

# Mull Community Council

## Meeting Minutes

### 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2023

#### Attendees

##### *Community Council*

Billy McClymont	Jo Prior
Mark Aston	John Maughan
Mary-Jean Devon	Angus Williams
Daisy Williams	Tracy Mayo
Allan MacLean	Daisy Williams
Margo Wilkie	

##### *Councillors*

Andrew Kain

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#### 1. Apologies

Apologies were received from:

Jim Lynch  
Willie Hume  
Amanda Hampsey

Members not in attendance were:

Joe Reade  
Rupert Ormond  
Cameron MacLean

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#### Minutes of Meeting

#### 2. Declarations of Interest

- None

#### 3. Minutes of Last Meeting

- There is one correction to the draft minutes. Updated minutes will be issued.
  - The maximum number of Community Council members cannot exceed 16. If there are greater than 16 members standing for the Community Council, a by-election would be required, and all co-opted members would need to stand for election.
- Proposed – Mary-Jean Devon    Seconded – John Maughan

#### 4. Mull Community Council Business

- The Community Council welcomed two new members this month.
  - Margo Wilkie has been co-opted to join the Community Council. Proposed - Mary-Jean Devon, Seconded – Tracy Mayo
  - Daisy Williams has been co-opted to join the Community Council. Proposed – Mark Aston, Seconded – John Maughan
- There are further prospective new members expected to attend the next meeting.

- Margo Wilkie will take up the Office Bearer position of Treasurer. It has been confirmed with the legal team and Melissa Stewart that a co-optee can hold an Office Bearer position until the next AGM at which point an election to the position would be required.

## 5. Police Report May 2023

- Report was provided by Dominic Grierson
- There were 60 calls for service during July.
- Calls were mainly road traffic, fraud and persons related.
- There was one pedlar related offence. The police have seen a rise in the number of pedlar related incidents in rural areas. If you are subject to or witness pedlar activity, please contact the Police and check on elderly neighbours to ensure that they are OK.
- There have been a high number of abandoned calls, particularly on the Ross of Mull. These are followed up by either the 999 call handler where possible or through attendance by the police to ensure that there are no problems.

### *Police Data July 2023*

	Calls	Crimes
Mull North	31	3
Craignure and Area	11	2
Salen and Area	5	1
Ross of Mull and Iona	13	1

## 6. Matters Arising

### (i) Highfield Forestry / Scottish Forestry

- With regards to the forestry in Glen Cannel, Scottish Forestry are yet to comment. Highfield Forestry are due to refine their plan upon the conclusion of scoping and surveying work and will consider the feedback provided to them on the need to move the trees away from the Graveyard and increase the buffer zones.

**Action Ongoing:** John Maughan to attend the drop-in session when it takes place.

### (ii) Royal Mail

- No updates this month

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

- No updates

### (iv) Breadalbane Street / Dunard House

- Tracy Mayo wrote to A&B Council with regards to resolving this issue by the time the Children return to school to ensure that this is a safe walk.
- A&B Council have confirmed that the survey machine will become available, and work is planned to start on the ground investigations in September/October. Following this, the design will be confirmed.
- It was noted that there is movement in the wall and winter condition may cause the wall to collapse. The Community Council will discuss the option for putting a monitor on the wall with the Landowner. There is no written agreement in place with the landowner and, if the wall does collapse, the landowner will be charged by A&B Council to rebuild and there will be an 15% surcharge.
- It was noted that the ground on the opposite side of the wall has been excavated and that there is a 12 foot drop. The makeshift gate above this has broken, making this a further risk to the safe walk to school.

**Action:** Billy McClymont to request the landowner looks at ways to monitor the wall movement, to make the wall safe in the interim and with regards to progressing the agreement with A&B Council.

**Action:** Andrew Kain to look at whether a warden can be employed to patrol this part of the safe walk to school.

(v) Eas Brae Tree Survey

- There is some community interest in the land at Eas Brae, but it is thought that the liability of the unsafe trees will prevent this being taken forward.
- This is delaying the tree survey that is required.

(vi) Fionnphort Recycling Point

- No updates

(vii) Prison Brae Resurfacing

- The resurfacing work for Prison Brae now has funding available and the work should be completed mid/end October.

