

# Mull Community Council

## Meeting Minutes

### 7<sup>th</sup> June 2023

#### Attendees

##### *Community Council*

Billy McClymont	Jo Prior
Mark Aston	John Maughan
Mary-Jean Devon	Tracy Mayo
Joe Reade	Cameron MacLean
Allan MacLean	Sharon Worrall

##### *Councillors*

Willie Hume	Andrew Kain
Amanda Hampsey	Jim Lynch

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#### Apologies

Rupert Ormond	Angus Williams
Pam MacColl	George Burns

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#### Minutes of Meeting

##### 2. Declarations of Interest

- None

##### 3. Community Council Business

###### *(i) Election of Secretary*

- No interest to date. Carry Forward to AGM

###### *(ii) Arrangements for Minutes and Round & About Report*

- Sharon Worrall has been appointed to undertake this role.  
[sharon.worrall@btinternet.com](mailto:sharon.worrall@btinternet.com) 07540 155868

###### *(iii) Other roles & responsibilities*

- Mark Aston is seeking an additional member to join the committee to represent the Ross of Mull

###### *(iv) Date and Time of the Annual General Meeting*

- It was agreed the meeting to be held on Zoom on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> June at 19:00

##### 4. Police Report May 2023

- Report was provided by Daniel Ferry
- Defibrillators have now been placed in all 4 police cars on Mull and funding is in place to replace the batteries when due.
- On-line Safety Talk to be held on 15/06/23 14:30 at AnRoth, Craignure
- Fire Trucks were held up due to Motorhome not moving out of the way. The police can follow up this issue if the vehicle registration and a statement from the fire crew is provided.
- Parking and Speed Restriction in the Main Street, Tobermory is not subject to a TRO and therefore is unenforceable. The sign should be removed.

**Action:** Mary-Jean Devon and Andrew Kain to discuss options for an Emergency TRO and to seek the help of Michael Stirling

#### *Police Data May 2023*

	Calls	Crimes
Mull North	18	5
Craignure and Area	8	1
Salen and Area	14	2
Ross of Mull and Iona	12	2

Noted

- 1 of the Mull North Crimes was a hate crime and the individual concerned was arrested in Oban.
- 9 of the Ross of Mull Calls related to the same incident on Iona.

### 5. Health and Social Care: GP Services

- Carried forward to the next meeting.

### 6. Minutes of Last Meeting

- Proposed – Mark Aston    Seconded – Jo Prior

### 7. Matters Arising

#### (i) Highly Protected Marine Area Proposals

- Brendan O’Hara has written to all residents to urge residents to make their views known either directly to the First Minister or to his office and he will share our views with the First Minister on our behalf. It was noted that Jim Lynch is also vehemently opposed to the HPMA and the impact it will have on our communities. Breeding and nursery grounds have not been spoken about by Marine Scotland and should be considered.

#### (ii) Royal Mail

- Mark Aston has received a reply from Royal Mail on the postal issues, but this does not address the underlying causes. Royal Mail state that they recognise the issues and will do better. The issue with the Royal Mail fleet has not been addressed the issues although there are now some hired vehicles in place. They have stated that they are looking at whether driving courses are needed for the postmen. Also, the issue of Welcome Bonuses for the postmen has not been addressed. We are still seeing backlog of mail items on the Island.  
**Action:** Mark Aston to issue a response to Royal Mail which will then be circulated to the committee.

#### (iii) Tobermory-Aros Speed Restriction and Pavement

- Work is ongoing to progress these items

#### (iv) Breadalbane Street / Dunard House

- The ownership issue with regards to the wall has not been resolved but it is felt that there is significant danger to life and that this not a safe walk to school.  
**Action:** Andrew Kain to raise at the Area Committee meeting and tell Jim Smith that this is an urgent action that needs to be a priority action for the council  
**Action:** Tracy Mayo to ask Tobermory High School to also write to Jim Smith to highlight the safe walk to school issue and ask for this to be resolved as a priority action

#### (v) Eas Brae Tree Survey

- A tree survey is required on Eas Brae as it is felt that the trees are not in a fit state to provide for a safe walk to school. It was noted that this was in the conservation area.  
**Action:** Willie Hume to discuss with A&BC and Forestry

#### (vi) Fionnphort Recycling Point

- This issue has not been resolved and the new parking area is still full of the fishing equipment. Amanda Hampsey to follow up on her previous action point.

(vii) Health and Social Care

- The previous rent guarantee was put in place between the Business Meeting held on 15/04/14 and the Steering Group meeting on 27/05/14.  
**Action:** Mary-Jean to follow up with A&BC
- It was noted that there is still a vacancy at Bowman Court for a Cook.

## 8. Argyll and Bute Council Issues

(i) Meeting of Community Councils with A&BC Leaders

- Meeting to be held on 26/06/23. Billy McClymont and Tracy Mayo to attend.

