



Mull Community Council

Draft Minutes of Meeting 8th January 2025

Due to weather conditions the meeting was held only via Zoom on Wednesday 8th January, 2025 at 7 pm.

Attendees

Community Council

John Maughan
Sharon Worrall
Rupert Ormond
Steve Fisher

Emily Greenhalgh
James MacLennan
Billy McClymont

Guests

Gordon Milne (Mull Rally)
Cameron MacLean (Mull Rally)

Tracy Mayo (Mull Campus Working Group)
Michelle Devlin

1. Apologies and Introductions

Apologies were received from Angus Williams and from Cllrs Amanda Hampsey and Willie Hume

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the last meeting on 11th December 2024 were approved (Proposed by Steve Fisher, seconded by John Maughan).

4. Police Report

- The latest community Council Police Report was circulated prior to the meeting. No obvious trends or points of concern were evident.
- SW reported that the Fraud public awareness leaflet had been printed and would soon be distributed at a selection of community sessions
- SW also drew attention to the DOT magazine¹ produced by Digital Skills Education Scotland to help older adults stay safe on-line.

5. Mull Rally

- Gordon Milne of the Mull Rally Organisation summarised the plans for the 2025 rally (10th-12th October) as detailed in the previously circulated Island Community Consultation document. The submission deadline for the rally to get approval from Motorsport UK is 10th January 2025. The rally team are on

¹ <https://www.agescotland.org.uk/information-advice/information-guides/dot-magazine>

course to meet this deadline, but the dialogue with the Community, Argyll & Bute Council and Police Scotland will continue.

- Feedback received to date is being considered, with two issues concerning road closures currently being addressed.
- A difference compared to recent years is that the proposed route utilises a new section of road as a Special Stage for the first time, being a third of a mile section of the A849 through Bunessan village, discussions concerning the approach to Bunessan being currently underway.
- It is proposed to re-introduce the 'RallyZone' spectator area at Glengorm Crossroads on all three legs of the rally, preventing access to Glengorm when the "Mishnish Lochs" / "Achnadrish" stage is in use.
- In addition it is intended that the route through Tobermory will make use of Albert Street - residents of Albert Street are being leafleted about this change.
- Reference the complaints about pavement parking and speeding in Salen, these will be addressed in the coming month; one of the legs will begin at Salen and steps will be taken to try to pavement parking at that time.
- The organisers are also taking on board the potential for public education re road safety and will likely organise a number of school visits, mainly at secondary school level.
- It was requested that if anyone would like further information or has any questions/concerns, they please contact Gordon Milne.

6. Smart Meter Installation

- It was noted that Giles Gibson had posted on Facebook² that there had been significant progress made with Octopus, with 28 out of 60 smart meter installations done or about to be done.
- JM said that he had received replies from several community councils in response to the proposal to write to Scottish Ministers and MSPs requesting action to resolve issues re smart meter installation in more remote areas. A meeting will be set up to discuss next the steps.

7. New Power Cable to Iona

- SSEN had not responded to an invitation to attend. JM will continue to progress with SSEN.

8. Education

Argyll & Bute Full Council Meeting

- Tracy Mayo drew attention to the Full Council Meeting of Argyll & Bute Council that had taken place on Friday 20th December and is now available to watch on-line³. It is important viewing for those interested in the consultation process concerning either the Mull Campus (item 7) or the Visitor Levy (Item 6). Key points to note were as follows:
- In respect of educational benefits and additional costs, Argyll & Bute Councillors agreed that a split-site Mull Campus would not be affordable and that the process should continue on a single-site basis.
- The Mull working group have not seen a breakdown of the claimed additional costs and it is not clear on what information the decision of Councillors was based.
- Argyll & Butte Councillors had approved a motion to remove Iona from the process. (But note there seems to be no recognition of the Bunessan Parent Council's position which was shared with the Mull Campus team and others in March 2024.)
- Potential sites have been narrowed down to those that are considered viable, with the site selection criteria widened to incorporate feedback received during the engagement exercise.
- More detailed impact assessments are being undertaken, and these are expected to be concluded in January. The timescale for the site recommendation report has been extended to allow for this. This would add weight to the contention that these were prompted by repeated requests for them by

² Mull Help & Information December 2nd

³ https://argyll-bute.public-i.tv/core/portal/webcast_interactive/941542

the Community. A meeting has been arranged for Monday 13th January to update the Community and to hear their views.

- The key themes raised during engagement were highlighted – please see the Council’s report for further detail⁴.
- The Executive Summary to the Mull Campus update is quite vague on the Mull Community’s position. It is clearer in the body of the report. There are those who feel the report on the engagement sessions is open to misinterpretation.

Request to Argyll & Bute Council for Meeting

- The working group is still waiting to hear about its requests for meetings. The Mull working group want to work effectively with the Argyll & Bute Mull Campus Team.