(viii) Verge Cutting

- With regards to the vegetation issues between Craignure and Duart Road end, there is some money available from A&B Council to fund some additional clearing and the flail machine is available for use. Torosay Castle have agreed to fund their problems. Further estate funding may be required. This work will be planned.
- It was noted that operational staff do not attend meetings. Therefore, the planned meeting did not take place and the action for planning verge cutting lies with A&B Council. The planning of verge cutting activities must be scheduled alongside pothole work and the availability of staff.
- The main route to Fionnphort from Craignure was not completed until late July and the sight lines were significantly impacted by the bracken height. It was requested that the Craignure to Tobermory and Craignure to Fionnphort cutting could be initiated at the same time (one going one way, one the other) better utilising the two tractors rigged for cutting on the island and ensuring both main routes are cut earlier in the cutting season.

**Action:** Andrew Kain to ensure that the original sightlines are reinstated and to investigate whether the main routes in Mull can be cut earlier next year better utilising the two cutting tractors.

## 7. Sustainability

(i) Education – Tracy Mayo

- No updates this month

(ii) Ferries, Transport & Travel – Joe Reade

- CalMac
  - No Updates this month
- West Coast Motors (WCM)
  - WCM have responded well and will provide an occasional resource to attend Mull Community Council meetings.
  - WCM are now considering further advertising of their services on other ferries and not just the Oban ferries. An additional request will be made regarding advertising with the Winter ferry timetables stating that there will not be a bus connecting to every ferry.
  - WCM are looking into whether their app includes a built in discount for residents as it does for other island communities. They are also checking about reliance on mobile data for using this on the bus services. There is also a need for a physical card for individuals who do not use technology.
  - WCM are sympathetic to the requirement for an early bus service from Fionnphort but require feedback on the likely demand for the service. There would be further issues in that the accommodation for a driver in Fionnphort has been given up and reallocated. Mark Aston will obtain feedback from the South Mull communities to help justify this requirement.

- It was noted that there is no early bus from Tobermory in Winter. The first bus is at 09:05.
- WCM may request additional subsidies from A&B Council to provide this service if it is justified but funding is unlikely to be available within the budget. This may impact on existing subsidised services.
- It was noted that, if a business case could be built showing requirements in line with the Draft Islands Connectivity and with the National Transport Strategy, that funding may be possible from the Scottish Government.

**Action:** Mark Aston to continue with the investigations into bus requirements and discussions with WCM

**Action:** Mark Aston to ensure that the discussions on the full winter timetable take into consideration linking to the scheduled winter ferry timetable.

- Ulva Ferry

- Ulva Ferry community transport has been renewed and the service will continue. Action closed.

(iii) Energy, Climate and Environment

- No Updates this month

(iv) Housing

- Scottish Water

- In conjunction with A&B Council, a letter has been sent to Scottish Water with regards to structure and investment. An acknowledgement has been received and feedback is awaited.

(v) Tourism

- No Updates this month

vi) Health and Social Care

- Bowman Court

- An excellent meeting was held with regards to Bowman Court which drilled down into the requirements of progressive care (what is needed, what is available, how allocations work).
- It identified that not all agencies were involved and that these were now being asked to join the allocation process.
- Medical input would be asked for.
- The process will also look at how to better utilise empty properties. For example, they could be used for respite care until a new community resident is identified.
- It was noted that the respite care room is fully utilised and had no vacancies until November.
- The original Mission statement would be reviewed and re-iterated.
- A further meeting will be held in August.

- Dentistry

- There have been pleas for a new Mobile Dentistry service for the south of Mull as this is greatly missed.
- It was noted that the requirements and conditions for dentistry work are high due to the nature of fillings and extractions. These may not be met for the positioning of a dental chair in Bunessan.
- It was noted that the waiting list for the dentist in Tobermory is still several years long.
- It was noted that the dentists in Oban are no longer taking on NHS patients and the current timescales for getting NHS appointments (where you are registered) is several months.
- For patients to attend Tobermory or Oban for dentist appointments, it requires patients (and parents/carers where applicable) to take a day off.

- It was noted that on Tiree, only 25% of people see a dentist locally. The remaining 75% attend dentists in Oban or Glasgow.
- **Action:** Mary-Jean Devon to investigate and to write to the MSP, Amanda Hampsey, and Fiona Davison with regards to the provision of dental services on Mull.