(ii) Councillors' Reports

- Amanda Hampsey is involved in the National Care Service review. It is important that the needs of rural and island communities are considered as requirements will be different and hybrid approaches will be required.
- UK Islands Meeting attended by Andrew Kain reached agreement that the islands need to speak as one voice to gain the right foothold. This will consider at Offshore Wind, Agriculture, Mariculture, Renewables. It will also consider areas such as the training being given to Orkney Firefighters on Hydrogen Environments.
- It was noted that the Island Plan is not being actioned.  
**Action:** Jim Lynch to raise with the First Minister
- It was noted that a Housing Emergency has been declared. A&BC have started looking at the policies and talking to key stakeholders (such as Power, Water, Builders)
- Scottish Water issues are being reviewed by A&BC. There were 3 main pipe bursts and then the house fire and this had a significant drain on the ability to process water. Commercial properties and public toilets were turned off without notice. This is being actioned and full supplies should be restored by 12/6/23. Bringing a water tanker over was not deemed to be a viable option. The Scottish Water issues have highlighted other concerns...will the facilities support the planning permissions being given and the future developments such as the 90 houses in Craignure?  
**Action:** Mark Aston to discuss with Jim Lynch and then draft a letter to Scottish Water which will be distributed to all for discussion and agreement prior to issue. This will cover both water crisis management and the long-term plans to provide water in line with future developments.  
**Action:** Mark Aston to invite a Scottish Water representative to a future meeting
- Budgets for 2024/25 are being considered now by Jim Lynch
- The new government reforms will mean that more power and more tools can be devolved to the Community Council
- Unemployment figures are being reviewed but are not currently available for Mull. There is to be a jobs fair in Oban.
- Scottish Government survey on Royal Mail is open until the end of June.
- Work continues on Mull roads. There has been a significant investment on Mull – £384k on overlays and £417k on surface dressing.
- £33.5k is available to update Tobermory Playpark. There is an online survey for how money should be spent. Amanda Hampsey will add the link on the Community Council Facebook page. This has been highlighted on Mull Help and Information and there are several ideas highlighted that should be taken forward.  
**Action:** Mary-Jean Devon and Amanda Hampsey to discuss.

## 9. Sustainability

(i) Education – Tracy Mayo

- Thanks were passed on to all staff, students and community for the support given to the schools over this school year.
- Jim Lynch was very impressed with the work that he saw at the school when he visited.
- Parent Councils across Argyll & Bute have concerns regarding how some decisions are communicated to them by Council Officers.
- The Policy Lead for Education indicated at a Council meeting that the role of Virtual Head Teacher may be expanded to include other specialisms. Clarity was sought by a Councillor as to what this meant, and parents/carers have also requested clarity.
- Music funding is available but, without a funded Culture Co-ordinator, it is unclear how funding can be accessed.
- Access to key documents for Parent Councils is still limited. This has been highlighted to Council Officers.
- An excellent opportunity for Head teachers was shared through the Young Islanders Network and has been forwarded to Mull & Iona Head teachers.
- The Council's Audit & Scrutiny Committee Meeting will be held on 20/06/23. They will report on their review of Public Consultation, report packs are usually available to download from the Council website 7 days in advance of meetings.
- There is no further information available about the plan for new schools and the impact for Tobermory High School.  
**Action:** Jim Lynch to speak to the First Minister about the date for a decision and if no decision what is the plan B for the school

(ii) Ferries, Transport & Travel – Joe Reade

- 100+ responses were received on the business survey. These now need to be collated and reported.
- The terms and conditions that state that, if you arrive for your ferry within 30 minutes of travel, you need to purchase a new ticket are still being challenged with CalMac. A lawyer has been identified and legal advice sought if unfavourable response from CalMac.
- As a foot passenger, if you arrive late for a sailing, your ticket will not be valid for a later sailing. To avoid losing the value of your ticket of any kind, phone CalMac to amend your booking prior to check-in closing.
- You can still purchase an open ticket at the ferry office but not online.
- There are still issues relating to booking a blue badge car place. You can add your blue badge details to your account, but it does not automatically apply it to your saved vehicle. Each time you need to book a blue badge car place and re-enter all of the car details. This should be able to be an automatic application by the system with your details. The second issue is that you can apply the blue badge details to an account holder, but you cannot add the blue badge to a companion traveller as there is no place to input their blue badge details and therefore you cannot obtain a discount on the car price.
- Due to the ongoing booking issues, it is currently unclear whether CalMac will be holding back 10% of tickets for release 72 hours before travel in July.
- The ticketing system still has many bugs and flaws. Please continue to send the details to CalMac and Mull and Iona Ferry Committee.
- The winter timetable has not yet been released. The Ferry Committee have requested 2 vessels for the whole winter timetable, but this cannot be guaranteed.
- The Ferry Stakeholder Group meeting is well attended by the islands, CMAL and CalMac but, without a Minister in attendance, there is no responsibility for action.  
**Action:** Jim Lynch to ask the First Minister who should attend and take forward actions
- Amanda Hampsey is meeting with the Highland Council regarding the options for the replacement of the Corran Ferry.

(iii) Energy, Climate and Environment

- No Updates

(iv) Housing

- No updates

(v) Tourism

- Mark Aston met with Celia Compton from SWMID to discuss tourism. One area for consideration was whether tourists travelling to Iona could be encouraged to use the bus rather than driving but it was felt that this would not be feasible with the current ferry/bus timetables

## 10. Planning

**Action:** John Maughan to circulate the Inverlussa report

- It was noted that the Community Council can get involved in planning decisions. Angus Williams is the Community Council representative. Amanda Hampsey is happy to assist as required.

## 11. Public Questions

- None raised

## 12. Any Other Business

- Now that there is another dentist on the Island, it would be advantageous to have a dentist chair placed in Bunessan.  
**Action:** Mary-Jean Devon and Amanda Hampsey to discuss options for placement of the additional dentist chair
- The Community Council would like to thank the CalMac and Royal Mail staff for going above and beyond to support the Island community during the recent issues.
- Island Youth - An email is being sent to all 16-24 year olds for the Ross of Mull by SWMID, on behalf of Mark Aston, to seek a representative for Mull Community Council.

## Next Meeting

- 5th July 2023 19:00 at An Roth, via Zoom and Livestreamed
- The AGM will be held on Zoom on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> June, 19:00 via Zoom and Livestreamed

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