

## MULL COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### Draft Minutes of a Meeting held on Wednesday 3 August 2022 at An Roth, Craignure, and also via Zoom and livestreamed on Facebook

#### Present:

Adrian Stephens, Alasdair McCrone, Angus Williams, Billy McClymont, Cameron MacLean, Iain Campbell, Jo Prior, John Maughan, Pam MacColl, Tom Nelson (Convenor)

#### In Attendance:

Cllr. Kain, Cllr. Hume, Joe Reade (Ferry Committee) Moray Finch (MICT), Norman Hickson (Craignure Bay Group)

1. **Apologies:** George Burns, Cllr. Lynch

2. **Declarations of Interest**

Several members of the Community Council reported that they had business or other interests which were actually, or could reasonably be seen as, related to Short-Term Letting (Agenda Item 5 - Tourism). It was felt that it would be unrealistic for so many members to exclude themselves from discussion of this item, unless they specifically wished to do so. It was noted that members of the Community Council would need to be mindful of their duty to reflect the views of the island community and take care that any position taken by the Community Council was not unduly influenced by Members' interests.

3. **Minutes of the Last Meeting.** Approved (proposed Pam MacColl, seconded Jo Prior)

4. **Matters Arising**

#### *Aros Park Amenities*

Jo Prior has written to FLS following the demolition of the Look-Out Tower and will report back in due course.

#### *Scottish Water Septic Tank Emptying*

George Burns has contacted Scottish Water and will report back in due course.

#### *Fionnphort Recycling Point*

George has contacted ABC about this and will report back in due course.

#### *Overhanging Branches*

The A&BC Roads team is seeking to identify the landowners where it had been reported at the last meeting that overhanging branches are causing a hazard. The landowners will be asked to cut back the branches and, if this is not done, A&BC will remove the branches and recharge the costs to the landowners. It was reported that there are problems of this kind in many part of Mull at present, in addition to the areas highlighted at the last meeting.

### *Swimming Pool Access*

It is understood that the directors of MICE are reviewing correspondence with the Isle of Mull Hotel management.

### *Bentalla Crescent Parking*

Cllr. Willie Hume reported that, pending a longer-term solution, he had approached the Fire Service, who are taking over the site of the former GP surgery in Salen and who have agreed that the site can be used for parking until redevelopment starts. Willie and Pam MacColl thanked the local resident who had put forward this idea.

## 5. **Sustainability Issues**

### Tourism

A&BC launched a consultation on Short-Term Letting (STL) Licensing after the July meeting of the Community Council, with a closing date two days after the August meeting. In the circumstances Jo Prior had, with the agreement of MCC members, drafted and circulated a potential Community Council response. John Maughan had proposed some amendments.

It was noted that many MCC Members had business or other interests related to tourism, but also that A&BC's short consultation period had not allowed time to properly gauge the views of the wider community; it was hoped that people from the local community would have responded individually. The meeting considered whether it would be appropriate to submit a Community Council response in the circumstances. Billy McClymont and Iain Campbell said that they would not contribute to a response for reasons of conflict of interest.

After discussion, Tom Nelson proposed that a response be submitted, based on Jo's draft and comments made by John and during the MCC discussion, and this was seconded by Adrian Stephens; a majority of members approved. The meeting noted, in particular, that the STL legislation would not help to address the shortfall of affordable homes on Mull, but that this flaw arose from the way the primary national legislation and strategy had been prepared and was not in the control of A&BC.

### Education

#### *Collective Leadership Model*

The Community Council has written to all A&BC Councillors calling for current consideration of the Collective Leadership Model to be stopped and reset, due to the lack of evidence and transparency.

#### *Potential New School Campus*

It was noted that A&BC will hold a public engagement meeting on 11 August to discuss what a new school campus for Mull & Iona might look like, ahead of a bid to the Scottish Government for funds. Meetings are also being arranged for parents and teachers. The Community Council strongly welcomed that A&BC had decided to make a new Mull & Iona school campus its' priority, submitting only this bid to the Scottish Government. Cllr. Kain

confirmed that there would be consultation with the local community about where the school would be located, and other aspects of the development, should the bid be successful.

While greatly welcoming the public engagement, MCC members were disappointed that the meeting would be held only in Tobermory, and on the same day as the Salen Show, which would affect participation. The Community Council will look forward to positive engagement with the community from A&BC as plans move ahead. It was recognised that there would be competing views about the location of a new campus, and Moray Finch reported that he had written to A&BC offering the services of MICT as a paid consultant.

### Health & Social Care

NHS Highland have responded to the MCC letter about the Patient Travel Scheme. They have recently revised reclaimable mileage rates. They also encouraged anyone on Mull & Iona experiencing difficulty in travelling to, or with the timing of, hospital appointments to contact their Travel Team.

A local resident has drawn attention to the lack of day care and activities for elderly people. Pam MacColl reported that a small group is seeking to address this, although planning is at an early stage. George Burns has written to NHS Highland asking whether they can provide support.

Representative of MICT (John Maughan and Moray Finch) have recently met with HSCP representatives to ask about HSCP policy on nursing and social care and to discuss the potential for development of a nursing and care home at Craignure. Billy McClymont agreed to support MICT in these discussions.

