

MULL COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Draft Minutes of a Meeting held on Wednesday 4 May 2022

Present

Adrian Stephens, Alasdair McCrone, Angus Williams, Billy McClymont, George Burns, Iain Campbell, Jo Prior, Pam MacColl, Tom Nelson (Convenor)

In Attendance

Joe Reade, Mairi Greig, Norman Hickson, Tracy Mayo, Cllr. McGrigor.

1. **Apologies** : Cameron MacLean, John Maughan, Moira Westland
2. **Declarations of Interest:** None.
3. **Minutes of the Last Meeting:** Approved (proposed Jo Prior, seconded Pam MacColl).
4. **Matters Arising**
 - (1) George Burns will contact A&BC to chase for replies about public seating at Fionnphort and the Tobermory car park.
 - (2) Tom Nelson will chase FLS for a reply about the Eas Brae trees.
 - (3) A&BC has sent an engineer to address problems with Tobermory street lighting, following Ian Campbell's letter.
 - (4) Royal Mail has responded to George's contact about understaffing and deliveries, but did not really address the issues. George will re-contact them.
 - (5) Thanks were expressed to Moray Finch, Adrian Stephens, Jo Prior and others for organising the election hustings
 - (6) The first stage planning application for the Scottish Salmon Company proposed fish farm at Little Colonsay has been approved by A&BC, who have written to a number of other bodies asking what assessments they require SSC to make before further stages. The Community Council agreed that they needed to consider the proposed development in more detail over the next few months. It was agreed to invite the M&I Fishers' Association to the next meeting and SSC to a subsequent meeting. It was felt that the Community Council should consider the environmental impact as well as the economic/employment issues and Jo Prior agreed to look into this.

5. **Sustainability Issues**

Education

Wendy Brownlie, Head of Education for A&BC, had replied about teacher recruitment and allowances and her letter has been circulated to MCC members. It was noted that Mull Parent Councils had taken steps to help recruitment. It was also noted that relocation expenses could be met by A&BC although no additional allowances are available to teachers relocating to Mull to help meet the higher costs of island living.

Wendy will be writing to MCC again, with an update about the unoccupied teacher's flat in Tobermory. The meeting noted the difficulty that lack of accommodation created for

recruiting and retaining teaching staff and that A&BC should not have sold housing they previously owned. The Community Council had already agreed to write incoming A&BC Councillors about education and agreed that teacher accommodation should be added to the letter. Other comments should be forwarded to George Burns.

It was also agreed that some of this year's THS leavers should be asked to speak at the next MCC meeting. Alasdair McCrone and Tracy Mayo will arrange this.

A&BC Council Committees

It was agreed in principle to write to some A&BC Committees about matters of priority affecting Mull and to consider detail at the June meeting.

Health & Social Care

It has been confirmed that the transport costs of patients travelling with the help of RoMICTS from the Ross to Craignure, to meet the ferry for travel for treatment on the mainland, can be reclaimed under the NHS Highland scheme. It was remitted to George to consider making additional further representations to A&BC about public transport, which did not appear to take sufficient account of medical necessity.

It was also agreed:

- Representations will be made to NHS Highland about overnight accommodation costs for patients and whether out-patient appointments might be arranged with some flexibility for island residents.
- To invite HSPC and NHS officers to a future meeting to discuss staffing and care levels on Mull, and accommodation for island-based staff.

Ferry, Transport & Travel

- (1) Cllr. Lynch has confirmed that a upgrade of the Salen-Tobermory road has been proposed in A&BC's bid to the UK Levelling Up Fund. If successful, the upgrade would include additional passing places and overtaking lanes but not a full carriageway.
- (2) Joe Reade reported that the MIFC survey about the Samsø ferry book model has received over 800 responses to date. Other islands are consulting similarly. Subject to the final results, MIFC will lobby Ministers for change.
- (3) It was agreed that Joe would speak with Tiree CC about a proposed common approach to CalMac and Transport Scotland about ferry bookings and cancellation charges.
- (4) Tom Nelson reported on a meeting with the CalMac which indicated that arrangements could very likely be made to enable farmers make block bookings for Autumn stock sales. This would be very welcome as it would help obviate long journeys for stock animals via the Fishnish ferry.

Tourism

Jo Prior reported that she had discussed the Government's short-term letting legislation with Jenni Minto MSP. She noted A&BC has no plan as yet about how to implement the requirements, while this would need to be ready by October. Jenni had agreed to arrange

a further meeting, also involving A&BC to address the matter.

Housing

It was noted that MICT survey on key worker accommodation had confirmed a shortage. A summary of the findings will be placed on the MICT and MCC websites shortly and MICT is making arrangements to press for improvements.

6. Planning

No additional issues.

7. Police Report

	Calls	Crimes Recorded
Mull North	28	5
Craignure & area	6	0
Salen & area	3	0
Ross of Mull & Iona	6	2

8. Councillors' Reports

No reports due to the pre-election period.

9. Any Other Businesses

Kilpatrick Graveyard

Tom reported that complaints had been made about problems arising from campervans, litter, sheep worrying and damage to walls. The police are aware and he recommended that such incidents should be reported to the police at the earliest opportunity

Aros Park Historic Walled Garden

The proposed community development was noted and it was agreed to write in support of the business case and funding when appropriate.

10. Any Other Business

None.

11. Public Questions

None.

Next Meeting & Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 1 June at 7.00pm via Zoom and livestreamed on Facebook.

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84395913935?pwd=a3lleXcrVmFyR0cyUFRoOG5hbC9LUT09>