

Mull Community Council

Draft Meeting Minutes

4th September 2024

Attendees

Community Council

Emily Greenhalgh
Billy McClymont
Rupert Ormond
Jo Prior
Sharon Worrall

John Maughan
Tracy Mayo
Rachel Philipson
Angus Williams

Councillors

Willie Hume
Andrew Kain

Guests

James MacLennan
Kirsty MacFarlane – Coll Community Council
Terry Hegarty

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from:

- Steve Fisher
- Daisy Williams

2. Declarations of Interest

- John Maughan declared an interest in a matter under Item 5: Campervan van/RV use of non – official sites.
- Billy McClymont declared an interest in a matter under Item 5: Campervan van/RV use of non – official sites.

3. Minutes of Last Meeting

- The minutes were approved. Proposed: Rupert Ormond. Seconded: Jo Prior

4. Police Report

4.1 Community Council Police Report

- PC Tara Watt attended the meeting.
- Calls during August 2024 related to road traffic, domestic incidents, public nuisance, drug related and theft.
- Note: Police data inserted from information provided by PC Tara Watt at the meeting. The police report will be circulated once received.

Police Data August 2024

	August Calls	August Crimes	
Mull North (LB30)	35	8	
Craignure and Area (LB31)	11	1	
Salen and Area (LB33)	4	0	i
Ross of Mull and Iona (LB34)	5	1	

4.2 Fraud

- Sharon Worrall has been working in collaboration with PC Tara Watt and PS Matthew Shaw on producing a fraud related article which has now been published in Round and About magazine. It details how to combat fraud through a combination of different collated police articles which covers everything fraud related i.e. emails, text messages, cold calling, rogue trading and a section on financial service providers. This will be published on the Community Council website and Facebook. Thanks were given to PC Tara Watt and PS Matthew Shaw for their assistance in producing the article.
- This is really important information as Mull Community Council have been made aware of several Fraud cases impacting on multiple people within the Community.
 - It has been reported to the Community Council that there is rogue trading happening on the island. However, the Community Council are not able to discuss the specifics due to it being under investigation currently by Police Scotland. It is important that people are aware of this issue and follow the police guidance on checking the trader thoroughly before proceeding. Do not sign forms or pass monies for potential future works to take place. Cool off, even if you are passed paperwork and are interested in the service, research the company first online, or link with the Police and Trading Standards if in doubt. If a company based outside of Argyll is trying to suddenly do work in the area, knocking on your door, alarm bells should be ringing. More advice on this can be found from Trading Standards on: <https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/business-and-licensing/trading-standards/bogus-workmen>
 - The second fraud related item being reported is a large number of fraudulent calls being made under what appears to be the banks telephone number, but this is not the case. It is instead telephone scammers where fraudsters are pretending to be calling from the bank. This is leading to members of the community becoming caught off guard due to perhaps having the banks telephone number saved within a contact list. As a result, people unfortunately are getting caught out. The Community Council can report from community exposure that unfortunately it has happened to quite a few individuals within the community.
- There have also been further communications with PC Tara Watt, PS Matthew Shaw and with the other Mull PCs regarding setting up Fraud drop-in clinics in key locations in Iona, Fionnphort, Bunessan, Pennyghael, Craignure, Salen, Dervaig and Tobermory.
- The drop-in clinics will be advertised in due course but will be tied in with other community events that may be happening within each key area, such as lunch clubs.

- The plan is that the drop-in clinics will offer informative and educational sessions, initially focused on fraud but other topics will be welcomed and will make both Police Scotland and Mull Community Council representatives available for conversations, generally or privately. It is hoped that this will be a positive way reach out and work with the community.
- There will also be printed leaflets available detailing information that can be taken home for guidance and reference.
- The dates are still to be finalised and will be advertised in due course taking into consideration police schedules, but PC Tara Watt is hoping that this will be a good way to engage with the community in the long term not necessarily just on fraud related issues.

Action: Sharon Worrall will work in collaboration with PC Tara Watt on locating suitable community groups events happening around the island linking them with police work schedules to get the attendees in place.

4. 3 Police Housing

- Sharon Worrall wrote of behalf of the Mull Community Council with regards to the Police Housing issue with rents being charged to Police Officers from the 1st of October 2024 and the concerns that were raised by Community Council members.
- No response has been received to date. Councillor Willie Hume also confirmed that he has also not received a response since the last meeting.
- PC Tara Watt also confirmed that there is no change to the Police Housing rent charges.

Action: Sharon Worrall will feedback as and when further information becomes available.