Island Impact Assessment

- Mull Community Council has been notified that key community groups will be invited to input to the related Island Impact Assessment. The return date for responses is the 22nd of January. This was despite the fact that, as yet, there was no information on the short-listed sites. TM said she would be attending a meeting tomorrow (Thursday 9th) and will report back to the community at a meeting on Monday 13th (January).
- TM requested that as Community Chair of the working group she be given support in securing a position on the Community Sounding Board, enabling her to receive related communications directly.
- She also requested support for having the meetings of the Community Sounding Board recorded electronically or for the minutes taken to be more comprehensive.
- TM also suggested that it would be desirable, in relation to these impact assessments, for additional members with the necessary expertise to be added to the Community Sounding Board.

Education Development on the Isle of Mull Facebook Group

- TM stated that the site is proving very popular (with 179 members to date).
- She thanked site members for their emails and messages of support. All views would be recorded and respected in accord with the aim of the group.
- TM asked that residents who have something they want to share at meetings please get in touch. Meetings are open to all community members.

9. Transport

- Ferries: Joe Reade apologised that he was unable to attend.
- JM reported that he had received an email from West Ardnamurchan Community Council asking if MCC had ever requested that Calmac extend the summer timetable to the end of October, so as to take in the English holidays. The message was forwarded to the Mull Ferry Committee.

10. Planning & Housing – Steve Fisher

- SF reported that the planning working group were in support of planning applications for dwelling houses and ancillary accommodation on a croft at Pottie, Fionnphort, being of the view that crofting should be assisted.

11. Health & Social Care – Billy McClymont

- There was no further news re Bowman Court, but there would be a further meeting on February 10th.

12. Roads and Infrastructure

Consultation on proposed 50 mph speed limit on single carriageway roads

- BMCC was concerned at the extra time that would be required to travel off island to Glasgow or Edinburgh if this speed limit was implemented, particularly with the winter timetable.
- JM encouraged affected parties to complete the on-line consultation.

⁴ https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/moderngov/documents/s215253/CouncilMeeting_Dec2024_MullCampusUpdate_v3.pdf

Lochdon Speed Limit

- BMcC reported that Argyll & Bute Council were now putting out the proposed extension to the speed limit area through Lochdon to public consultation.

Single Track Roads

- SF reported that Visit Scotland had responded that they already provide information on the use of single-track roads, but he thought this could be somewhat more prominent.

13. Environment & Forestry – John Maughan

There were no points for consideration.

14. Tourism – Billy McClymont

Proposed Visitor Levy

- BMcC noted that Edinburgh had now approved a decision to introduce a 5% visitor levy.
- It was also noted that the Edinburgh plan included an allocation of about one million per year to provide administrative support to accommodation providers.
- The convenor invited Michelle Devlin (Tobermory Café Owner) to contribute. She stated that tourism had been getting an increasingly rough ride on Mull.
- She preferred a flat rate tax (as being implemented in Manchester) rather than a percentage (since the former would be easier to apply), but it was noted that the use of a percentage-based levy was specified in the Scottish government legislation.
- Also it appeared the visitor levy would be charged on other services provided by accommodation owners, such as food and drink, putting them at a disadvantage compared to outside cafes and restaurants.
- MD also commented that the relevant levels of VAT in countries where a tourist tax had been adopted were significantly less than in the UK, and many accommodation owners were concerned that the visitor levy would take them over the threshold above which they would need to charge and pay VAT.
- She also described how in some cases a steep rise in holiday accommodation rental rates appeared to be discouraging visitors to Mull.
- There was a feeling that A&B councillors were, with one or two exceptions, refusing to listen.
- It was considered important for all concerned to respond to the Visitor Levy consultation when this is issued.

15. Argyll and Bute Councillors' Reports

- It was noted that that the meeting clashed with the Tiree Community Council meeting because of Mull meeting delayed from 1st January, that day being a public holiday.
- JM will contact Argyll & Bute councillors to encourage their attendance at Mull Community Council meetings.

16. Any Other Business or Matter Arising

- There were no additional matters.

17. Public Questions

- There were no questions from members of the public.

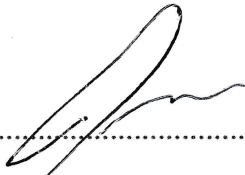
18. Date of Next Meeting

- The next Community Council Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 5th February 2025

Current Mull Community Council Members:

John	Maughan	Convenor	jirmaughan@btinternet.com convenor@mull-community-council.co.uk	07810 093426
Vacancy		Vice-Convenor		
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Daisy	Williams		daisywilliams56@yahoo.com	07596 459259

Minutes approved at the Community Council Meeting of February 5th 2025



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John Maughan, Convenor