

Mull Community Council

Draft Meeting Minutes

2nd October 2024

Attendees

Community Council

Steve Fisher	Emily Greenhalgh
John Maughan	Tracy Mayo
Billy McClymont	Rupert Ormond
Daisy Williams	Sharon Worrall

Councillors

None in Attendance

Guests

Finlay MacDonald
Seonaidh MacKenzie
Jane Putsey
Martin Putsey
Morven Summers

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from:

- Jo Prior
- Angus Williams
- Rachel Phillipson
- Willie Hume
- Jim Lynch

2. Declarations of Interest

- Billy McClymont declared an interest in Item 13.3: Wild Camping.

3. Minutes of Last Meeting

- The minutes were approved subject to the following changes.
 - 4.3 Police Housing – the correct date in bullet one is 1st September 2024.
 - 5.1 Bullet One – This is to be amended as follows... Sharon Worrall, on behalf of Mull Community Council, reached out to Argyll and Bute Council to obtain further information on setting up a byelaw and was advised to contact the Argyll and Bute Council - Access Officer. However, the Access Officer is on annual leave up until the 4th of September so there is no update yet. Mull Campsite Owners have been advised.

- 11.2 Bullet Two – Ormond was spelt incorrectly.
- Proposed: Rupert Ormond. Seconded: John Maughan

4. Police Report

4.1 Community Council Police Report

- Apologies were received from PC Dominic Grierson who was unable to attend the meeting.
- The report covering police data for September is not available given the early date of the meeting.

4.2 Fraud

- Sharon Worrall has been liaising with the Mull PCs regarding setting up Fraud drop-in clinics in key locations - 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 during November and December.
- There is a possibility of a clinic in Bunessan on 20th October. PC Tara Watt is available to attend but Sharon Worrall is on holiday. If there are any Community Council members available to attend, please let Sharon Worrall know.
- The draft leaflet has been prepared based on the information included within Round and About and DOT magazines have been ordered to hand out to residents.

4.3 Police Housing

- A response was received on the changes to Police Housing which has been circulated to Community Council members. A Freedom of Information request has been raised by Sharon Worrall to request a copy of the Island Impact Assessment.

5. Matters Arising

5.1 BT

- John Maughan has contacted SSEN to see if we can gain information on the frequency and key locations for power failures so that we can go back to BT with regards to power supplies for specific areas where power cuts are more likely as part of the Digital Switchover project.

5.2 Ardura Gritting

- John Maughan has written to Argyll and Bute Council to request a change in their policy for gritting, that it be based on both the number of passengers on the school bus and also the gradient of the road that the bus must travel on. If accepted, this may enable the gritting of Ardura to take place.

5.3 MSP

- John Maughan has invited Brendan O'Hara to the Community Council meetings but unfortunately, he is unable to attend as he is based in London Monday to Thursday,

6. Education

6.1 Tobermory Play Park

- Morven Summers was invited to outline the plans for the Tobermory Playpark.
- A total of £54,000 has been made available to invest in Tobermory Play Park. This was awarded to Argyll and Bute Council by the Scottish Government and additional funding secured by the council. This total is broken down into two budgets:

- £30,000 from the Scottish Government, restricted for upgrades to current equipment, resurfacing and groundworks
- £24,000 from the new building project in Tobermory, allocated to purchasing new equipment
- The Tobermory Play Park Committee has consulted with the community online and this showed that the community are keen to see assault course style equipment installed, alongside a sand pit/water play area and the erection of a shelter.
- The Tobermory Play Park Committee have drafted a proposal for Argyll and Bute Council to initiate the tender process and progress the project.
- This proposal outlines that the upper part of the playpark is transformed into an assault course style area, with a more natural aesthetic. They have included a sandpit area, and a water play table.
- There is an overgrown willow structure, which is now so mature it can't be rewoven into a structure, and this will be removed.
- The remaining funds will need to be allocated to the resurfacing work needed to maintain the current playpark. The proposal is for the continuation of the mat-style surfacing where possible, although it is understood that some areas (e.g. under the swings) will need more traditional surfacing work. Repairs to the wooden fencing will be factored into this budget.
- It is proposed that a substantial shelter, one that would fit between 9 -12 people, is erected and seating is included.
- This proposal was unanimously supported by the Community Council. Morven was to let the Community Council know if a letter was required confirming support.