5. Matters Arising

5. 1 Campervans: Response from Argyll & Bute Council

- It is to be reported that Sharon Worrall, on behalf of Mull Community Council, reached out to Argyll and Bute Council regarding obtaining further information around setting up a byelaw and was advised to contact Argyll and Bute Council - Access Officer with regards to obtaining further information. However, the Access Officer has been on annual leave up until the 4th of September leaving no time for an update. Mull Campsite Owners have been advised and updated on this.

Action: Sharon Worrall will follow up and feedback information as it becomes available

- It has been reported that John Maughan received a letter regarding the Visit Mull & Iona website regarding campervan advice detailing a spelling confusion within the report - John Maughan confirmed he has written asking for this to be amended.
- It was noted that public opinion so far passed on to the Community Council is currently divided on the idea of a byelaw being introduced.
- The Community Council discussed the importance of starting to think ahead about members who would like to be on board the Campervan Working Group in preparation ahead of information that will follow on from the Access Officer. It was agreed that Sharon Worrall and Jo Prior will set up and be involved in the Campervan Working Group in conjunction with Mull Campsite Owners and members of the public. John Maughan acknowledged this action but stated that this would be discussed at next meeting in more detail.

5. 2 Fionnphort buses and parking (Jane Putsey)

- No update this month - this has been postponed until October.

6. Education

6.1 Tobermory High School

- The Community Council have reported that work has been ongoing over the summer and there is now a new fence around P5. There is also current work still going on the front of the building and therefore, remedial works continue to make progress.

6.2 Mull Campus Update

- The first meeting of the Sounding Board has already taken place with the Mull Campus Team plus the first meeting of the Working Group for the new campus with both being extremely positive and well attended.
- There are printed copies available from the Sounding Board Meeting, for anyone wishing to obtain a copy, which contain detailed slides of the campus team with information of previous projects and a timeline with a business case included. However, it was noted that the Sounding Board membership structure will be changing as Home Start will be coming on board as a representative of parents with younger children.
- The Working Group was very well attended however, it is in the early stages.
- Argyll and Bute Council released their call for sites which is running until Friday the 13th of September. There is further information on the Mull Community Council website. It has also been noted that there has been a lot of social media activity linking the call for sites. It is important to note that the land required for the new campus has to be 2.3 ha (hectare). Therefore, there is a need for suitable landowners to come forward and for any suggestions from the community on potential sites if they can produce contact details of the landowner for the Local Authority to contact them.
- The Community Council would like to reiterate at this point until the call for sites is complete it would not be beneficial to get drawn into discussions on the location of a new campus. However, the Community Council have a lot of questions to be considered once the call for sites has drawn to a close.
- At this stage in the process, it has been confirmed by Argyll and Bute Council the new campus is to be a like for like replacement campus offering education to 2 to 18-year-olds which was also been explained at the Sounding Board Meeting.
- It was noted that if a single site for 2 to 18-year-olds be located out with the current campus location then this would then leave Tobermory without a primary school or a P5 and many concerns from the community have already been raised. The question on whether the campus could be split into two locations has been raised. The issue with this is the additional cost of building two sites and funding may not support this.
- As a result, of these findings and detailed discussions around this, a list of questions has been collated in response to the offer of a like for like campus in draft format which are currently awaiting approval from various groups involved. Once obtained they will then be drafted into an official letter for Argyll and Bute Council regarding whether the like for like replacement campus is suitable for Mull and Iona. This is a very complicated issue, and it is important to explore every option.
- The consultation drop-in location and dates are online but for clarification they are as follows:

Tuesday 17th September 2pm until 7pm, Craignure Hall,

Wednesday 18th September 10am until 2pm, Tobermory Scout Hall

Wednesday 18th September 4pm until 7pm, Tobermory High School

Thursday 19th September 10am until 2pm, Salen Church Hall

Thursday 19th September 3.30pm until 6pm, Salen Primary School

Monday 23rd September 1pm until 3pm, Ulva Primary School

Tuesday 24th September 2pm until 3.30pm, Dervaig Village Hall

Tuesday 24th September 5pm until 7pm, Lochdonhead Primary School

Wednesday 25th September 12.15pm until 2.15pm, Iona Village Hall

Wednesday 25th September 4pm until 6pm, Bunessan Community Hall

- The Community Council advises anyone that has an opinion to take advantage of the consultation dates in your area and attend to make your voice heard and speak to the team.
- There will also be printed dates advertised on the community noticeboards for individuals who do not use social media.
- The community can also get in touch and share any feedback with Community Council Members or anyone you know who will be on the Sounding Board Meeting i.e. representatives. You can also still email the Campus Team direct by obtaining the email address directly from the Community Council.
- Angus William highlighted to the Community Council that the consultation times are not going to work for everyone, in particular families who may not be available until after 7pm due to family and work commitments. Tracy Mayo confirmed that the decision over the consultation times unfortunately were set up by the council. As a result, the Community Council acknowledged that there may need to be more sessions, including an online event, to capture a wider aspect of the community to collate everyone views.
- The Councillors in attendance confirmed that their role in the process would be to ensure that the school gets built through attendance at meetings, involvement in the process and involved in the Argyll and Bute sign off meetings.
- The community needs to understand that this is not a done deal and there is currently no plan b. The current school is beyond repair and the current site is not suitable.
- Hub North, who are the group supporting new schools being built, were thanked for their support to the local food bank.

