salen was exiting over the pavement causing danger.

M-J. D. would check the planning.

P.M. asked about spaces reserved for locals on the ferry as a family could not get to Mull for a funeral. Also with animal sales coming soon there are booking problems for farmers transporting animals.

A.M. thanked M-J. D. as the early bus from Tobermory had been reinstated. There were questions about the Fionnphort early bus. A full working day in Oban is still a problem.

Public Questions.

Jenny Des Fountain asked if the MCC would confirm they would include discussion of Education matters when raised by the community and would provide support for a wider education forum.

B.M. replied that the CC would step in if needed, the PC should be the first step for educational issues, the CC will back them if issues arise.