

MULL COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of a Meeting held on Thursday 10 February 2022 via Zoom and livestreamed on Facebook

Present

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

In Attendance

John Holliday (Tiree CC), Iain MacIlleChiar (CHARTS), Kenny MacArthur (TSL), Joe Reade (Ferry Committee), Mairi Grieg (MICT),

1. **Apologies** : Pam MacColl, Alasdair McCrone.
2. **Declarations of Interest**: None.

Gaelic Simultaneous Translation

This was the first meeting that a simultaneous translation was available on the Zoom channel, thanks to CHARTS. It will be determined whether it can also be provided on the Facebook livestream in future.

Jenny Reddaway

Tom Nelson and Members expressed their condolences to the family and friends of Jenny, a former Secretary to the Community Council, following the sad news that she had passed away.

3. **TSL Proposed Development, Craignure**

Kenny MacArthur of TSL provided an update. He noted that the response to TSL's initial consultation had been overwhelmingly positive and that they had made some changes in light of comment, including the addition of some bungalows, more flats and one-bedroom flats, and an enlarged retail unit. He hoped that this would help provision for people seeking smaller and lower price accommodation. The proportion of affordable housing remained the same.

It was noted that the principal concern of the MCC and local residents was that too much of the development might become second/holiday homes. Kenny hoped that the housing mix changes would go some way towards addressing this. He felt that, while the market would ultimately dictate the balance of ownership, TSL might consider a selling strategy that would accord some priority to current or future residents.

The MCC welcomed that TSL was a local company, committed to supporting the local community. It was recommended that MICT and other bodies continue to engage with TSL to determine how a balance of ownership that meets local needs could be best achieved.

4. **Minutes of the Last Meeting** : Approved (proposed Adrian, seconded John). It was noted that the Secretary might propose a shortened version of the Minutes for publication in R&A.

5. **Matters Arising**

(a) **Proposed New Car Park, Tobermory**

It was noted that A&BC had now issued a tender invitation for two options on the design of the car park, one of which had less capacity than the other. It was considered unlikely that construction would begin before late Autumn 2022.

(b) **Island-Based Ambulance and Health Posts**

Billy McClymont reported that, following discussions with Mary-Jean Devon, it was felt that the issues should now be escalated to the Health Minister and that he will be taking steps accordingly.

(c) **Other Matters Arising**

- John Maughan has written to FLS about the Glen Forsa Long-Term Forest Plan;
- Tom Nelson has written to A&BC about early morning public transport from Fionnphort to Craignure;
- Moray Finch has circulated information about help with transport costs for people attending medical appointments. George Burns will arrange for this to be placed on the MCC website;
- Tom expressed thanks to Gleaner and A&BC for repair of the roadway in Craignure;
- Jo Prior is awaiting further information from local residents who are concerned about speeding on the Aros-Dervaig road;
- Jo reported that the Mull Rally organisers are tweaking the route proposals in light of consultation and are being put in touch with affected landowners. It is hoped to provide an update to the next MCC meeting;
- Jenni Minto MSP will join the next MCC meeting, in March.

6. **Sustainability**

(a) **Education**

The MCC public engagement session on A&BC's education change proposals are scheduled for 16 February and details of the meeting have been widely circulated. It was noted that the MCC had been asked to endorse a letter calling for A&BC's consultation to be withdrawn, but it was agreed that the Community Council would only consider its position after the meeting on the 16th.

(b) **Housing**

It was noted that MICT's vacant accommodation at Ulva had now been filled and that their study of key worker accommodation is in progress; a survey will go out to businesses in due course. Tom Nelson drew attention to a police warning about scams associated with the new smoke alarm requirements. George Burns will arrange for this to be publicised.

(c) **Environment**

Tom drew attention to training available for community groups. George will also arrange for this to be publicised.

(d) **Ferry, Travel and Transport**

George drew attention to the draft second Strategic Transport Projects Review (STRP2) and draft fourth National Planning Framework (NPF4), which are open for consultation. Where STRP2 recommends development of a business case for a fixed link to Mull, NPF4 sets out proposals that would affect local planning and infrastructure. Tom and John Maughan also drew attention to representations they had received about the adequacy of the road network, including passing places, overtaking lanes and the absence of dual-lane roads in the Ross and between Salen and Tobermory.

It was agreed that George, John, Jo Prior and Adrian Stephens would form a working party to develop and draft Community Council response to the consultations and consider associated planning matters. It was agreed a summary of the documents would also be prepared for the wider MCC.

Joe Reade reported that he had been in contact with the Head of the Ferry Unit at TS about the ferry booking system, which does not serve the interests of local residents and businesses, but favours occasional visitors who can book well in advance. TS show no sign of addressing this and it was considered the matter now had to be escalated, with reference to the Islands Act, although no change is likely this year. He felt that, similarly, no proper consideration of the Act had been given to the new ticketing system that will be introduced, nor to the replacement of the Coruisk with the Frisa.

Joe also reported that the Calmac contract would expire in 2024 and that issues were being raised about the potential for the network to be debundled, rather than let as a single contract for all routes. This might afford the opportunity for community companies or local authorities to run ferry services, as well as the private sector. He emphasised that this would be a significant and complex change; the Ferry Committee intends to prepare some information to communicate the issues and implications.

7. **Planning:** No issues other than those elsewhere on the agenda.

8. **Tobermory Street Lighting**

Ian Campbell reported that he has written to A&BC expressing his deep disappointment with their response to a local resident who has repeatedly sought to have faulty street lighting fixed, and to seek assurances that the lighting will be properly maintained in future.

9. **Police Report**

	Calls	Crimes Recorded
Mull North	11	2
Craignure & area	10	3
Salen & area	6	1
Ross of Mull & Iona	7	1

The police have drawn attention to road traffic incidents including vehicles that are unroadworthy, uninsured and having no MOT. Non-insured vehicles used on the road may be seized.

10. **Councillor's Reports**

Following the retirement of Mary-Jean Devon there was no report available from an A&BC Councillor for this meeting. George Burns will look into arrangements for future meetings. Billy McClymont recommended that MICT and the Council seek a hustings to be held on Mull for the forthcoming A&BC elections and Marie Grieg agreed to take this up with MICT.

11. **Any Other Business**

Following approaches from local residents:

- George Burns will write to A&BC about the lack of public seating and shelter at Fionnphort.
- Tom Nelson will write to the relevant bodies about overgrown and fallen trees at Eas Brae and Dunard, Tobermory, seeking a tree survey.
- George will contact Live Argyll about a problem with the all-weather pitch at THS.

Billy McClymont reported that Mary-Jean Devon has made representations about ferry transport for the blood transfusion service and that a resolution is expected soon.

12. **Public Questions : None.**

Next Meeting

Wednesday 2 March at 7.00pm. via Zoom and livestreamed on Facebook. Jenni Minto MSP will be join the meeting. Simultaneous gaelic translation will be available on Zoom by by choosing the clicking the global icon on the Zoom page and clicking Scots Gaelic. Zoom details will be placed on the Community Council website and Facebook pages shortly.