6.3 Salen School Bus

- There were no further updates this month on the school bus chaperone.

7. Ferries

- Nothing to report this month.

8. Transport

8.1 Roadworks

- Bookings have been made on the ferries up to the 27th of September for the tar lorries. It was noted that there may be an issue with the tar lorries having a 15-tonne weight limit on the Loch Frisa rather than the standard 20 tonnes. This would impact on ferry bookings and the timescales. Councillor Willie Hume will check whether this is the case and ensure the impact is taken into consideration on the roadwork plans.
- John Maughan received a letter from a visitor who was diverted from Dervaig over the hill road due to the roadworks, but they wanted to go round by Calgary, and this impacted on their holiday plans. The letter highlighted the “severe consequences” of the roadworks on visitors, especially when they are paying into the local economy.

John Maughan did reiterate to the visitor that the Isle of Mull is not solely an island offering tourism, but that Mull has a wide and diverse business economy. However, as a result of receiving this letter John Maughan has written to Joe Reade asking if Calmac could put the road works on the Calmac service app (like they do for Bear Scotland).

- Councillor Willie Hume confirmed that all the road works dates have been updated and that he will look into updating Facebook weekly for more up to date information. It was further highlighted by Councillor Willie Hume that it would be advisable to avoid the area during the allocated road work dates to avoid a build-up of traffic.
- It was highlighted by the Community Council that the Dervaig to Tobermory road is a very busy route with businesses relying on this road and there are many people going to work/school and there is a vital need for up-to-date information with Councillor Willie Hume explaining that unfortunately the dates are not set in stone and are subject to change. However, Councillor Willie Hume agreed to try and keep Facebook up to date and also post updates on the Mull Resident Facebook page and the Mull Help and Information Facebook page.

9. Planning & Housing

9.1 Current Housing Applications

- There were no difficult planning applications to report.
- John Maughan confirmed that letters have been written regarding both Lagganulva and the Tiroran Crofts and are already in the post and in the pipeline.

9.2 Little Colonsay – Revised Fish Farm Proposals

- The Little Colonsay fish farm proposals will be coming up shortly for discussion with the Community Council hoping to have some representatives at the next meeting. The Community Council highlighted that this is still a long way off so it's a pre application and redesign. Therefore, it is hoped that gathered opinions from the Mull Fisherman's Association and the fish farm company will allow for the Community Council to ensure that it is looked into properly.

9.3 Local Places Plan

- As members were informed a few months ago, Argyll and Bute Council have encouraged local councils to consider producing a Local Places Plan as a means of inputting into the district-wide Local Development Plan. The Local Development Plan is the main master plan for Argyll and Bute, which is developed or revised over a 5-year cycle. Following discussion, it was proposed that the Community Council form a Working Party to look at producing a Local Places Plan with emphasis on collecting information on places that could be important for planning but otherwise may be overlooked.
- **Action: Rupert Ormond, John Maughan and Steve Fisher were volunteered to be on the small Working Group and take the lead in contacting representatives of farmers, landowners and other interests who would be prepared to join a Working Group.**

10. Health and Social Care

10.1 Covid Enquiry in Oban

- The Covid enquiry was in Oban from the 4th & 5th of September with information being sent ahead to the Mull Health Group and on the website. The Community Council also confirmed that letters have been sent from the NHS where you can put in a response directly through the website.

10.2 Bowman Court

- No update to be reported.

11. Roads and Infrastructure

11.1 Single Track Driving Guidelines

- Kirsty MacFarlane from Coll Community Council is keen to have members of the Mull Community Council attend their meeting scheduled on the 10th of September with agendas already being circulated to John Maughan and Steve Fisher. It is hoped doing things together will save time and effort and allow for a better pulling of ideas regarding how to combat the single-track driving issues.
- It was noted that more information is being shared on ferries but there were still many driving issues being seen.

11.2 Digital Switchover

- The webinar on the 21st of August was poorly attended with regards to the switch over from copper cable to digital. Terry Hegarty attended the webinar asking lots of questions with a good response collated with slides posted on Facebook and other social media sites. Questions and Answers have also been posted.
- Rupert Ormand posted a summary on Facebook.
- It has been highlighted by the Community Council that it is important that vulnerable people receive help and support where needed i.e. during power cuts etc by registering as vulnerable through BT on the following webpage [Here For You | Help for customers with an impairment | BT Help](#). Individuals should also register as vulnerable on the SSEN website to ensure that they are prioritised when there is a power cut.
- A question was raised on the frequency and key locations for power failures. John Maughan agreed to ask SSEN if this information is available.

