

MULL COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Draft Minutes of a Meeting held on Thursday 13 January 2022
via Zoom and livestreamed on Facebook

Present

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

In Attendance

Cllr. Devon, Moray Finch (MICT), Cllr. McGrigor

1. **Apologies:** Pam MacColl
2. **Declarations of Interest:** None.
3. **Minutes of the Last Meeting**

The Minutes of the last meeting were approved with one amendment, to note that Iain Campbell was present (proposed Ian, seconded Jo Prior).

4. **Matters Arising**

- (a) **Membership**

The meeting confirmed the co-option of Cameron MacLean which had been agreed in principle at the last meeting (proposed Billy McClymont, seconded Tom Nelson).

- (b) **Argyll & Bute Council Education Change Proposals**

It was agreed to postpone the public engagement session previously planned for late January, given that A&BC had now extended the consultation period and had organised Q&A sessions for leaders of Community Councils and Parent Councils. The public engagement session will now be held on Wednesday 16 February at 7.00pm via Zoom and livestreamed on Facebook. Zoom details for public participation will be available shortly. A programme for the session was agreed and it will include an A&BC video about their proposals.

- (c) **Sustainable Island Discussions**

Tom Nelson proposed that the Community Council should have a regular agenda of items that affect the social, economic and environmental sustainability of the island.

Recommendations were put forward about what this might include. The principle was agreed and a list of such items will be drawn up.

Billy McClymont expressed concern about key jobs being drawn away from the island.

Kathryn MacCallum had written to highlight the post of Home Care Coordinator which had recently been lost, with no proposal for an island-based replacement and no Island Impact Assessment. Billy emphasised that there is a need for managers of services to ensure that the impacts of changes of this kind be properly and fully considered. Cllr. Devon added that such issues did not just apply to health and social care, but also to other services such as ferry crew recruitment, where steps had been taken to prioritise island-based jobs, following representations.

Billy and Mary-Jean agreed to develop a strategy for engagement with the Health & Social Care Partnership. John Maughan drew attention to a MICT feasibility study into accommodation for key workers on the island which is also underway.

- (d) **Jenni Minto MSP**

Tom Nelson reported that he had invited Jenni Minto to attend an MCC meeting in the near

future.

(e) **Mull Rally 2022**

Jo Prior reported that discussions with the Rally organisers about the proposed route remained in progress : While the Rally continued to be welcomed, concern had been expressed by the farming community about some parts of the route. This included the length of the road closure proposed at Torloisk, which is considered impracticable. Tom Nelson asked whether payments might be available for the time of farmers in moving livestock and Jo reported that this needs further discussion with the organisers. It was hoped that the rally organisers would attend the next MCC meeting. Cameron MacLean also agreed to work with Jo on Rally matters.

(f) **Morrison's Deliveries**

Jo Prior reported that deliveries to Mull remain under consideration by the Morrison's board, but that it is unlikely to be decided imminently.

(g) **Pavement Obstruction and Gleaner Pipeline, Craignure**

Billy McClymont reported that action had been taken immediately following the last meeting to move the lighting distribution box, so that it no longer presented an obstruction, and that Gleaner had contracted A&BC roads department to repair the roadway at the Gleaner pipeline; it was understood that the repairs had started.

5. **Planning**

(a) **TSL Proposed Housing Development, Craignure**

Several Community Councillors reported on discussions they had now had with TSL and Billy McClymont reported that the proposals had been generally welcomed by the Craignure community.

There was consensus that the proposed development is important and welcome, although there remained concern about whether a significant number of properties would be bought as holiday homes. It was noted that Moray Finch had raised the possibility of attaching a Rural Housing Burden, which would require that houses be purchased as permanent residences; however it was accepted that this could materially affect the value of properties and the feasibility of the development. Jo Prior noted that forthcoming legislation would prevent the houses being used as short-term lets.

It was welcomed that the developer TSL is local and concerned with the overall interests of the island alongside the commercial venture. Members also welcomed the 25% of affordable homes within the development, while Billy noted that a number of affordable home developments had subsequently proven not to be affordable for local people. Members also welcomed the potential for a Nursery and a Nursing & Care Home as part of the development.

It was agreed that the Community Council would continue to engage positively with TSL, alongside MICT, and support discussions about whether an RH Burden could be applied to at least some houses, and other potential options such as shared equity. It was noted that TSL would be happy to attend a meeting of the Community Council and it was agreed that this should be on the agenda for the next meeting.

