

MULL COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of a Meeting held on Wednesday 2 November 2022 at An Roth, Craignure, and also via Zoom and livestreamed on Facebook

Present:

Billy McClymont (acting Convenor), Pam McColl, Adrian Stephens, John Maughan, Angus Williams, Cameron MacLean, Jo Prior,

In Attendance:

Cllr Andrew Kane, Cllr Amanda Hampsey, Richard Crozier (Mull Rally), Gordon Milne (Mull Rally) Tracy Mayo (THS Parent Council)

1. Apologies: Tom Nelson, George Burns, Moray Finch (MICT)

2. Declarations of Interest: None

3. Minutes of the Last Meeting: Approved (proposed JP, seconded BMC)

4. Beatson's Mull Rally 2022

Richard Crozier, Clerk of the Course and Gordon Milne, Residents Liaison, provided a report on the Mull Rally, held from 13 - 16 October.

RC was asking for the CC's thoughts and whether there was areas to improve and what went well over the weekend. Feedback already received from residents, spectators and competitors was that the weekend had been a great success.

The event was the 50th running of the rally and in celebration of this milestone over 400 hoodies had been distributed to school age children. Visits had been made to most schools although timings meant that unfortunately Bunessan school was not included in the visits, although they had all received the hoodies.

Media interest was significantly higher than in previous years, with reports on the BBC and filming taking place to be aired within a new documentary about Calmac. Sky also filmed a piece about the environmental efforts made - the rally was the largest carbon offsetting event ever held to date. Social media video content viewing was also up over 40% on previous years.

RC wished to thank the residents of Tobermory for moving their cars so that the town stage could go ahead.

Feedback was requested over the closure of the road through Glen Aros, which at 8 hours was the longest closure over the course of the weekend.

Post event surveys will now be produced for completion by residents, spectators, marshalls and competitors

There had been much work carried out in encouraging spectators to 'leave no trace', even providing bin liners with the programs and providing drop off points for litter. Sweeps were

carried out on Sunday morning and on other occasions post rally to clear up any litter and also to remove all tape and signage.

Some criticism had been received over the behaviour of a small number of spectators. There is also a need to involve the landowners on the route at an earlier stage of the planning. Some residents were unclear as to the road closures and there were comments from businesses in Tobermory who had to close early due to the road closures.

There were already discussions underway to provide extra resources next year to improve relationships with landowners and also to improve cascading details of road closures.

Organisers will work to increase the level of welfare support next year particularly in areas of high spectator levels to look to provide more toilet facilities for spectators and marshalls.

BMC asked about the considerable difficulties with traffic leaving the island on the Sunday and Monday afternoon, particularly those using the Lochaline - Fishnish route.

There were over 100 vehicles queuing on the main road on the Sunday afternoon and queues back to the Isle of Mull hotel from the Craignure terminal.

RC explained that the police would not allow them to get involved in traffic management on the Public Highways but clearly steps needed to be put in place for next year.

JM suggested that we could request that Calmac adds another vessel to be deployed on the Oban Craignure route on the Sunday and Monday to assist, also the need for residents to be able to leave the island in an emergency

PMC asked that if spectators are booked onto a ferry and subsequently leave by Lochaline then they must cancel their ticket from Oban to Craignure. PMC could not get livestock to Oban due to a lack of tickets but there was clearly availability on the sailings.

CMC thanked the organisers - it was nice to see the island so busy. Calmac should be persuaded to add more capacity over the weekend.

TM on behalf of the PTC thanked the organisers for the school visits and gifts for all the children.

RC said that consultation will now start taking place for the 2023 event.

5. Community Council Election Outcome and Next Steps

BMC - A By-election will be held with a closing date for nominations of 03 November and it is hoped that sufficient community members will put themselves forward. Unless more candidates than places on the community council then they can be elected uncontested by 15 November.

AS has ensured all outstanding financial matters are settled except one outstanding cheque. AS will remain in post as treasurer until the CC is quorate.