6.2 Mull Campus: Community Sounding Board and MCC Working Group

- Mull Community Council sent a letter to the Mull Campus Team on the 10th of September. This was approved by both Mull and Iona Community Councils and the Community Trusts before sending. A response is awaited. A copy of the letter can be found on the WISE4ALL website.
- Mull Community Council requested additional drop-in feedback sessions, including one at Pennyghael, and extending the sessions to later into the evening to enable families to attend. This was actioned by Mull Campus team.
- The information relating to the split Campus was clarified for the feedback sessions. The understanding from the LEIP Team that this is possible but because of duplication of resources, such as sporting facilities and canteens etc., it could be more expensive.
- Mull Community Council have been actively sharing information relating to the drop-in sessions with the community. There were ten separate sessions available for the community to attend.
- Mull Community Council representatives attended the drop-in sessions on Mull & Iona. This has allowed Community Council members to interact with the Mull Campus Team, ask questions, meet with the community and to understand the feedback.
- The feedback sessions have been well attended and very positive. Over 200 people attended the sessions. Children were also given the chance to share what they would like to be included. The online feedback form closing date is 4th October 2024. A reminder will be issued on the Mull Help and Information and Mull Resident Facebook groups.
- The Mull Campus team will work with their engagement specialists to collate and analyse the feedback over the next few weeks and aim to be able to share an update on this as soon as they are able. Alongside this Mull Community Council will collate and analyse the feedback they obtained and prepare a report which can be used to aid discussions with the Campus team.

- LEIP documents highlight that a new campus is to benefit the whole island, but community members have indicated at sessions and on-line they are confused and fearful about what is on offer. There is a strong desire for more information and data so an informed decision can be made. To see a summary of the concerns identified from the feedback the Working Group had access to, please click on the following link <https://wise4all.co.uk/october-2nd-presentation/>
- The Mull Campus Project team extended thanks to Mull Community Council and the community for their support to publicising and attending the recent engagement sessions.
- There is a new website - <https://wise4all.co.uk/> - where all information relating to the Mull Campus project will be shared and links to the Mull Campus team information will be provided. The slide set used in the presentation this evening is available on the website. Thanks were given to Mark Strevens for his support in creating the new website.

7. Ferries

- The last part of the summer schedule has been operating with limited disruption. However, the Caledonian Isles has technical issues, and the Isle of Mull has been redeployed to Lochboisdale whilst the Lord of the Isles is being redeployed to Arran to cover the Caledonian Isles. There is concern that this may lead to a reduction in service for Mull in the lead up to the Rally.
- The Ferry Committee are unhappy at the inconsistent decision making in CalMac. First the Lochboisdale service was cancelled and then this decision was changed to provide a daily service utilising the Isle of Mull. The Committee have written to CalMac highlighting the key issues with these unpredictable changes.
- The long-term decision on the new Craignure Pier location is due to be announced. It is expected to be a site very close to the existing pier. Once this decision has been reached, a more detailed design phase will be started. This is not expected to be a quick process.
- There is a potential issue with the current pier which will affect the future choice of vessel. This is due to pier fendering restrictions.
- The timber parts of the pier are not capable to let larger vessels approach the berth at more than 0.2 metres per second.
- The Isle of Mull and the Isle of Lewis are the next vessels identified for disposal. This would leave a choice between the Hebridean Isles, Caledonian Isles and the Finlaggan to replace the Isle of Mull. One key issue is not just the weight of the vessel but also manoeuvrability with the pier restrictions. The question is whether they can run a reliable service that can meet timetable turnaround times and provide winter running given these restrictions. Depending on the choice, the daily capacity may not meet current capacity.
- Argyll and Bute Council position is that there are not going to look at fendering on the current pier.
- The longer term Isle of Mull replacement(s) is at very early stages. The Ferry Committee have lots of work to do to progress discussion on this.

8. Transport

8.1 Buses

- The Sunday bus service no longer connects to the Iona ferry. There are ongoing meetings to look at how to resolve. Once the Iona breakwater work is completed, this problem might resolve.
- There are public transport issues associated with the Isle of Mull removal. When the ferry timetable changes at short notice, you cannot undertake a day trip to Oban from

the Ross of Mull using the bus. The problem for West Coast Motors is they cannot change their timetable at short notice, there being a legal requirement for a 90-day notice period. There is not an option for a hybrid timetable.

