

Mull Community Council
Draft Minutes of a Meeting held on Wednesday 3 May 2023
at 7.00pm at An Roth and livestreamed on Facebook..

Present

Allan MacLean, Angus Williams, Bill McClymont (Convenor), Cameron MacLean, George Burns, Jo Prior, Joe Reade, John Maughan, Pamela MacColl, Rupert Ormond, Tracy Mayo

In Attendance

Cllr. Amanda Hampsey, Cllr. Andrew Kain, Cllr. Willie Hume, Moray Finch (MICT), John Holliday (Tiree CC)

Item 3: PCs Daniel Ferry & Tara Watt (Police Scotland)

Item 6 : Brett Sadler (WHHA), Donald Watt and Morven McPhillips (HSCP)

1. Apologies : Mark Aston, Mary-Jean Devon

2. Declarations of Interest: None

3. Police Report : Data tables are at the end of the Minutes. It was noted that:

- A single incident had generated a number of calls to the police, accounting in part for the increase in calls in March.
- There had been an on-line fraud crime associated with cryptocurrency. Officers reiterated the importance of reporting fraud to Police Scotland and the need for caution about on-line transactions.
- MICT fundraising to place defibrillators in police vehicles has been very encouraging and more support is needed to complete it.

4. Minutes of the Last Meeting : Approved (Proposed Pam MacColl, seconded Cameron MacLean)

5. Matters Arising

Mull Rally 2023

- Motorsport UK has issued the permit for the rally to go ahead.

Highly Protected Marine Area Proposals

- Rupert Ormond drew attention to studies which demonstrated how marine protections could increase fishing catches. He deplored, however, the way the Scottish government had taken forward the HPMA proposals and consultation.
- Cllr. Amanda Hampsey noted her objection to the proposals and the huge impact that they could have on island communities, and that A&BC has objected as well.
- Cllrs. Hume and Kain noted their objections too and the adverse impact that the consultation is having on investment in fishing and other coastal businesses and communities.
- Tracy Mayo noted the undue complexity of the consultation arrangements and that local fishers have sought for many years sensible measures to protect marine stocks.

- Mull CC Members reiterated their opposition to the HPMA proposals.

Tobermory Co-op

Tracy will be passing contact details for other businesses to the Co-op, to help their meeting and communications.

Royal Mail

Mark Aston's letter to RM is on the Mull CC website and has also been covered in the Oban Times. A reply is awaited. Jo Prior noted that RM will not consider any compensation for losses to businesses arising from RM's failure to meet their service commitments.

Tobermory-Aros Park Speed Restriction & Pavement

- No reply has yet been received to Mull CC's letter to A&BC.
- Cllr. Willie Hume reported that it is likely, however, that an Order will be sought to put in place a 40mph limit, but that it cannot be reduced to 30mph due to the lack of street lighting.
- Cllr. Andrew Kain reported that consideration is being given to whether HiTrans Active Travel funding can be secured for a pavement from Struan Crescent to Aros Park.

Breadalbane Street/Dunard House

- The landowner has made the trees safe. A&BC has a budget of over £400k for restoring the road, but it is not yet known when this work will take place.
- It was reported that the wall is moving and is felt to be hazardous, but that it has yet to be determined whether the responsibility falls to A&BC, the landowner or both.

Fionnphort Recycling Point

Contrary to previous information, the Recycling Point is not being restored. Cllr. Amanda Hampsey will look into whether the petitioners will receive a formal response.

Community Council

- It is expected that Marion MacLean will be formally proposed for co-option at the June meeting.
- £80 per meeting is being offered for someone to prepare the monthly CC minutes.
- An elected Member will be sought for the post of CC Secretary at the June meeting.

6. Health & Social Care

Bowman Court

In discussion it was noted that:

- A multi-agency assessment is carried out to determine need and eligibility for Bowman Court accommodation.
- A&BC officers are unaware of the previous rent guarantee which allowed vacant accommodation to be reserved for up to 6 months, to ensure it remained available for people with emerging needs that would meet the care threshold. They asked for Mull CC help in locating any documentation, but doubted whether A&BC would now be able to

afford such a guarantee.

- The post of Campus Manager established under the last health review had been discontinued as a consequence of changes to staffing, grading and funding over time.
- Brett Sadler confirmed that the lift has been repaired. The lengthy period during which it had been out of service was due to a succession of faults with parts having to be secured from eastern Europe. WHHA has now procured a full back-up stock of parts and is considering other contingency options to ensure that the difficulties that had been caused to residents will not occur again.
- The recent part-time catering post vacancy has been filled and there is also an FT post.
- Bowman Court is staffed on a 24 hour basis and overnight care is provided where it has been assessed as needed.
- Morven McPhillips will look into whether hospital broadband can provide connectivity in the respite flat.

Donald Watt reported that the HSCP proposed to convene a short-life working group to clarify and review tenancy criteria, services (potentially including day-care) and management arrangements at Bowman Court, and that it would be helpful to secure some standardisation with a similar facility in Campbeltown. It was agreed that Mull CC would be represented by Billy McClymont and Mary-Jean Devon.

Pam MacColl expressed considerable concern that, in the event that urgent medical care is needed, an ambulance might be sent to Bowman Court from Tobermory, rather than assistance being arranged between hospital and BC staff. She pointed out that these arrangements had been in place before and worked satisfactorily.

