

# Mull Community Council Meeting Minutes 5<sup>th</sup> July 2023

## Attendees

### *Community Council*

Billy McClymont	Jo Prior
Mark Aston	John Maughan
Mary-Jean Devon	Angus Williams
Joe Reade	Rupert Ormond
Allan MacLean	

### *Councillors*

Willie Hume	Andrew Kain
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## Apologies

Tracy Mayo	Cameron MacLean
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## Not In Attendance

Amanda Hampsey	Jim Lynch
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## Minutes of Meeting

### 2. Declarations of Interest

- None

### 3. Community Council Business

- There are 5 new members due to be co-opted onto the Community Council with 1 additional person currently considering joining, which would take the Council to 16 members. A by-election would be required to approve any additional members above the 16-member limit.

### 4. Police Report May 2023

- Report was provided by Dominic Grierson
- Mull and Iona had 52 calls for service over the month of May and 66 calls for service over the month of June.
- Of these 118 calls, 21 were abandoned calls, 9 calls were to assist a member of public, 23 were for road traffic related issues and 6 were animal related calls.

#### *Police Data May and June 2023 Combined*

	Calls	Crimes
Mull North	48	10
Craignure and Area	22	5
Salen and Area	24	3 (Note: 2 Calls related to the Isle of Staffa)
Ross of Mull and Iona	24	6

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

- Carried forward

## 6. Minutes of Last Meeting

- Proposed – John Maughan    Seconded – Allan MacLean, Mark Aston

## 7. Matters Arising

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

- At the present time, it has been agreed that HPMA's will not be progressed by the Scottish Government.

### (ii) Royal Mail

- Mark Aston has written to Royal Mail. Overall, Royal Mail service has improved with better vehicles in place and recruitment being completed. There are still issues regarding sick leave and holiday cover which results in no postal deliveries. Royal Mail have been requested to attend meetings on a 6 monthly basis but to date Royal Mail have not confirmed attendance. Jenny Minto agrees with the Community Council issues and is also writing to Royal Mail on the same issues. Mark Aston will continue to pursue issues with Royal Mail

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

- No updates

### (iv) Breadalbane Street / Dunard House

- The ownership issue with regards to the wall is still under discussion and the discussions are looking at whose responsibility the wall rebuild would be.
- There may be an option to formalise the traffic lights and put in place a walkway on the seaward side of the road. The more extreme option would be a compulsory purchase of the garden, to remove the wall and dig back to enable the wall to be rebuilt and provide a two way route. This was felt to be unfeasible.
- This needs to be resolved by the time the Children return to school to ensure that this is a safe walk.
- This is a 20mph area, but cars are still speeding through.

**Action:** Andrew Kain to continue to raise at the Area Committee meeting and with Jim Smith to ensure that this is treated as an urgent action that needs to be a priority for resolution by the council

### (v) Eas Brae Tree Survey

- Forest Land Scotland have formally requested a Community Group to take over the land from Tobermory Stores up to the Bridge at the top. If there is no Community Group willing to take on the land, then this will move to an open market sale. It should be noted that the Distillery has a right to take water from the river flowing down Eas Brae.
- This will delay any action on the tree survey that is required.

### (vi) Fionnphort Recycling Point

- No updates

### (vii) Health and Social Care

- No updates

### (viii) Tobermory Playpark

- The action to progress the development of the Tobermory Playpark has passed from Anne Fraser to the Playpark Committee

### (ix) Verge Cutting

- Several concerns have been raised with regards to the current verge cutting activities in relation to retaining the diversity of plant life and the widening sight lines to improve road safety.
- It was noted that it is incredibly difficult to formalise plans that meet the differing views and the Community Council agreed that it would focus on the road safety aspects of verge cutting.

- It was agreed that a meeting with key people could be held to look at whether a community organisation with grant funding could maintain any areas and to look at where changes could be made to the current activities with the limitation that contractors and machinery are only available once per year.  
**Action:** John Maughan to contact Moray Finch with regards to the community organisation and to invite Malcolm Cullen to attend the meeting.
- It was noted that landowners should take responsibility where their vegetation is touching the road.