vii) Community Council Engagement

- Community Council AGM.
  - Mull Community Council attended this meeting. There were several presentations given (some very detailed and lengthy) and limited time for questions to be put forward. A request was made for presentations to be sent in advance so that questions can be put forward and discussed.
  - There were concerns raised about the level of awareness of the national standards for community engagement.
  - There have been 93 consultations in 3 years and Island Councils noted that there are concerns with the Council's consultation process, and that, A&B Council was failing in the first step/stage in the process (defining the consultation process with regards to how the consultation will happen, how long it will take, etc.) and this was not being completed with input from communities. It was also noted that many of the questions regarding the A&B Council consultation processes have been raised by island communities and this suggested that this might not be mere coincidence. This was noted by the Chief Executive.
  - Concerns were raised about older people being left out as they are non-digital users, and more effort is needed to engage them.
  - Reference was made to the pilot of data hubs and a request was made to roll out further.
  - There is no legal requirement for Councillors to attend Community Council meetings and Mull Community Council thanked our Councillors for attending our meetings as many other communities do not get this. It was requested that Reform looks at this.
  - It was suggested that instead of an AGM that there are 4 meetings held per year and the Community Councils have asked that 2 of these are led by Community Councils who will set the agenda to drive up the level of two-way conversations. This is something that hopefully will be addressed under Reform.
  - Rather than just discussion on budget cuts, a request was made to have more conversation on revenue generation.
- Scottish Forums Meeting
  - This is a steering group for all Community Councils to attend.
  - There is a concern that Community Councils are being left out of discussions going on under Reform.
  - West Lothian want all Community Councils to join together and wanted feedback on becoming a body to take items forward.
- Democracy Matters
  - There is a meeting planned for 28<sup>th</sup> August 2023 to restart discussions on democracy and democracy matters. This will re-invigorate pre-Covid details.
  - It was noted that Shetland and Orkney have paid clerks supporting them each month. There are very few paid positions nowadays and this is something that Reform needs to take forward.
- Audit and Scrutiny
  - In June, 93 consultations were recorded as taking place in the past 3 years. It was suggested that consultation/engagement might be a way of opting out of actual discussion and suggested more direct discussion was required.
  - The Council's consultation process/framework was measured against UK Government Rules, and it was found to have complied with 9 out of 11 principles.

- Concern was expressed that there is confusion between what is consultation and what amounts to engagement.
- It was found that there is a need for clarification during induction training for elected members regarding consultations and more broadly on their role in terms of policy and operational policy. This will be addressed in training.
- Consultation should not generally be launched during local or nation election periods.
- An Insight and Research officer is now in place to help highlight consultations. The consultation diary is now up to date and shared and publications are to be issued.
- The Council do have consultation processes in place, however, it was suggested “there may be benefit in undertaking an independent review of a sample of consultations that have taken place and identify any lessons learned”.
- The Council’s website lacked sufficient feedback from consultees on the consultation process. Consultation should facilitate scrutiny.
- There are still lots of questions to be answered.

## 8. Argyll and Bute Council Issues

### (i) Councillors’ Reports

- With regards to Councillor engagement, there are 57 community councils in Argyll and Bute and, with the level of communications received, it is hard to have a constructive engagement and sometimes a defensive line is taken. This is improving but it is a long term issue to be addressed. The focus needs to move to what is good for the community as a whole.
- Project funding is more likely to be successful if they link to the Island Plan supporting the de-population and sustainable growth aspect and that show economic benefit to A&B Council and if also in line with Scottish Government policies more so.

## 9. Planning

- Mark Aston is looking at a Bunesan plan to see whether there is an issue to be addressed.

## 10. Public Questions

- None raised

## 11. Any Other Business

- Morrisons Click and Collect
  - Click and Collect has started, slots are being filled and positive feedback has been received. If this service continues as is, the Ross of Mull service will be looked at.
- Ferries Community Board
  - Mary-Jean Devon has re-joined the Ferries Community Board. This is a group with representatives from all Islands which meets with the Minister to discuss different ferries, capacities, etc.
- Tourist Tax
  - There is a call for views to be submitted by 1<sup>st</sup> September on how it is collected, checked, and allocated.  
**Action:** Jo Prior to draft the response with the Community Council views ready for submission.
- Community Council Secretary
  - With the vacant secretary position, clarification has been sought from Melissa Stewart. The key issue is having the point of contact for A&B Council communications.  
**Action:** Jo Prior to look at getting the inbox reallocated to new co-ordinators to manage and forward on.

- The principle of ‘if brought up by you, you deal with it’ will be applied to Community Council members with reference to area owners where appropriate (such as Tracy Mayo for education). Letters should be ratified before being issued.
- Tracy Mayo has volunteered to be the consultation owner. There are some other gaps in the table.

**Action:** Tracy Mayo to circulate the area ownership table for clarification and for members to confirm positions so that the table can be formalised.

### Next Meeting

- 6<sup>th</sup> September 2023 19:00 at An Roth, via Zoom and Livestreamed

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