(b) **Key Worker Accommodation**

Moray Finch reported that a feasibility study is now underway by MICT, funded by the Scottish government. It is hoped that the findings will underpin a business case for Rural Growth Deal funding towards key worker accommodation and that the study will be

completed in March. Billy McClymont and Tom Nelson volunteered to support MICT, on behalf of the Community Council.

(c) **Glen Forsa Long-Term Forest Plan**

John Maughan reported that he had received the Archaeological Survey and discussed it with Highfield Forestry. He noted that plans had been developed to respect archaeological sites, which are numerous, and that it was accepted that further sites were likely to be uncovered which would also need protection. John is also seeking views from some other bodies. He was remitted to write to FLS on behalf of the MCC and he asked for any further comments within a week. Tom Nelson suggested that the developers consider making some contributions to Mull Museum should suitable material become available.

6. **Police Report** : Noted.

7. **Councillors' Reports**

Cllr. Devon drew attention to:

- The continuing difficulties faced by people in the Ross for lack of an early morning bus to Craignure to meet the 8.40 am ferry sailing. She had sought further contact with West Coast Motors since the last meeting, without success. Accordingly the four local County Councillors had agreed to put forward a recommendation that A&BC consider making a service available. The MCC agreed to write to support this recommendation.
- The relevance of the Islands Act in this context : While the stated intent was to provide parity for islands in the availability of services, it appeared to have had little real impact to date.
- That SEPA had imposed an Enforcement Order for a site on the island, but had not taken any action when the Order was not complied with. It was agreed that the MCC Secretary would write to SEPA.
- The success of the vaccine services on Mull and Iona, which meant that 78% of the population were now vaccinated. It was agreed to write a letter of thanks to Kathryn MacCallum and her colleagues.
- Reported speeding on the Aros-Dervaig glen road. Jo Prior is seeking contact with the police to clarify whether speed checks have taken place.

The availability of support to help meet transport costs for those attending medical appointments on the mainland was discussed. Moray Finch agreed to circulate information about this.

It was noted that Mary-Jean was now retiring. A vote of thanks was proposed and unanimously endorsed, thanking Mary-Jean for her dedication and outstanding service to the community.

Cllr. McGrigor reported that:

- A&BC provides a subsidy to West Coast Motors and that, while there are plenty of buses at the height of the tourist season, the subsidised services should provide an adequate service for the Ross in winter. He also considered that more needed to be done to properly integrate bus, ferry and rail services.
- Serious difficulties are now being faced by scallop divers as a result of revised safety regulations introduced by the government.
- Action is required to pursue the committment made many years ago to upgrade the complete length of the Craignure-Tobermory road to a full carriageway, but which appears to have received no recent attention.

8. **Amendment to Constitution**

It was agreed to amend the Constitution to allow the option of continuing to hold MCC meetings virtually, or as a hybrid of virtual and face-to-face meetings (proposed Tom Nelson, seconded Alasdair McCrone).

9. **Any Other Business**

(a) **Tobermory Traffic Management and New Car Park**

It was noted that there appeared to have been no further progress on this matter, despite £1.2m being available for the planned developments. It was agreed that the MCC Secretary should write to seek a clear timetable for the work.

(b) **MICT Funding Application**

Moray Finch asked that the MCC support a MICT application for European funding for a feasibility study on decarbonisation of community facilities and services, and other developments towards zero emissions. George Burns was remitted to prepare a letter of support.

(c) **Langamull & West Ardhru Long-Term Forest Plan**

George Burns noted that a scoping document setting out the aims and indicative plan for the forest had been published in the A&BC planning applications and was open for consultation until the end of January. The MCC is named as a consultee. George asked for any comments to be forwarded to him, for submission to the consultation.

(d) **Gaelic Translation of Community Council Meetings**

Adrian Stephens reported that, subject to testing in advance, it was hoped that a simultaneous translation of meetings could be provided from February onwards.

9. **Public Questions** : None.

Next Meeting

Subsequent to the meeting, it was agreed that the next meeting should be held on **Thursday 10 February at 7.00pm** via Zoom and livestreamed on Facebook. Zoom details will be available shortly.

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**Community Council Public Engagement Meeting
on**

**Argyll & Bute Council's Consultation
on School Leadership Changes**

Wednesday 16 February at 7.00pm

Zoom details (also livestreamed on Facebook)

Mull Community Council is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: MCC Education Public Engagement Session

Time: Feb 16, 2022 07:00 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89146782469?pwd=WUd6M2pld2xHRWozSURteXZadlBxUT09>

Meeting ID: 891 4678 2469

Passcode: 454412

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