

MULL COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of a meeting held on Wednesday 4 January 2023 at 7.00pm at An Roth

Due to technical issues this meeting of the Community Council could not be livestreamed.

Present

Billy McClymont (Vice-Convenor), Cameron MacLean, George Burns, Jo Prior, John Maughan, Mark Aston, Mary-Jean Devon, Pam MacColl, Rupert Ormond, Tracy Mayo

In Attendance

Cllr. Amanda Hampsey, PC Kevin Bonar (Police Scotland), Colin Morrison (NWMWC), Joe Reade (MIFC), Norman Hickson (Craignure Bay Community Group)

1. Apologies

Angus Williams, Cllr. Andrew Kain, Cllr. Willie Hume, Celia Compton (SWMID), Moray Finch (MICT)

2. Declarations of Interest: None

3. Minutes of the Last Meeting

Approved with one amendment : to replace 'Gordon Chalmers' with 'Gordon Milne' (proposed George Burns, seconded John Maughan)

4. Matters Arising

(1) *Ardura Hill & Loch Uisg Road Gritting*

Cllr. Willie Hume had contacted ABC about winter gritting of the road at Ardura Hill, noting that 9 children travel to school along the road. Willie was unable to attend the meeting, but had forwarded the reply. It set out that the established ABC policy provided for gritting the road as a 'next most important route' after the main A849 to Fionnphort which meant that, in practice, the road would be treated only on the return of the gritter from Fionnphort. The policy allowed for additional gritting where 12 or more children are travelling on school transport routes.

The Community Council noted the difficulties faced by ABC in meeting competing gritting priorities. The Council recognised the importance of a safe travel route to school for children from the Lochbuie area, but also the potential risk to traffic on the main A849 should the gritter go off the road at Ardura Hill on the morning leg.

It was agreed that the Secretary will write to ABC setting out the Council's view that, on balance, Ardura Hill should be gritted on the outward (morning) leg of gritting towards Fionnphort, subject to the gritter operator's assessment that it was safe to do so, and also to recommend that more grit bins/piles be provided along the road beyond Ardura Hill and passing Loch Uisg. It was felt that it would not be feasible to seek that the whole length of the road to be gritted on the outward leg.

(2) *Chlorinated Water Supplies in Tobermory*

It was noted that Angus Williams' letter to Scottish Water was being considered by their Public Health Team and a reply is awaited.

(3) *Mull Rally 2023*

Cameron MacLean will invite the rally organisers to attend the next meeting of the Community Council to discuss how they propose that the very lengthy queues to the Fishnish ferry point can be mitigated in 2023.

Billy McClymont noted that Cllr. Willie Hume had mooted whether the road to the ferry point might be double-tracked and proposed that this be raised with him at a future meeting.

John Maughan drew to attention that the organisers' consultation on the proposed route and schedule for 2023 would close on Friday 7 January.

5. Membership & Constitutional Issues

Billy McClymont reported that the Convenor, Tom Nelson, has had to step down from the Community Council. Members expressed their thanks to Tom for his service to the Council and the community over many years. It was agreed that arrangements and proposals for election of a Convenor be considered at the next meeting. The Community Council will also consider possible co-option of one or more additional members at the next meeting. A&BC officers have also been contacted about a resident who had sought to stand for election, but where a technical difficulty prevented it.

George Burns noted that the Council now had 12 Members, with the maximum number being 16. It is possible for the Community Council to co-opt Members to vacancies, subject to a transparent, public procedure and certain other considerations. He also set out the difference between co-opting full members of the Council and appointing Advisors to the Council.

Two co-options had been mooted, of Linda Noble and of Joe Reade. Mary-Jean Devon noted that, however, Linda Noble had intended to stand for election in the normal way but that a temporary issue affecting her elector number had prevented this; in the circumstances, ABC officers were addressing how to resolve the matter. It was agreed to consider potential co-options further at the next meeting; George will clarify what majority is required for approval of any proposed co-option.

6. Sustainability Issues

(1) *Education*

Tracy Mayo welcomed that ABC had communicated widely and promptly the government's decision to delay determination of bids to the Learning Estate Investment Programme, which included a bid for a new Mull school campus. She also noted that:

- A draft community engagement strategy about the new school campus had been presented to ABC Councillors. It remained a draft. Representatives of MCC and other

community organisations had already provided comments and proposals.

- The ABC Audit & Scrutiny Committee will review ABC's approach to community engagement. It is unlikely that this will involve the public directly, but be carried out by ABC officers and Councillors.
- The position of ABC officers remained that an independent inquiry into the Collective Leadership Model consultation was not required. Tracy noted that a £90k cost had been incurred by ABC in contracting an agency for the CLM consultation.

