

MULL COMMUNITY COUNCIL MINUTES
Draft Minutes of a Meeting held on Wednesday 1 December 2021
via Zoom and livestreamed on Facebook

Present : George Burns, Cameron MacLean, Pam MacColl, John Maughan, Billy McClymont, Alasdair McCrone, Tom Nelson (Convenor), Jo Prior, Adrian Stephens, Angus Williams, Moira Westland.

In Attendance : Cllr. Devon, John Holliday (Tiree CC), Colin Morrison (NWMWCC), Joe Reade (Ferry Committee); Richard Crozier and Gordon Milne (Mull Rally) for Item 3; Jenny Des Fountain and Tracy Mayo (Wise4All) for Item 4; Sarah Padley for Item 5

1. Apologies : Andrena Duffin, Norman Hickson, Cllr. Lynch, Cllr. McCuish

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The Minutes of the last meeting were approved with one amendment (proposed Adrian Stephens, seconded Pam MacColl). Amendment agreed to the item on West Coast Motors to read:

- AS suggested adding the bus *connections* to the *Calmac* website *as is done for rail connections at Oban*.

3. Matters Arising & Correspondence

(a) Membership

It was noted that Andrena Duffin (Secretary) had resigned from the Council and also Robbie Cameron. It was agreed to co-opt George Burns to the Council and to appoint him as Secretary (proposed Andrena Duffin, seconded Tom Nelson) and to co-opt Cameron MacLean to the Council (proposed Billy McClymont, seconded Tom Nelson).

(b) Supermarket

Jo Prior reported that she had been in touch with Morrisons to ask them to consider deliveries to the island. Morrisons have the matter under consideration and there appears to be potential for this to go ahead, which was welcomed by the Council.

(c) Jenny Minto MSP

Tom Nelson reported he had met Jenny Minto discuss island issues and that he would invite her to attend an MCC meeting in January or February 2022.

4. Mull Rally 13-16 October 2022

Richard Crozier made a presentation about the route proposals for the 2022 rally, which will be the 50th rally. Richard agreed to circulate the proposals after the meeting and make them more widely available for a one-month consultation period ending on 31 December 2021. The Council welcomed this but asked for the consultation period to be extended, due to the Christmas period. Richard felt that it would be feasible to extend the consultation period for two weeks but that they had to meet deadlines imposed by British Motorsport. Cllr. Devon recommended that an application be made to A&BC for event funding and Gordon Milne indicated that he was pursuing this. It was noted that the 2021 event had gone smoothly.

5. Argyll & Bute Council Education Change Proposals & Consultation

Jenny Des Fountain and Tracy Mayo made presentations to the Council about the implications that could arise from A&BC proposals that would significantly change school leadership arrangements, bringing schools together in collectives under non-teaching Executive Head Teacher teams and place some resourcing arrangements in the collectives rather than individual schools. At the same time the A&BC proposals envisage no school closures.

They considered that the benefits claimed in the A&BC proposals were unevidenced and not risk-assessed. They noted that a petition had been started by the EIS and also in Dunoon & Cowal. They emphasised that consultation and consideration should be as inclusive as possible and that

differing views should be recorded and respected equally.

John Holliday noted that Tiree has had shared a shared school leadership arrangement in place with Oban for 3 years and that there have been both benefits and disbenefits. Tiree CC will be canvassing the local community before finalising a view on the proposals. It was agreed that Tiree and Mull should collaborate to help inform views.

Angus Williams set out his significant concern about the longer-term implication of the proposals, for young people and for the island community more widely. Angus and Tom Nelson proposed that the MCC should focus increasing attention on matters affecting the sustainability of the island, such as education. It was suggested a way be found for a representative of Parent Councils to join future meetings and that the new Head Teacher of THS be invited to the January or February meetings of the MCC.

Cllr. Devon highlighted the importance of a wide individual and community response to the consultation.

Adrian Stephens reported that, following a discussion with Iona CC colleagues, they were also questioning the evidence base for the proposals and why they were being brought forward now, as well the apparent absence of a risk assessment. Adrian pointed that young people had already been significantly adversely affected by coronavirus and have only one shot at education, so this consultation is critical. He highlighted, however, a number of apparent contradictions in the proposals and a lack of meaningful detail in the consultation documents to allow any proper evaluation.

It was agreed to consider the matter in detail in January and that Community Councillors will seek to raise wider awareness of the proposals and consultation, and canvass opinion to help inform the January meeting. Alasdair McCrone reported that he will be arranging for information to be placed on the MCC facebook page and, as co-Chair of the THS Parent Council, on their facebook page.

6. Poppy Lights

Sarah Padley proposed to the Council the island should obtain and display Remembrance Poppy lights that she had recently seen in other parts of Scotland, and would be happy to help pursue this for Mull. Members felt this a very good idea and put forward some suggestions about how it could be taken forward, including involving young people and veterans, and suggestions about funding.

7. Police Report There was no Police Report this month. George Burns will contact the police.

8. Councillor's Report

Cllr. Devon reported :

- the good news that CalMac had agreed that all school transport will in future receive a 50% fare discount;
- that there had been a positive meeting with the consultants in respect of the Craignure Infrastructure development; and
- that enforcement action was about to commence at the site where campervans and equipment have been left

Cllr. Devon is now winding down commitments, towards the date when she will stand down from A&BC, including attending her last meeting of the Argyll Ferry Users group.

9. Ferry Committee

Joe Reade reported that the ferry booking system remained a significant concern, but there was no indication that Transport Scotland would consider any change. Both Tom Nelson and Joe had already raised the matter with Jenny Minto MSP and the Ferry Committee proposed to further escalate the matter in collaboration with the MCC. Cllr. Devon will also write to officials about booking arrangements and costs for farmers and livestock.

10. AoB

- (a) Tom Nelson noted that TSL would be holding a consultation at Craignure on the proposed development there. Tom will also invite TSL to join a MCC meeting.
- (b) Members approved that Adrian Stephens should renew the MCC Zoom account.
- (c) George Burns reported on the forthcoming Investing in Communities Fund and will circulate details together with some information on small grants.
- (d) Billy McClymont drew attention to:
 - Hazardous manhole covers in Craigure, which are the responsibility of Gleaner, but which should also be brought the attention the Roads Department.
 - parking issues at Bentalla Crescent arising the development there and which also affected the school;
 - a new street lighting distribution box which is obstructing the pavement in Craignure.
 Billy and George Burns will arrange for letters to be sent about the manhole covers. Cllr. Devon and Billy will contact the relevant officials about the other matters.
- (e) Santa will be visiting all villages on the island and in residence at the Christmas Producers Market in Tobermory!

Dates of Meetings in January 2022

The dates of meetings have subsequently been revised to:

- **Thursday 13 January 7.00pm - MCC Monthly Meeting**
- **Wednesday 26 January 7.00 - MCC Public Engagement session on the A&BC Education consultation.**

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