

Mull Community Council Draft Meeting Minutes (Updated) 01st November 2023

Attendees

Community Council

Billy McClymont	Jo Prior
Hannah Poulton	John Maughan
Mark Aston	Joe Reade
Cameron MacLean	Tracy Mayo
Sandy Munro	Margo Wilkie
Joe Reade	Rupert Ormond
Mary-Jean Devon	Daisy Williams
Allan MacLean	

Councillors

Andrew Kain	Willie Hume
Amanda Hampsey	

Guests

Moray Finch
Richard Crozier

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from:

- Jim Lynch
- Angus Williams

Minutes of Meeting

2. Declarations of Interest

- None

3. Minutes of Last Meeting

- The minutes were approved. Proposed – Jo Prior, Seconded – Margo Wilkie

4. Police Report August and September 2023

- The meeting was attended by Neil Thallon.
- There were 116 calls for service during August and September
- Calls were mainly theft, road traffic, fraud, firearms, and persons related.
- There were two press reports during this period, both for theft.
- The Councillors have requested that the police report is forwarded to them each month.

Police Data August and September 2023

	Calls	Crimes
Mull North	58	11
Craignure and Area	14	2
Salen and Area	17	2
Ross of Mull and Iona	27	2

5. Rally Update

- Richard Crozier attended to provide an update on the Mull Rally, post event.
- The consultation process agreed changes to the stages on Friday afternoon and evening which enabled an earlier finish. MacGochans had a late license to support the finish of the stage.
- Sunday parade went well. We had the first new winner in 10 years, Fergus Barlow, a great local success.
- The partnership with Rally Barbados has a winner, a Hillman Imp, going to participate in their rally and a reciprocal arrangement is being looked at.
- The schools' visits, arranged in partnership with Mull Car Club, went well and events will be planned for next year.
- Two environmental champions are in place. Offset half of the competing cars this year to meet net carbon impact target.
- Early statistics of the rally highlight:
 - Not so many route changes.
 - Road closures for Friday and Saturday night seem to have been ok. Mixed feedback has been received on Saturday afternoon, particularly from local businesses and carers.
 - New spectator area seemed to be OK, but spectator numbers were down.
 - Big screen feedback was positive.
 - Infrastructure damage is equal to or less than previous years.
 - Medical interventions were less than previous years.
 - Spectator numbers were down. This is being looked at.
 - Competitor numbers were down with 117 starters this year. The reasons for this are being worked through, considering the impacts of ferries and in particular the Corran ferry, accommodation, route changes, economic impact and new mainland closed road events.
 - The younger Scottish presenters on the media seems to have gone well.
- Surveys are due to be issued to competitors, volunteers, spectators, and local businesses.
- Feedback on the results of the survey and plans for next year will be brought to a future Community Council meeting.

6. Matters Arising

(i) Breadalbane Street

- The site meeting to review the wall / road conditions was postponed due to the weather conditions in the wider Argyll and Bute area and a new date is being planned.

(ii) Tobermory Pitch Floodlights

- The issue with the floodlights has now been resolved and the lighting cabinet now has a new switch enabling activation when required.

7. Sustainability

(i) Education – Tracy Mayo

- See Section 10. Any Other Business for an update on Mull Campus.

(ii) Ferries, Transport & Travel – Joe Reade

- CalMac
 - The Islander Priority pilot has been delayed due to issues with the Calmac booking system. This is currently being worked on and a resolution will hopefully be provided soon.
 - There have been difficulties contacting the Calmac Local Port Offices. This is impacting lots of people and causing issues with commercial bookings, livestock transportation and medical protocol.
 - The Loch Frisa only ferry timetable has bad train connections. Please be aware and the ferry committee would like examples of the issues that this is causing.
 - The multi-island ticket books are only valid for the timetable season that it is bought in irrespective of purchase date. This is not clear when booking.
 - On the online booking system, all sailings, less that 2 hours prior to sailing, will show as sold out. The only way to know if there is space is to contact the Local Port Office.
 - It is essential to book for foot passengers as well as cars on the Loch Frisa only timetable as these sailings are likely to be fully booked.
 - An issue was flagged regarding the carriage of electric cars on ferries. There is only one specific route in Norway that is not carrying electric cars. This is because the infrastructure in place to deal with electric car fires. Calmac are happy with their processes and infrastructure, so this is not an issue.
 - The Ferry Committee AGM will be held on November 29th.
- Corran Ferry
 - The Corran Ferry is now back in service.
- West Coast Motors (WCM)
 - No updates this month
- (iii) Energy, Climate and Environment
 - No Updates this month
- (iv) Housing
 - Scottish Water (SW)
 - Scottish Water have committed to quarterly meetings. Councillor Amanda Hampsey and Mark Aston will co-ordinate on any issues prior to the meetings.
 - Concerns have been raised about the new housing developments in Bunessan and the impacts on water supplies. This has been raised with Scottish Water.
 - Rural Growth Deal to Deliver Worker Accommodation in Tobermory
 - Planning is expected to be submitted w/c 6th November 2023 pave the way for the construction of the infrastructure. This is anticipated to start in April 2024.
 - Initial plans are for four 2-Bedroom units, but it is hoped to be for twelve units in Phase 1. Plans are still being worked on, but the timelines are being driven by available funding from the government to Argyll and Bute council.
- (v) Tourism
 - No updates this month
- vi) Health and Social Care
 - Bowman Court
 - Mull Community Council were informed that the meeting was cancelled but it did go ahead. This was only identified when a member of the Community Council received a copy of the minutes. This goes against the Terms of Reference which clearly states that the Community Council should be in attendance. Councillor Amanda Hampsey will address this issue.
 - The MICT plans for the development of a Nursing / Care Home within the new Java housing development have been put on hold. This is to enable the working group to assess whether the ground floor at Bowman Court could be used for the nursing home requirements.