## 8. Argyll and Bute Council Issues

### (i) Councillors' Reports

- Ulva Harbour Provision Order will require Community Council involvement to look at the any issues of strategic importance around Ulva.
- Community Councils are being engaged to look at future developments that would assist in securing economic futures. For example, one current development opportunity is to guarantee the use of local slate on Historic Scotland houses.
- Work has completed on Mull roads.
- The 6 month landscape maintenance contract has been issued. There have been a few defects which have all been dealt with under the standard contracts.
- The Argyll and Bute Councillors' have voted positively for the council tax changes on second homes. The Community Council requested clarity on how this would be implemented and operated. The Community Council also requested clarity on Due Process for council voting as this issue is still in consultation.  
**Action:** Willie Hume and Andrew Kane to address the concerns of the Community Council.
- It was noted that there is no funding available and no plans in place to complete the double track, main artery road. Funding would need to be provided by the UK or Scottish Government and this is unlikely unless it is linked to the provision of a fixed link from the mainland to Mull. One option is to build a community-led business case that shows economic benefits linked to Agriculture/Mariculture/Renewables.
- It was noted that Jenny Minto is holding surgeries on Mull and Iona, but these have not been advertised.  
**Action:** Jo Prior to send out a message on the Mull Help and Information Facebook page to inform people that these surgeries were taking place.

## 9. Sustainability

### (i) Education – Tracy Mayo

- No updates

### (ii) Ferries, Transport & Travel – Joe Reade

- CalMac have climbed down on the requirement to buy a new ticket if you arrive within 30 minutes of your sailing time. The terms and conditions will be updated and will state that, if you arrive for your ferry within 30 minutes of travel, you will lose your ferry allocation and will be placed in the un-booked queue.
- There are still issues with activating the >60 concession card. Examples of this issue should be sent to CalMac and Mull and Iona Ferry Committee.
- The booking system will show every sailing type as sold out if you are within two hours of the sailing time. If you need to sail, you will need to ring the CalMac port and not the Helpdesk find out whether there are any places available.
- There has been no response on the letter regarding compensation but there may be work going on in the background on a support package for businesses.

- With both the Oban-Craignure and Corran Ferry issues, tourism has been heavily affected.
- Latest statistics are showing a significant impact on businesses during May with Tobermory High Street trade reduced by one third. Tobermory Campsite business is showing the lowest turnover in the past ten years, with business showing half of the annual turnover expected on year to date data. This is liable to be spread across three key areas – ferry issues and the associated bad press, cost of living crisis and people returning to holidaying abroad.
- The impact of the bad press surrounding all the ferry issues will have an ongoing impact making people unsure on booking 2024 holidays.

**Action: Jo Prior to speak to the Association of Scottish Self Catering to see if there are any statistics available by Island / Local Authority area from the regular snap polls undertaken.**

(iii) Energy, Climate and Environment

- No Updates

(iv) Housing

- No updates

(v) Tourism

- Mark Aston has received a request from SWMid with regards to the lack of awareness of bus services to Fionnphort. They have asked whether West Coast Motors can help advertise services. Discussions also covered whether holiday companies could advertise the bus services in their information packs that are issued to holidaymakers.
- SWMid also asked whether the Island Resident reduced fare bus ticket could be re-instated.

**Action:** Mark Aston to write to West Coast Motors to request help with advertisements and with regards to the Island Resident bus ticket.

**Action:** Jo Prior to speak to the holiday providers to ask if they will include bus information in their information packs.

## 10. Planning

- Mark Aston has written to Jim Smith and Fergus Murray, Argyll and Bute Council with regards to both water crisis management and the long-term plans to provide water in line with future developments. Once feedback has been received, an approach will be made to Scottish Water with regards to ongoing maintenance and future plans. It was noted that work is commencing on the dam wall at the Mishnish Lochs.
- Two issues have been raised with the regards to the Highfield Forestry plans.  
**Action:** John Maughan to write with regards to the proximity of the Fank to the Highfield block.

## 11. Public Questions

- None raised

## 12. Any Other Business

- The plans for a Sports Hall at Garmony are now ready for submission to the Planning Department. The Community Council recognised the efforts of the team in reaching this stage.
- Morrisons Click and Collect is to commence as a pilot with deliveries coming to a central point in Craignure, subject to final confirmation of the site location. If the pilot is successful, then the feasibility of expanding the service down to the Ross of Mull will be considered.
- Ulva Ferry Transport requires a letter of support from the Community Council to enable the service to continue.

**Action:** Billy McClymont to write the letter of support.

## Next Meeting

- 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2023 19:00 at An Roth, via Zoom and Livestreamed

### Mull Community Council Contacts:

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