(2) *Health & Social Care*

Mark Aston drew attention to the dissolution of the GP Patient-Practice Groups (PPGs) in the Ross in the last year. It was noted other PPGs had also been dissolved. Mark suggested that the Community Council might take some steps to re-establish arrangements for engagement with GP practices across the island. It was noted that the practice on the Ross is a private practice rather than NHS.

Billy McClymont reported that he had raised this matter. It was considered that it would not be practicable to re-introduce PPGs given the time and resource this would take. He reported that the practice on the Ross and elsewhere would welcome contact from the public with Practice Managers and practice partners.

It was agreed that Billy McClymont should invite Dr. Eric Jespersen of the regional health practice to join a meeting of the Community Council every six months.

(3) *Ferry Service*

Joe Reade reported that:

- Issue of the 2023 Oban-Craignure summer timetable has been delayed, while it is likely to remain similar to 2022 with, hopefully, improvements to train connections;
- When the Loch Frisa is the sole vessel, there can be only 9 minutes currently between the arrival of a train and the scheduled departure of the ferry, while CalMac insists on a 10 minute check-in time. The MIFC is challenging the check-in requirement, not least given that more ferries depart early than on time, and seeking a more pragmatic approach.
- MIFC has sought additional Sunday sailings during the summer, but this is unlikely to be agreed.

Billy McClymont invited Janna Greenhalgh, who has had correspondence with Scottish Ministers and others, to address the meeting. Janna sought a co-ordinated approach from community organisations to protest the current service and, in particular, the inadequacy of service when the sole sailing vessel is the Loch Frisa. She noted that, in addition to planned periods when the Loch Frisa is the sole vessel over the 2022/23 winter period, it had been the sole vessel in the current week with no advance notice, and this had significantly affected island residents, businesses and visitors.

In discussion, it was noted that some of the difficulties encountered by CalMac in the current winter ought to be mitigated next winter, as the difficulties arising from the Uig

harbour development will have been resolved and a new vessel should have joined the CalMac fleet. It was agreed that the Community Council will make representations to the government and agencies seeking assurance that:

- There is no reason why Mull and Iona will be served by a single vessel next winter;
- the winter timetable will be issued in good time (that is, in early summer);
- the timetable will address the issue of train connection times.

7. Planning

George Burns reported that:

- The planning objection raised by the Community Council had been published on the ABC website.
- The government had published the fourth National Planning Framework in December; George will circulate further information.

8. Police Report

PC Bonar set out that reports for Community Councils would in future be provided by the Partnership Support Team for Argyll & Bute. He reported call and crime data for December 2022 (below) and explained how the police deal with abandoned 999 calls. Advice in respect of fraud will also be forwarded for the Community Council to publicise.

	Calls	Crimes
Mull North	26	2
Craignure & surrounding area	5	3
Salen & surrounding area	7	1
Ross of Mull & Iona	5	0

The top three call types were planned shoots, abandoned 999 calls and road traffic collisions.

9. A&BC Councillor's Report

Cllr. Amanda Hampsey congratulated the newly elected Community Councillors and reported in respect of her position on the Harbour Board; the Argyll Islands Sounding Board; Planning, Protective Services & Licensing Board (Vice Convenor and temporary policy lead); and Childrens' Champion. Amanda also noted that:

- The ABC budget will be determined by the Council in February;
- she will take steps to press the case for improvements in the ferry service;
- she hopes to arrange surgeries at various locations across Mull in due course.

10. Public Questions : None.

11. Any Other Business

(1) George Burns noted that the following consultation/research exercises are currently open until 31 January 2023, with details on the ABC website:

- Support for managing Private water supplies
- Community Planning Partnership priorities.

(2) Mary-Jean Devon asked that MCC presses for more consistent co-ordination of the bus timetable with ferry departure times at Craignure, following an approach from a local resident. The Secretary will write on behalf of the MCC accordingly.

(3) Norman Hickson reported on positive developments and progress towards the proposed new pier at Craignure. The Craignure Bay Community Group is represented on the Design Sub-Group, who have accepted proposals and issues developed by the Community Group. It has been decided that the new pier should be located within the existing curtilage, which will help Craignure businesses and residents and which will now allow survey work and consent applications to be taken forward. Importantly, a timeline has been established for this work and it will be published in due course.

(4) Billy McClymont reported that he and Mary-Jean Devon had recently attended a meeting with CMILG (Craignure Marine Infrastructure Liaison Group) which had been generally positive, although it had been an introductory meeting, rather than decision-making, at this stage.

(5) John Maughan reported that he had, as agreed, written a further letter to Scottish Forestry about the Glen Forsa development and would circulate a copy of the letter to members.

Next Meeting: Wednesday 1 February 2023 at 7.00pm at An Roth and via Zoom and livestreamed on Facebook.

Join Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 824 2444 5466

Passcode: 211435