6. Matters Arising: None.

7. Sustainability

Education - Potential New School Campus

BMC had written to A&B stressing the importance of community engagement and seeking a meeting before the bid but no invitation was forthcoming.

TM said that the bid for a new campus had been submitted by Argyll and Bute. There has been no detailed of the contents offered by A&B. TM expressed concern that some members of the community and the PTC were not getting emails through from A&B detailing the bid and concerning community engagement. Either emails are not reaching the recipient or are ending up in spam. A&B have been made aware of these issues.

Transport and travel

A&B had responded to the correspondence referring to the Crofting rights that were inhibiting the development of the car park at Baliscate. The letter offered no reassurances around the funding and whether this was ring fenced. JP to respond asking for clarification.

TN and BMC have met with the owners of the land to find out what their position is regarding the potential development but until it is known that the funding is available there is little point moving these discussions forward.

AK understands there is a legal issue with the funding for the Tobermory car park which requires clarification but reconfirmed that the extension to the Tobermory cemetery will be going ahead as planned with the landowners consent.

AK informed the group that the Tobermory Traffic group was going to reconvene. The group has previously looked at alternate plots of land that could be utilised for the car park and these will now be reconsidered if agreement cannot be reached over the current site.

Energy and Environment.

BMC welcomed the news that the residents of Fionnphort had begun a petition to seek the reinstatement of the recycling provision at Fionnphort.

Residents were reminded that they can always apply for a second recycling bin for plastic, metal and cardboard if a single bin wasn't sufficient.

Scottish Water have apologised for the reduced service in respect of septic tank services, due to a lack of vehicles and staff but the situation is improving and an improved service can now be offered throughout Mull.

JM content with the reassurance that the service is not going to be discontinued. BMC reminded everyone that other commercial services for septic tank emptying were available.

Health and Social care

A meeting regarding the Health Board survey was due to take place on 4 November. BMC will update on the position at the next meeting.

8. Planning

A meeting regarding the proposal for a retail unit at Baliscate has now been moved to 12 November. BMC will represent the Community Council at the meeting as previously agreed..

9. Police Report

No reports had been received in time for the meeting but will be circulated once received

10. A&B Councillors' Reports

AK: There has been interest from a builder to develop the county buildings into three flats for teaching staff.

Budgets are coming up and money is tight. Scottish Government have warned of cuts of up to 600m. Communities are to be invited to come up with ideas on how to save money.

AH: Majority of report covered by AK earlier. Has joined Harbour board alongside AK. AH will be attending the Health Board survey meeting and is policy lead for Health and Social care.

BMC asked AK to confirm that the next phase of the flood defences in Tobermory are definitely going ahead. AK confirmed that they were.

AK : Proposals are being put to the Scottish Government to make Oban a Municipal harbour. The main driver is to increase safety for all users of the port as it gets increasingly busy and also to look to expand the North pier so there is greater capacity for vessels. The current timetable for completion is the start of the 2023 tourism season.

11. Public Questions

AS confirmed he will stay on as treasurer until January but will then handover and stand down.

12. Any Other Business

CMC has been informed that a number of commercial vehicles had been unable to leave the island due to the smaller relief ferry at Corran which can't carry a full length artic and the single vessel Loch Frisa running the Oban - Craignure route. CMC suggested that there be dialogue between Calmac and the Highland Council in the future to prevent these changes occurring at the same time. BMC will raise the issue with Joe Reade.

CMC had been informed that the lights indicating a 20 mph zone in Lochdon were faulty. AS said that the lights had been out of some time. CMC said that this didn't make it right and that they needed repair. JP to write to A&B to request a repair.

TM informed the community council that the National discussion on Education was now open. The CLM is still being pursued in terms of an enquiry. Various people had raised concerns that correspondence sent to the council had not been acknowledged, yet alone responded to .

Note - in order to facilitate the Inaugural meeting of the Community council the meeting on Wednesday 7th December has been cancelled and a meeting will now be held with the Returning Officer of Argyll and Bute Council on Thursday 15th December 2022 at 2.15pm at An Roth, Craignure