- The winter timetables are very similar to last year. The issue with the mis-timetabling has been fixed.

8.2 Use of Public Transport

- Jane Putsey was invited to talk to Mull Community Council about the transport issues in Fionnphort.
- Jane highlighted several issues that the residents of Fionnphort face each season:
 - There are too many cars trying to park and not enough parking spaces resulting in cars parking on the streets and impacting on residents.
 - The cost of public transport is excessive.
 - The timetabling of public transport impacts on connections to the ferries.
 - Summer buses are highly used by visitors. Winter buses are under-utilised.
- This information was obtained by undertaking a simple questionnaire to understand where visitors were from and if they knew about the West Coast Motors services.
- Bus fares are very difficult to understand. West Coast Motors run 3 services on Mull and prices vary on each run depending on whether they are subsidised (494, 495 and 496) or not (95, 96). The difference is quite substantial. Tobermory is £13.70, £9.30 if the subsidised bus is used. Fionnphort is the most expensive journey at £18.50, £10.80 when subsidised.
- There is a little known “discount” ticket West Coast Motors offer which is for travel anywhere on Mull in a 24 hour period for £18.00. The “discount” for a similar travel area in Argyll costs only £3.85. Why are the costs so much higher on Mull? It appears to be that West Coast Motors are making money from tourists and locals are not getting discounts.
- Pensioners and Under 25’s travel for free.
- West Coast Motors say that they can’t charge different prices for locals and tourists or on the summer and winter timetables. However, they do have the means to accept pensioners, under 25’s and disabled passengers so the system could be set up for local discounts too. When questioned about why West Coast Motors cannot offer a discount card, they provide very defensive answers.
- West Coast Motors do have Black Friday sales where you can pre-buy a price buster travel card. They have been asked why this cannot be offered year round. To date there is no response.
- Winter buses are under-utilised. This could be changed by offering a better timetable and a local discount which may encourage bus usage.
- Finlay MacDonald will work with Jane Putsey to take forward these issues and will come back to the Community Council if necessary.
 - A letter will be sent to West Coast Motors, cc’d to the Councillors, to obtain clarity on all the different pricing issues.
 - A Freedom of Information request on the West Coast Motor subsidies will be raised with Argyll and Bute Council.
 - An information sheet on the West Coast Motors pricing options will be published in Round and About to ensure residents are aware of the different options.
 - A request will be made to CalMac to include a link to West Coast Motors on their website to ensure visitors understand their options for travel.
- The car park in Fionnphort has several spaces that are being occupied by fishing creels and equipment. If this equipment was moved, there would be additional car parking available for visitors. There is an open action with one of the Argyll and Bute Councillors regarding parking issues in Fionnphort. This will be raised with them to request a progress update.

9. Planning & Housing

9.1 Current Planning Applications

- There are no applications to be highlighted this month.
- The Lagganulva decision has been deferred again.

9.2 Local Places Plan

- Mull Community Council are setting up a working group to look at the Local Places Plan. Several people have been approached to join the group. A full list of working group members will be issued once agreed. John Maughan, Steve Fisher, Rupert Ormond and Daisy Williams will be part of the working group.
- Crofting to be included.
- The working group will be sensitive to the differing needs of the community.

10. Health & Social Care

10.1 Bowman Court

- The Working Group met. Council Officers are looking at the plan to move the project forward. There are a lot of aspects to the project that will need to be unravelled to put in place the change of use. There is no funding yet, but it will need it.
- Once the change of use is in place, funding would need to be in place for 32 staff to operate the 9 bed care home.
- The next Working Group meeting will be held in November.

11. Roads and Infrastructure

11.1 Roadworks update – Tarring

- The tarring works have progressed well with many of the roads now completed. The local road team are now completing work to ensure that the road changes old to new, deep verge drop-offs and any surrounding potholes are being addressed.