Data had been requested from the HSCP which would help determine whether a feasible business case for a nursing and care home could be developed. It was noted that Bowman Court is an assisted-living facility, not a care home, and that the HSCP had confirmed at the last MCC meeting that they would maintain staffing levels there.

### Ferry, Transport & Travel

#### *Oban Harbour*

It was noted that A&BC's consultation on Oban Municipal Harbour will close on 26 August. Cllr. Kain, who is also Chair of the Harbour Board, updated the meeting about proposals to improve safety and extend the North Pier.

#### *Ferry*

Joe Reade reported that Calmac:

- Would redeploy the MV Isle of Mull to the Uig triangle route for a few days, but with immediate effect, in view of repairs required to the MV Hebrides. This will have a significant effect on businesses, islanders and visitors. Jo will email CalMac about strengthening resilience on the Mull routes in the meantime.
- Intends that the MV Loch Frisa will be the core vessel serving Oban-Craignure over

the coming Winter, so that they can redeploy the *Isle of Mull* when needed.

- Has not yet provided the proposed Winter timetable, which is now so late that it is unlikely that much, if any, adjustment will be possible in light of community comment.

He also reported that the Scottish Transport Minister and Transport Scotland had responded favourably, in principle, to the proposals for a Samsø-like booking system, which would provide some surety for islanders. Consideration of the practicalities are now underway and, subject to that, it is hoped that a revised booking system might be trialled in Summer 2023.

### *Housing*

Moray Finch reported that MICT now expected to secure a Rural Homes Burden for the first time on a property in Mull. This would provide MICT with a preferential right to buy the property at any time it became available and sell it on with a requirement that the owners are resident; this right and requirement would be in perpetuity.

## 6. **A&BC Councillors' Reports**

Cllrs. Hume, Kain and Lynch reported that:

- An Invitation to Tender has been issued for redevelopment of the teachers' flat in Tobermory.
- Funding has been confirmed, and work would begin in due course, on Phase 2 of the Tobermory waterfront.
- Work on expansion of the Tobermory cemetery is expected to begin within the next couple of months, having been delayed by the requirement to decroft land associated with the adjoining car park development.
- Meetings are being pursued with officers about parking, road safety and street lighting, and with ACHA about housing.

## 7. **Community Council Elections**

Nominations for election to the Community Council are open 18 August-8 September and a contested election will be held in October if more than 16 people stand, which is strongly encouraged.

Go to [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/community-council-elections](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/community-council-elections) for nomination and election information. Go to [www.mull-community-council.co.uk](http://www.mull-community-council.co.uk) for more about Mull Community Council.

The Community Council has advertised the elections on its website and Round & About and will make arrangements for this to be placed on social media. A&BC is making posters available which members of the Community Council will help to distribute. The nomination and election processes are managed by Argyll & Bute Council and the timetable is:

- Nominations open 18 August
- Close of nominations 8 September

- Publication of Note of Poll, or Uncontested Election, 15 September.

If there is a contested election:

- Issue postal votes 29 September
- Election Day and last day for receipt of postal votes 20 October
- Election count 25 October.

## 8. **Any Other Business**

(1) Adrian Stephens said that he would be standing down from the MCC this year, a principal reason being that A&BC officers have failed to deliver improvements in their engagement with communities and the Community Council that they had promised; that A&BC officers considered the Collective Leadership Model consultation to be a good example of improved engagement demonstrated how little had changed, he felt. Adrian thanked Community Council colleagues for their support and Tom Nelson paid tribute to Adrian's service to the community and the Council.

(2) John Maughan asked that A&BC Councillors press for a response to a letter sent earlier in the year about Gaelic road signs. A&BC had said they would be ordered but nothing further has been heard.

(3) John has also written to the company that will undertake reforestation at Glen Forsa. urging that an archaeologist be employed to survey the planting, rather than having just a manager to walk the ground ahead of the planting team. John reported that he had consulted M&I Historical Society and they had agreed this position, as a forestry manager might not have the expertise required to ensure protection of irreplaceable historical sites. The Community Council concurred.

(4) Tom Nelson had received a message from M&I Fisher's Association, letting us know that the local fishers and the Scottish Salmon Company had been unable to reach an agreement that would mitigate losses to local boats arising from the proposed Little Colonsay Fish Farm. The local fishers had sought an annual contribution to community funds to maintain facilities at Ulva Ferry, while the Scottish Salmon Company had proposed a one-time payment. The Community Council has not yet heard further from the SSC and it was agreed that Tom would contact them. Cameron MacLean suggested that Marine Scotland might be able to help resolve the matter.

(5) Norman Hickson reported that there had been no recent engagement by A&BC with the Craignure Bay Group about the planned infrastructure development. Cllr. Kane reported that he would be meeting Jim Smith, A&BC's Head of Roads and Infrastructure shortly and would report back about this.

## **Next Meeting**

Wednesday 7 September at 7.00pm at An Roth, Craignure and via Zoom, and livestreamed

on Facebook.

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82424445466?pwd=S0ZiNzNOc2NDdVB2MFNTWjBna1NhUT09>