

MULL COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on the 6th October 2021
By zoom and live streamed on Facebook

Present: Tom Nelson, Adrian Stephens, Andrena Duffin, Iain Campbell, Jo Prior, Norman Hickson, Billy McClymont, Pam MacColl, Alasdair McCrone, John Maughan, Robbie Cameron.

In Attendance: Cllr. Devon, Neil Hutton, Joe Reade, Moray Finch, Seonaidh Mackenzie.

Apologies: Moira Westland, Angus Williams, Cllr. Lynch.

Minutes of the meeting held on 1st Sept. were proposed by P. M., seconded by R.C.

Matters arising and correspondence: A.D. reported that the CC had given support to MICT for the feasibility study on accommodation for key workers. A positive response was had from Graeme Dey, Transport Minister and she had attended a meeting to discuss the acquisition of another Ferry. Helen MacDonald had reported 1. there had been 13 enquiries about the letting of Pennyghael School House, 2. The first enquiry had been received about changing from a short term to long term let. 3. Council's Empty Homes Officer had the flyer ready to send out . 4. They were finalising details of the joint appeal to landowners about making land available for housing or crofting.

Also R.C. was having problems getting planning permission for his Croft, could this be looked into by the small committee formed at last month's meeting.

T.N. had been sent a photograph of Campervans parked obstructing the pavement at Ledaig.

A.D. said we had been promised signs etc, from A& B C, but so far little has been done.

B.M. reported that a Warden was now in post. Cllr. D. confirmed that the Warden deals with piers and harbour also amenities. She would speak to him about the problem.

T.N. had received correspondence about the lack of Broadband and R100 on the Ross.

R.C. said he was in touch with Ian MacInnes from the Council and Duncan Nesbit from the Govt. regarding the matter.

Cllr. D., M.F., R.C. would arrange a meeting to discuss the problem. Cllr. Lynch could also help.

T.N. had accepted A.D.'s resignation as Secretary and from the CC. He thanked her for all the work and stressed the need for a replacement.

Update on School matters: N.H. reported that the Salen decant was going well, however because of a shortage of materials there is a slight delay to the rebuild and the return date is the 1st December.

The advertisement has gone out for the Recruitment of a Head Teacher for THS, this closes on 15th October and interviews will follow. The post will have additional responsibilities with a higher salary but it is not an executive head in terms of the proposed changes referred to later.

Maintenance on the Tobermory school has been carried out over the summer and still more is planned.

Major school investments are being looked at by the Council for Mull and Islay. A Feasibility study, including location will be carried out by an external body. The result will determine

the need for the Council to apply for funding. This is not a done deal but a step in the right direction.

Education Change Programme, later this year the Council will consult with teachers, parents, Parent Councils, Community Councils etc. about how schools are managed.

THS has its full allocation of permanent contracts; additional staff are on temporary contracts because the funding may also be temporary.

N.H. thanked the staff for their amazing work under difficult circumstances this year. He said that he was retiring as the Chair of the PC and wished the new PC well with the changing circumstances.

T.N. thanked N.H. for his hard work and echoed his thanks to the staff.

Ferry Update: J.R. stated that a new 50 metre ferry has been purchased and if all modifications go well it should be ready to replace the Coruisk next year, it will be on the service all year, stationed in Craignure so will give us the commutable service we need and a much improved timetable. The crew will need accommodation in Craignure so that needs to be included in MICT's survey for workers' accommodation. Foot passenger access needs to be solved.

A new ticketing system will be introduced in February to facilitate booking.

T.N. asked if ferries are being booked to capacity as there seems plenty of space for non booked cars. J.R. will enquire as to how the booking system has been operating.

R.C. asked about farmers booking livestock for market, this is a regular problem and needs to be sorted out. J.R. replied that these problems as well as fares etc. should be discussed and they were asking for a meeting with Transport Scotland and CalMac. We must keep pressing for answers.

Cllr. D. said she had had a meeting with the Minister and asked Chris Wilcock to be in touch with T.N. as new animal welfare legislation has come out.

J. R. said we need greater capacity on the route.

B.M. suggested that we ask for 3 smaller ferries on the route to increase capacity.

J.R. said they had put a document on their website, Specification of User

Requirements, please look at it and could the CC endorse it. In order to get a ferry that supplies our needs.

Police Report: there were 50 calls this month. North Mull had 17, 4 crimes recorded. Craignure had 12 calls, 2 crimes recorded. Salen had 13 calls, 2 crimes recorded. The Ross had 8 calls, 5 crimes recorded. It should be noted there has been an increase in bank frauds, individuals posing as bank employees. If a suspect call is received contact your bank and report it to the police on 101.

Councillor's Report: boundary changes, there will be no change in the current system of representation.

A Government consultation is being launched about the change in care services, it is important we take part.

Bus timetables should be looked at, including an early bus from the Ross. A bus shelter at Craignure is needed.

Mental health issues with school pupils are being dealt with. However our young people have excelled in various countrywide competitions and this should be recognised.

A.O.B.

Answer to the Island Bond needed, could A.S. do a letter to be agreed on.

No objections to alcohol license for Sgriobruadh and Co-op

A.D. reported on a site meeting at Langamull concerning the replacement for the electric cable to Coll. The team recognised the problems and reassured the owners that all care and consideration for the environment would be adhered to.

The plan for planting on the Glenaros estate had been seen and approved by all.

Thanks go to Piers Massey, Shona Reade and Lyn Raybould for all their work in the hospital and surgeries.

Concerns had been raised about the siting of a septic tank for the restoration of a house by the Mishnish Lochs. The Council has passed the plans and due care and attention has been observed.

J.R. commented on driver behaviour on single track roads. Could more, improved signage be done.

R.C. tried to set up a meeting with West Coast Motors re early bus from the Ross. Also could Fidden and Knockvolgan be connected to mains water. Can we help, 20 properties are in need.

J. M. had brought up the problem of otter disturbance by photographers, the Rangers are dealing with this.

Tracy Mayo asked about the advertisement for the Head Teacher and the extra duties required.

Cllr. D. said that it was an operational matter, speak with N.H. or the Council.

S.M. thanked the CC for allowing him to attend their interesting meetings, he was now retiring.

T.N. said S.M.'s reports had been appreciated and thanked him.

Date of next meeting Wednesday 3rd November, chaired by B.M.

Sent from my iPad