11.3 Tobermory Car Park

- The last update that the Community Council received is that the land for the new car park at Baliscate has not be de-crofted because there was no money to build the car park. Billy McClymont confirmed that Jim Smith confirmed that the funding has been lost because the funding had not been ring-fenced.
- Councillor Willie Hume has confirmed that he has pushed for this but unfortunately it is down to financial costs. The land owner is still keen and this needs to be taken forwards to get the land de-crofted as the first stage. An agreement between the land owner and Argyll and Bute Council is required. Councillor Willie Hume will discuss taking this forward with Jim Smith.
- The discussion highlighted that if there was no budget available to create the tarred car park, the first stage could be to use type 1 so that the car park could be used.

12. Environment & Forestry

- No update this month

13. Tourism

- A member of public raised the issue with Mull Community Council that the last Baliscate Street Food Festival was cancelled due to the issues arising from parking along the main road. It was highlighted that this is the same issue as other events in the area. This needs further investigation and will be brought to the next meeting if action is required.

13.1. Visitor Levy

- It was highlighted by the Community Council that there is going to be a Argyll and Bute consultation group for introducing the Visitor Levy (set at 4%). It was highlighted the importance of having a member of the Community Council present at this group to feedback and put forward community views and opinions for the Island. This would be supported by a separate Mull Community Council Working Group to focus on the Visitor Levy. Jo Prior will represent Mull Community Council on the consultation group.

Action: Jo Prior will share the full consultation from last year with all Mull Community Council members for background information and will invite an Argyll and Bute council officer to the next Community Council meeting to share information on the Visitor Levy.

- The Visitor Levy should be used for re-generation and not for capital works. The question was raised on whether this could be used to help fund the Mull Campus?
- It was highlighted that current thinking is that individuals on Disability Benefits will not have to pay the Visitor Levy and that this would be administered by business owners. This will be a large overhead on small businesses and will bring in further issues relating to Data Protection regulations.

15. Argyll and Bute Councillor's Report

- John Maughan wrote to all councillors because we have not seen everyone for a while apart from Councillor Willie Hume. He is aware that he has not heard from Councillor Amanda Hampsey and is unsure whether she has received his email. Jo Prior will contact Councillor Amanda Hampsey with the hope of securing future attendance at the Community Council Meetings.
- Jim Lynch sent in a report which has been circulated and is planning to attend the next couple of meetings.
- Councillor Willie Hume reported that Craignure Pier ground investigations are complete and there will be a GI report shortly. The team are in discussions with Councillor Moreland as Chair of the Harbour Board to set up a meeting with the wider Craignure and Mull community group and board members with a date being confirmed for Monday 23rd of September 2024 for the Craignure Marine Infrastructure Liaison Group.
- Councillor Willie Hume reported that the Pennyghael bridge replacement feasibility study has identified the best value option. The public consultation event took place in April 2023 and the project is currently paused due to budget restraints. Programme year for the construction is now reported as to be 2025, 2026, 2027.
- Councillor Andrew Kain spoke of the Scottish Government introduction of the visitor levy as being seriously contentious with some seeing this as a financial saviour in terms of GDP for the Scottish Government and the Local Authorities. However, he recognised that there are unintended consequences for bed and breakfast and small

business owners in terms of how that money is collected which could result in small tourism businesses leaving the market due to the changes in legislation. It was also highlighted that applying such a visitor levy in Edinburgh, amongst larger hotels, would be a simpler process than it would for the Isle of Mull where people move from island to island making it a more complicated process. Therefore, may have a negative impact on the tourism industry for Mull.

- Councillor Andrew Kain concluded that the visitor levy has not been well thought through as it does not take into consideration the impact it will have on semi-rural and remote rural areas in Scotland.
- Councillor Kain raised the issue of the £500m deficit that the Scottish Government has reported and the impact that this will have on the Scottish economy. This will highlight the needs to raise money elsewhere and the need to reduce costs/save money. This will impact on the loss of funding for projects, such as Craignure Pier replacement, and will have far reaching consequences.

16. Any Other Business

- The issue was raised that there was a surplus of white goods at the Glengorm Recycling Centre resulting in the green waste skip being moved and virtually impossible to use. Councillor Willie Hume confirmed that the white goods had been collected today and that the green waste skip was now back in its normal place by the ramp.

17. Public Questions

- No public questions.

18. Date of Next Meeting

- The subsequent Community Council Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 2nd October.

Mull Community Council Contacts

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