

## **MULL COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of a Meeting held on Thursday 15 December at An Roth and via Zoom and livestreamed on Facebook**

**Present:** Allan MacLean, Angus Williams, Bill McClymont, Cameron MacLean, George Burns, Jo Prior, John Maughan, Mary-Jean Devon, Pam MacColl, Rupert Ormond, Tracy Mayo

**In Attendance:** Cllr. Willie Hume, Joe Reade (M&I Ferry Committee), Moray Finch (MICT), Richard Crozier & Gordon Milne (Beatson's Mull Rally), John Holliday (Tiree CC)

#### **1. Apologies**

Mark Aston, Tom Nelson, Cllr. Amanda Hampsey, Cllr. Andrew Kain, Cllr. Jim Lynch

#### **2. Declarations of Interest**

None

#### **3. Beatson's Mull Rally**

Island Community Consultation for Proposed Schedule & Route : 12-15 October 2023.

Richard Crozier and Gordon Milne presented the proposed 2023 route and schedule. It was noted that the statutory consultation period is short and will close on Friday 7 January 2023, due to the requirements of Motorsport UK. This consultation is solely for island residents and businesses. Responses should be sent to [consult@mullrally.org](mailto:consult@mullrally.org).

#### Rally Dates 2024 and Beyond

The rally organisers also seek views on their proposal to move the rally dates to a week later than in the past; that is, the weekend of the 3rd Friday of October, to reflect the lengthening of the tourist season on Mull.

#### **4. Minutes of the Last Meeting**

Approved (proposed Cameron MacLean, seconded Jo Prior).

#### **5. Matters Arising**

Proposed Tobermory Park & Ride Car Park

It remains the case that the car park cannot be developed due to crofting rights at the proposed site. Jo Prior reported that she had sought clarification from A&BC about whether the funding earmarked for the car park would remain ring-fenced for the purpose, but that there had been no reply. Cllr. Hume indicated that he felt this unlikely and Billy McClymont asked whether the funding might be ring-fenced at least until the end of the financial year. It was agreed to press for further clarity from A&BC about the funding sources and ring-fencing.

#### **6. Sustainability Issues**

**Education - Proposed New School Campus**

Tracy Mayo reported that she and Angus Williams had attended a meeting with the A&BC

Mull Campus Team alongside representatives of Parent Councils, Iona Community Council, MICT, SWMID and NMCWDC, to discuss how community engagement would be taken forward should the bid for government funding be successful. It was felt that this was a positive step towards meaningful public engagement in considering where the campus might be located and other issues.

It was noted that the outcome of the bid should be known just before Christmas 2022 and that, if successful, public consultation and engagement would likely begin in late January 2023. While a new campus for Mull is A&BC's sole bid to the government fund, reflecting the priority attached to it, the bid is in competition with bids from other local authorities.

Tracy noted that, in the event the bid is unsuccessful, parents would be anxious to know what the Plan B might be, given the condition of the present campus in Tobermory.

She also noted that a number of bodies continue to press for an independent inquiry into the Collective Leadership Model public consultation, in order that lessons can be learned for the future, but that A&BC officers maintain their position that an inquiry is unnecessary.

### ***Ferry Services, Transport & Travel***

#### *Ferry Services - Summer Timetable*

Moray Finch reported that consultation on the summer timetables had not yet started. Considerable concern was expressed that late finalisation and release of timetables would have a significant impact on local businesses and tourism.

#### *Ferry Services - Corran Ferry*

John Maughan and Joe Reade (MIFC) reported that Highland Council are conducting a public consultation exercise on their proposed replacement of ferry vessels for the Corran crossing, but have not addressed public calls for a fixed link alternative to be considered. They are also unwilling to consider any involvement of Mull communities, as Mull is outside their boundary, despite their own consultant's report drawing attention to the importance of the Fishnish-Corran travel corridor and the volume of traffic using this route.

The Ferry Committee will consider how to assess Mull views in order that a perspective from the island could be conveyed to Highland Council in any event, and the Community Council welcomed this.

#### *Road Gritting*

The Community Council expressed their thanks to the island Roads team for their work in gritting the roads in the current prolonged icy weather. John Maughan raised concern about gritting the road at Ardura and Lochbuie, which does not attract a high priority under the A&BC standing arrangements, while there are 9 children travelling the route to and from school and passing a number of hazardous areas. Cllr. Willie Hume agreed to take up this matter with A&BC.

### ***Tourism - Short Term Let Licensing***

Jo Prior reported that the Scottish government had put back by 6 months the deadline by which existing STL providers had to register under the legislation.

### ***Housing - Chlorinated Water Supplies in Tobermory***

Angus Williams drew attention to representations from a Tobermory resident that the water supply was much more heavily chlorinated than in Salen, to the extent that some residents in the Rockfield area are unable to drink the water now. Angus has subsequently reported the matter to the Scottish Water Public Health Team and is awaiting a reply.

## **7. Planning**

### ***Proposed Timber Hardstanding and Pier Development, Loch Scridain***

The Community Council agreed to write to A&BC setting out concerns about this planning application, which it was felt should not proceed as it stands. The Community Council noted an objection from another, previously established marine business at the site as well as concerns about use of an existing pier and the proposed site location either side of the public road. It was also noted that the A&BC Marine and Coastal Development Officer had expressed significant concerns about the impact of the proposal on the business already established at the site.

### ***Planning: Potential Supermarket Site Development, Baliscate***

Billy McClymont reports that he had met with the agent of a company that is planning a potential supermarket site development at Baliscate, Tobermory. The agent had requested the meeting on a pre-planning application basis. It is understood that the company will proceed with a planning application in due course, although there are site acquisition and other issues yet to be addressed.

### ***Planning: Marine Cable Maintenance/Removal***

The Community Council has been invited to comment on two Marine License applications in respect of cable maintenance or removal at Mull-Calve and Mull-Iona.

## **8. Police Report for November 2022**

	<b>Calls</b>	<b>Crimes</b>
<b>Mull North (Beat 30)</b>	23	4
<b>Craignure &amp; Area (Beat 31)</b>	6	1
<b>Salen &amp; Area (Beat 33)</b>	4	0
<b>Ross of Mull &amp; Iona (Beat 34)</b>	3	0

*Incidents of note included reports of vandalism and fraud.*

## **9. A&BC Councillor's Report**

Cllr. Willie Hume updated the meeting about a number of matters:

- An invitation to tender for work on the Tobermory waterfront railings will be issued

before Christmas 2022 and will run through January 2023.

- Renovation of the county building property in Tobermory for teacher & public service housing has begun and will hopefully be complete in February or March 2023; some delay has been encountered due to the condition of the property.
- He is encouraging A&BC to take steps to make use of derelict land it owns in Tobermory.
- He agreed to take up matters raised by Billy McClymont about lorry damage to street lighting and a control box in Craignure.

[Cllr. Jim Lynch also forwarded a written update after the meeting which has been circulated to MCC members].

**10. Public Questions : None**

**Next Meeting**

**Wednesday 4 January 2023, 7.00pm at An Roth and via Zoom and livestreamed on Facebook.** Contact the Secretary for Zoom joining details. These will also be placed on the Community Council and Facebook pages once available.