

Mull Community Council
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
held on Wednesday 1 June 2022
via Zoom and livestreamed on Facebook

Present: Adrian Stephens, Cameron MacLean, George Burns, Jo Prior, Tom Nelson (Convenor). Angus Williams, John Maughan, Pam MacColl and Moira Westland were unable to join the meeting at the start, but joined later.

In Attendance: Moray Finch, Cllr. Kain

1. Apologies for Absence : Alasdair McCrone, Angus Williams. (Cllr. Hume had also hoped to attend the meeting, but technical issues prevented this).

2. Declarations of Interest : None

3. Minutes of the 2021 AGM

The Minutes noted that the 2020/21 balance sheet showed that a cheque for an MCC payment made in 2018 had remained uncashed. Jo Prior asked whether the debt should now be written off. Adrian Stephens reported that the cheque itself was no longer cashable but that he would be contacting the creditor to determine whether they still wished the payment made.

With that noted, the 2021 Minutes were approved (proposed Jo, seconded Adrian).

4. Convenor's Report

Tom Nelson thanked Billy McClymont, the previous Convenor for his support, and Andrena Duffin for their support to the Community Council and the Mull community. He thanked George Burns who had taken up the role of MCC Secretary this year.

Tom noted the range of issues that the Community Council had dealt with during the past year, from healthcare to sheep worrying and noted that the Council would need to remain focussed on, in particular, issues of island sustainability. He emphasised that housing availability remained an unresolved and especially important issue, and underpinned other issues of sustainability such as education, healthcare, tourism and transport; he considered that all other aspects of island life would struggle until the issue of housing was resolved. He noted that a recent report from MICT made very worrying reading and would be considered further by the Community Council.

Tom noted that the Community Council looked forward to working with the newly elected A&BC Councillors and with A&BC more generally. He noted the Community Council's frustration with A&BC's lack of proper engagement over a number of matters in recent years, and hoped for a more positive and collaborative relationship in future, as the way to

take things forward successfully. Tom reported that he had discussed this with newly elected A&BC Councillors and that they also intended to support this.

He noted also that fresh elections to the Mull Community Council would take place in September (nominations open in August) and called particularly for people from under-represented areas, such as the Ross, and young people, to come forward.

He concluded by thanking all members of the Community Council for their work during the year and by thanking former A&BC Councillor Mary-Jean Devon for the support she had given to Mull's communities and to the Community Council itself over many years.

There were no public questions.

5. Secretary's Report

George Burns noted that he had taken up the role of Secretary with effect from December 2021, saying that he had felt some trepidation about doing so, given he was taking over from Andrena Duffin, who was a person of great significance in the island community and who had herself been both Convenor and Secretary of the Community Council. He thanked Andrena and all members of the Community Council for their support.

He also thanked Mark Strevens of Mull Web Design for his excellent work in keeping the Community Council website up-to-date and valuable for the community, and Janna Greenhalgh, the editor of Round & About, for her help and advice (and her patience).

George noted that holding Community Council meetings via Zoom and Facebook had enabled more people to access meetings, which he felt important given that the Community Council is the most local level of democracy in Scotland. He reported that during the year the Council had made submissions to A&BC's consultation about school leadership and the Scottish Government's consultation on the National Planning Framework, as well as pursuing a range of other matters about roads, transport, lighting, public health and environmental matters. He noted that sometimes the Community Council received meaningful and prompt responses from other bodies, and sometimes did not; he felt that A&BC could do better.

George called on the community to put forward items for consideration by the Community Council, by contacting him or any other member.

There were no public questions.

6. Treasurer's Report

The annual accounts and balance sheet had been circulated in advance of the meeting. The Treasurer reported that the only expenditure in 2021/22 had been payment of the Zoom account that, accordingly, the Community Council would remain in credit following

reimbursement of the Zoom expenses he had incurred on the Council's behalf. He noted that, should the Community Council reintroduce in-person meetings alongside Zoom, this would incur additional expenditure in future, but that the level of expenditure could be expected to remain within the annual administration budget of £720 provided by A&BC.

Adrian thanked Jane Menzies for her support in providing independent verification of the accounts and balance sheet.

There were no questions and the accounts were approved (proposed Adrian, seconded George).

7. Annual Programme of Meetings 2022/23

It was agreed to continue holding meetings on the first Wednesday of each month at 7.00pm. That is:

2022

6 July

3 August

7 September

5 October

2 November

7 December

2023

4 January

1 February

1 March

5 April

3 May

7 June

8. Date of the 2023 AGM : 7 June 2023 at 7.00pm

9. Any Other Business : None.