

**Mull Community Council**  
**Draft Minutes of a Meeting held on Wednesday 5 April 2023**  
**at 7.00pm at An Roth and livestreamed on Facebook.**

**Present**

Allan MacLean, Bill McClymont (Convenor), Cameron MacLean, George Burns, Jo Prior, Joe Reade, John Maughan, Mark Aston, Mary-Jean Devon, Pam MacColl, Rupert Ormond (first part), Tracy Mayo

**In Attendance**

Cllr. Amanda Hampsey, Caroline Williams & Daniel Simpson (Co-op), Colin Morrison (NMCWC), John Holliday (Tiree CC), Kenny Turnbull (Mull & Iona Fishers' Association), Michelle Devlin, Moray Finch (MICT) Norman Hickson (Craignure Bay Community Group)

**1. Apologies :** Celia Compton (SWMID), Cllr. Willie Hume, Cllr. Jim Lynch, Cllr. Andrew Kain

**2. Declarations of Interest:** None

**3. Police Report :** Data tables are at the end of the Minutes.

**4. Tobermory Co-op**

Michelle Devlin, who had raised the public petition, addressed the meeting together with Daniel Simpson and Caroline Williams from the Co-op and Tracy Mayo. All felt that the meeting held following the petition had been productive and that product lines had already been improved. Further developments are planned, tailored to local needs, although things are constrained by the limited space at the Tobermory store and national supply arrangements. Discussions will be held with other local businesses as well.

It was noted that, in considering the Mull petition, the Co-op had benchmarked the Tobermory store offer against that of Skye and Tiree and that supplies to island stores are prioritised as 'lifelines'. The Tobermory store is one of the most costly for the Co-op to operate, but does not pass on the extra cost to customers.

**5. Minutes of the Last Meeting**

Approved (proposed Mary-Jean Devon, seconded Jo Prior).

**6. Matters Arising**

Mull Rally 2023

Jo Prior will arrange the consultation response setting out that Mull CC is content with the 2023 proposals.

Co-option

Mary-Jean Devon reported that she will propose Marion MacLean for co-option to Mull CC.

Firewood Supplies

It was noted that 150t from Tiroran could now be distributed and that another 50t might

be available from NMCWC. No further felling at Ardura is planned for some years. While a proportion of future harvests from forests operated by these and other interests may be reserved for island use, there is no short-term solution. John Maughan will contact the major timber companies to clarify their contractual commitments to supply local firewood.

## **7. Sustainability**

### **Energy, Climate & Environment**

#### *Proposed Highly Protected Marine Areas (HPMAs) - Government Consultation*

Kenny Turnbull (MIFA) described to the meeting the impact that an HPMA would have should one be put in place in Mull waters. It would affect 25 local boats fishing with creels which do not damage the seabed nor incur by-catch, and which can't feasibly relocate elsewhere. He and Allan MacLean noted that Inshore Fisheries Groups have sought positive measures to improve fishery management for many years, while the HPMAs envisage blanket bans. It was noted that fishers take steps themselves to sustain marine stocks. It was also noted that the proposals would affect almost all other marine ventures.

Mary-Jean Devon reported that she had been in touch with other islands asking that they make their voices known. She felt that the HPMA proposals are also contrary to the Islands Plan. Cllr. Amanda Hampsey reported her strong opposition to the proposals and that A&BC officers would be preparing a report for Council consideration.

The meeting unanimously agreed a proposed consultation response from Mull CC.

### **Ferries, Transport & Travel**

- Replies received from Calmac and Transport Scotland (TS) to Mull CC's letter about the ferry service have been posted on the CC website. The meeting was disappointed with the response from TS in particular.
- Joe Reade has emailed Calmac about gaelic signage on the MV Loch Frisa. He reported that MIFC is continuing to challenge Calmac about their proposed changes to ticket T&Cs.
- Jo Prior and Joe Reade expressed considerable concern about the new Calmac Emergency Medical Protocol : It is welcome but Calmac staff are not sufficiently aware and Calmac phones at Oban go unanswered, even from the Calmac Gourock office, and the ferry connections offered can be wholly unrealistic. Joe will press for policy and T&C changes, with some legal advice arranged by Mark Aston.
- Mark Aston will attend the public consultation event about the Fionnphort & Iona Breakwaters and Berthing Facility

### **Housing**

Moves are afoot for A&BC to assign a Fionnphort ferry house to MICT, initially for seasonal worker accommodation and then as family housing.

## **8. Planning**

- Licensing Applications have been received in respect of Pennyghael Hotel and the

Keel Row.

- John Maughan has written to the Crofting Commission challenging their somewhat negative assessment of the Tiroran Woodland Croft proposals.

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

Cllr. Amanda Hampson reported that:

- She is now Chair of the Integrated Joint Board of the HSCP and will attend the next Mull CC meeting along with other representatives of the HSCP.
- It was expected that the A&BC Tobermory flats would be available by end April, having been delayed by discovery of lead water pipes which had to be replaced. While there are no education staff currently requiring housing, new recruitment will start in late summer. Amanda will provide more detail at the next meeting.

### **10. Community Council**

Joe Reade will contact A&BC to determine whether written Minutes are required at all, given all meetings are broadcast and recorded live. It was agreed that, subject to that, Mull CC will pay £80 per month from its budget for a Minutes Secretary.

### **11. Public Questions : None**

### **12. Any Other Business**

- Mark Aston will complete an assessment of Royal Mail's performance against their published standards, and will write to Royal Mail. The meeting expressed thanks to local RM staff.
- Mary-Jean Devon will reply to a visitor who has written about the feasibility of moveable wheelchair access ramps in Tobermory. It was noted that the DDA did not apply in full in a historical conservation area. Jo Prior recommended that all businesses should prepare a disability access statement.
- George Burns will write to A&BC to press for the Tobermory 30mph zone to be extended to Aros Park gates.
- The owner of Dunard House has written to say he is taking action to make the trees safe. Billy McClymont has replied and asked about the Breadalbane Street wall.
- Concern was expressed about the parking charges proposed at Aros Park and further advice is being sought.

**Next Meeting** Wednesday 3 May 2023 at 7.00pm at An Roth, via Zoom and livestreamed in Facebook.

### **Police Report**

Data for March 20223 was received after the meeting and has been circulated.

### **Police Data March 2023**

	<b>Calls</b>	<b>Crimes</b>
<b>Mull North</b>	31	5

<b>Craignure &amp; Area</b>	8	0
<b>Salen &amp; Area</b>	10	1
<b>Ross of Mull &amp; Iona</b>	10	1