Potential Nursing & Care Home

Moray Finch reported that 232 people had responded to MICT's survey, of whom 228 supported the principle of a nursing & care home. The survey provided insight into service priorities. A more detailed business case will now need to be prepared, including an assessment of feasibility and viability. Amanda will make arrangements for HSCP officers to liaise with the MICT working group.

In addition,

- Morven will make arrangements for the Carers Officer to attend a future meeting of Mull CC.
- The proposed HSCP survey will take place in due course, but there is no timetable.
- Dr. Jesperson will join the next meeting of Mull CC to discuss GP matters.

7. Sustainability

Education

Tracy Mayo drew attention to the excellent work of local learners and staff in recent fundraising, community activities and sport, and that excellent inspection findings about Lochdon school.

She drew attention to an opportunity for gaelic learners 18-40, to help develop local

leaders.

Local & National Government Transparency & Consultation

Tracy reported on discussions with other CCs arising from significant concerns about the transparency of A&BC decision-making and public consultation arrangements. CC representatives are sharing examples of good and bad practice, with a view to helping shape greater transparency and better public consultation. She noted that A&BC's Audit & Scrutiny Panel review of public consultation had no public involvement and would not consider the earlier, controversial consultation on school leadership.

Local & National Government Transparency & Consultation

Tracy reported on discussions with other CCs arising from significant concerns about the transparency of A&BC decision-making and public consultation arrangements. In summary:

- The extent to which A&BC Councillors engage with CCs and communities about emerging policy and resource decisions is variable and discretionary;
- there is no clear procedure about how and when A&BC policy leads should share information about emerging policy and resource decisions with other Councillors;
- CC representatives are sharing examples of good and bad practice, with a view to helping shape greater transparency and better public consultation.

Tracy also noted:

- Concern that A&BC's Audit & Scrutiny Panel's review of consultation has no public involvement and will not consider how the schools Collective Leadership Model (CLM) consultation was conducted.
- She has sought information from A&BC about the legal review required prior to the CLM consultation but that this has been refused, and refused again on appeal; she has accordingly approached the Scottish Information Commissioner.

Ferries, Transport & Travel

Joe Reade reported that:

- New booking arrangements will be trialled from July. 10% of ferry tickets will be held back, to be released for sale only 72 hours before sailing, to provide for people not making bookings further in advance. It's hoped this will help local people and businesses.
- Calmac's new ticketing system and their allied IT systems will switch over on 16 May.
- Implementation of the Medical Protocol remains unsatisfactory and is being addressed. The requirement to pay up front for a taxi, if required, is also a concern.

Cllr. Andrew Kain reported that the HiTrans Partnership is assessing the feasibility of airship transportation to the islands.

8. Planning

- Bakkafrost and the M&I Fishers' Association have been unable to reach agreement about the proposed Little Colonsay Fish Farm.
MIFA will likely make a formal objection to the Bakkafrost planning application

when submitted.

- The Kilfinichen Estate has commissioned a report that generally supports their proposed pier development, while Inverlussa Marine Services has produced evidence about how it would conflict with their mussel farm. The matter remains subject to A&BC determination as the planning authority.
- Some local concerns have been expressed about the size of proposed fire station garage in Salen. Jo Prior will look into the matter.
- Mull CC will take forward a planning application for an all-weather pitch at Garmony, as previously agreed.

9. A&BC Councillors' Reports

Cllrs. Hampsey, Hume and Kain reported that:

- The use of larger drones for medical supplies to the islands will be trialled in the Autumn.
- The County Buildings flats in Tobermory will be completed soon.
- Councillors have made representations to Royal Mail about their service.
- The H&I Convention at the end of March had considered HPMAs, ferry services and the potential for a regional approach to housing issues, as well as the priority for island authorities across Scotland to work together.
- The Marine Transport and Infrastructure Liaison Group will be extended to more islands.
- There has been a generally positive public response to the proposed breakwater and overnight berthing developments at Fionnphort and Iona.
- Parking penalty fines have been increased in A&B to £100, or £50 if paid in 14 days.
- It is recommended that anyone with money concerns gets a copy of the ABC Worrying about Money leaflet and makes contact with help services.

Willie Hume reported that he supports proposals to double Council Tax on second homes, although the effect on the availability of local housing is uncertain. Jo Prior challenged the proposal, arguing that taxation should be properly targetted to achieve local impact and that a more comprehensive housing strategy is required.

Jo considered that more house building is needed and that taxation needed to be properly targetted to achieve housing benefits. Willie concurred, but felt that the increase in Council Tax could be justified and John Maughan agreed. Jo considered that a comprehensive strategy to address housing issues was needed and Cllr. Andrew Kain reported that the recent H&I Convention had reinforced the need for this.

10. Public Questions : None

11. AoB

- The presently unfinished pavement at Bunessan will be completed this Summer, together with remedial works elsewhere on the island. A&BC is awaiting a suitable volume of works for the required supply of hot tar.

- The meeting was attended by a visiting author, Gavin Wigginton, who is preparing a book on the landscape, people and the power of community. Mull CC wished his endeavour well.

Police Data March 2023

	Calls	Crimes
Mull North	31	5
Craignure & Area	8	0
Salen & Area	10	1
Ross of Mull & Iona	10	1

Data for April 2023 was received after the meeting and has been circulated to Members.

Police Data April 2023

	Calls	Crimes
Mull North	11	0
Craignure & Area	3	1
Salen & Area	11	1
Ross of Mull & Iona	17	1