11.2 Single Track Driving Guidelines

- Steve Fisher has been gathering information on the issues associated with single track roads and any guidelines in place across the Highlands and Islands. Skye and the North Coast 500 are particularly impacted due to more traffic and the impact on infrastructure and are actively looking at the issue. What this has shown is that this is a big issue in rural areas and therefore the scope of the Working Group has been reduced to Argyll and Bute only.
- A letter is to be sent to all Community Councils across Argyll and Bute asking if they would like to be part of the Working Group looking at the problems of single track driving. A deadline of December will be set, with the aim of the working group being formed in January.
- The plan is to tackle the issue in bite size chunks with the aim of interfacing to the Scottish Government. When the working group reaches this point, Emily Greenhalgh is happy to help with the interface to the Government as she has made some good contacts through the Mull Campus working group.

12. Environment & Forestry

12.1 Glenforsa

- John Maughan confirmed that a letter about the Glenforsa archaeological site of specific scientific interest was sent to Scottish Forestry and Scottish Woodlands and a

meeting was held with the new owners of Glenforsa. They agreed that they will take onboard the archaeological findings.

12.2 Footpath Access on Ross of Mull

- It has been reported that several new fences, locked gates or locks placed on existing gates which are blocking footpath access on parts of Mull.
- Under the 2003 act, Argyll and Bute Council have a statutory responsibility to ensure that access is maintained.
- The Mull Ranger service has been in touch with the landowner in Pennyghael and this specific issue has been resolved. However, it seems to be a growing trend with issues on the Torosay estate as well. It is hoped that any problem can be resolved locally but contact will be made with the Argyll and Bute Access Officer if required.
Action: Daisy Williams will also contact the Access Officer to get any available background information to aid discussions. Sharon Worrall will provide contact details to Daisy.

13. Tourism

13.1 Visitor Levy Consultation Group

- Jo Prior has requested a place on the consultation group which has been declined.
- In place of this, Jo Prior has now submitted a list of questions and points on behalf of the Mull Community. A response is awaited.

13.2 Contact with Argyll & Bute Access Officer

- A very detailed response has been received from the Access Officer and this has been shared with the Mull Campsite Owners Group.
- Based on the information supplied, the Campsite Owners group have responded to request a working group to be set up to look at a scaled back approach to dealing with Wild Camping and off-site overnight parking of campervans on Mull rather than immediately requesting a byelaw.

13.3 Wild Camping Working Group

- The Wild Camping Working Group will be set up by John Maughan, supported by Sharon Worrall, Steve Fisher and Jo Prior. Three of the Campsite Owners will be part of the working group.
- PC Tara Watt and PS Matt Shaw have asked to be included in the group and to be kept informed on actions to be taken.
- A Google Poll will be issued to find the best date for the first meeting.

14. Governance Issues

14.1 Democracy Matters

- Democracy Matters report has been received and circulated to all Mull Community Council members.

14.2 Comments from other Community Councils

- Following issues being experienced in Helensburgh, where Argyll and Bute Council are not taking on board public feedback over a planned supermarket development, a request was made to all Argyll and Bute Community Councils to set up a Community Council Forum.

- The feedback being sent to Helensburgh Community Council is in support of the setup of the forum. As more information is made available, it will be circulated to Community Council members.

15. Argyll and Bute Councillors' Reports

- The report from Jim Lynch was circulated prior to the meeting.
- No other reports were received prior to the meeting.
- Concerns were raised that Mull Community Council is not getting feedback on wider issues or from other forums attended by the Councillors.

16. Any Other Business

16.1 Post Office Search for Premises in Craignure

- The Chartered Surveyor representing Royal Mail has made an enquiry about the requirement for temporary premises in Craignure.
- Both MICT and the Community Centre are now talking to the surveyor about the requirements.

16.2 Community Halls

- The Mull Campus team have provided very positive feedback on the community halls that they have visited whilst undertaking the Mull Campus Drop-In Sessions.
- They wanted to recognise the efforts of the Communities who are responsible for looking after the halls in keeping them so well maintained.

16.3 Mull Community Council Website

- The Mull Community Council website is being re-vamped and will also be set up to enable the Community Council to maintain the content of the site themselves which will help with keeping the website current with all the latest news for the Community.

17. Public Questions

- No public questions raised.

18. Date of Next Meeting

- 6th of November 2024, 19:00 at An Roth, via Zoom and Livestreamed.

Mull Community Council Contacts

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