- The allocations process is still a major issue. There are new examples being seen where the allocations process is changing every time and people are being turned down or, even worse, being told they have a place and then getting a call to tell them that they don't meet the criteria. This is particularly the case for Alzheimer's/Dementia where the Community Council have been told this is not a barrier to a place but now examples show that this is not the case. All examples of this must be sent to Councillor Amanda Hampsey so that she can address.
- Mull Community Council strongly stress that an asset transfer from the current owners to either HSCP or Argyll & Bute Council is essential to support the needs of the Mull Community for a care and nursing home. Residents should not be moved to the mainland away from families.
- The next meeting will be held on November 22nd.

vii) Community Council Engagement

- Democracy Matters
 - The meeting for Democracy Matters will be held next week. There is to be a themed approach to the 16 questions.
 - Consideration will be given to a link on social media enabling individual responses.
 - Following this meeting, Mull Community Council will send out information and set up a meeting to discuss the approach to the response from Mull. This will consider whether the input sessions on Mull will be led by the Community Council or whether someone can do on their behalf. The deadline for the response is the end of February 2024.

viii) Infrastructure

- The planned site meeting to discuss Ledaig Car Park, Baliscate, Bunessan Pavement and Pennyghael Speed Limit was postponed due to the weather conditions in the wider Argyll and Bute area and a new date is being planned. There is a potential solution for the Ledaig Car Park issue, and this will be discussed in the meeting.
- Sandbags were put in place for the high tide during October, but a permanent solution is still needed to address the surface water and tide conditions in Ledaig Car Park.
- The charging point in Ledaig Car Park is a like for like replacement. There were issues with the decommission process and the new installation. This has now been resolved but the charging point installation is not yet complete.
- With regards to the installation of additional charging points across the island, MICT is investigating installation of several overnight charging points with dynamic load balancing to work within the current distribution network capacity. There are possible solutions but these need to be investigated.
- There is no surplus funding available to put towards the Ross of Mull Memorial Monument. Billy McClymont/John Maughan will contact Elaine Roberts, Chair of the Monument Committee and Councillor Jim Lynch to see if help towards the repair costs can be found.

8. Argyll and Bute Council Issues

(i) Councillors' Reports

- Roads into Argyll and Bute became totally blocked due to floods and landslips in the recent bad weather. This has become a priority for the Argyll and Bute council as these have not been updated for many years. The blockages had a major economic impact to businesses in the area who were unable to meet their contractual obligations or get their products to market. To improve the road network, the first £520k of funding must be identified within Argyll and Bute council and then the remainder of the funding will need to be provided by Government (Scottish and Westminster). This is going to have a large impact on budgets and will require consistent pressure applied to government to obtain what is needed.

- The Oban Bay 40 day consultation is due to be issued on December 18th. The revision order will put in place two community groups – those with direct involvement (e.g., Lighthouse Board, Calmac) and those with indirect involvement who are fed by Oban Bay (e.g., Islands).
- Preparation for winter has been made and 500 tonnes of salt is now in stock at Pennygown so plenty of capacity for distribution as required and gritting will be undertaken on the same routes. Winter standby has been agreed and will cover anything from a tree down to gritting requirements.
- Gaelic signage correction work is ongoing.
- Outstanding lighting issues have now been fixed. If there are any other lighting problems, please let Councillor Willie Hume know.

9. Public Questions

- None raised

10. Any Other Business

Mull Campus

- Good news was received that Mull will receive funding for a new High School
- When considering whether to support the bid last year, the community was asked to consider whether a new school building was needed. As the school had the lowest rating of Argyll & Bute Council's school estate and deemed to be no longer suitable and that students had been actively campaigning for a new school, the bid was supported.
- No options were given to consider so we do not know which communities will be affected and how this may affect current options/rights.
- Good Consultation Process, one that records and respects all views will be crucial to delivering the best outcome(s) for the community/communities affected. The pre-engagement process was very limited in its scope and concerns were raised regarding this.
- Funding for the school will be 50% Scottish Government and 50% Argyll and Bute Council. New Campuses can also serve as community hubs, we will have to wait to see what the options are.

Zoom Subscription

- The current Zoom subscription for Mull Community Council expires on 23rd December. This is costly for the Community Council so options such as Microsoft Teams are being considered to identify the most cost effective solution. Microsoft Teams does offer other benefits to the Community Council such as engagement with other parties such as Royal Mail and a transcription service.

Action: Jo Prior and Margo Wilkie to investigate the best option for this service

Next Meeting

- 6th December 2023 19:00 at An Roth, via Zoom and Livestreamed

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