



## Mull Community Council Minutes of Meeting 6<sup>th</sup> August 2025

Held in-person and on-line via Zoom on Wednesday 6th August, 2025 at 7.30 pm.

### Attendees

#### Community Council

John Maughan  
Sharon Worrall  
Rupert Ormond  
James MacLennan  
Steve Fisher  
Billy McClymont  
Susan Ringwood

### Guests

Cameron Maclean (Mull Rally)  
Colin Harkness (Mull Rally)  
Tracy Mayo (Mull Campus Working Group)  
Emily Greenhalgh (Mull Campus Working Group)  
Ben Donovan  
Andrena Duffin

### 1. Apologies and Introductions

Apologies were received from: Cllr Amanda Hampsey, Cllr Willie Hume.  
Ben Donovan was welcomed as a prospective co-opted member.

### 2. Elections

- i) In the absence of a convenor, BMCC took the chair for the initial part of the meeting
- ii) John Maughan was re-elected to the council as a co-opted member (proposed by SW, seconded by RO)
- iii) JM was elected as convenor and took over the chair (proposed by SW, seconded by JMCL)
- iv) JMCL was elected as deputy convenor (proposed by JM, seconded by RO)

### 3. Declarations of Interest

Following the June meeting Emily Greenhalgh had resigned as a member and deputy convenor, due to a conflict of interest relating to her being a party to the judicial review being launched against Argyll & Bute Council.

### 4. Mull Rally

Mull Rally organisers provided an update on plans for the rally. Arrangements were progressing well save for the probable closure of the B8035 (Loch na Keal to Loch Scridain) road at Gribun Rocks, following the rock fall there. Unfortunately this was an important length of road for the event. If the road is closed during the rally it might be necessary to repeat the route scheduled for another day. The organisers were reminded about the complaints of incorrect parking and speeding by non-rally cars. It was noted that prior to the event competitors are allowed standard cars to conduct slow speed reconnaissance & paperwork checks. The need to increase awareness of the risks of dangerous driving especially by younger people, was also mentioned, with the presentations on this issue given by the police to Tobermory and other local schools being mentioned.

## 5. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the last meeting of 4<sup>th</sup> June 2025 were approved without amendment (Proposed by RO, seconded by SW). There had been no meeting in July to the unavailability of members.

Later in the meeting it was noted that the minutes of recent meetings had yet to be posted on the community council website. SW explained that this was because the site was due to be modified but the work not yet completed. RO mentioned that past minutes were also normally available on the Round & About website.

## 6. Police Report

There were no police officers available. The community police report for June had been circulated.

## 7. Transport

- i) SR had continued communication with the police about traffic speeds through Craignure, Salen and Dervaig, after JM had received a complaint from a Salen resident about traffic speeds through the village. It was suggested Argyll & Bute Council should be approached with a view to lowering the speed limits through the centre of each village. Andrena Duffin described how in the past some residents had assisted with speed-checks.
- ii) Options for traffic calming measures at the Craignure ferry terminal were discussed. BMcC to investigate.
- iii) Parking on Tobermory main street had again become a problem with campervans parking or waiting near the Kilchoan Ferry terminal in such away as to prevent other vehicles from passing.
- iv) The need was agreed to look again at the proposed Park & Ride scheme for which funding had in the past been available but lost due to legal delays. Past members and officers should still have copies of the plans concerned. BMcC to follow up.
- v) Complaints had been received of the Tobermory – Craignure bus not calling at Fishnish, apparently when the bus was full. Apparently not all WCM drivers appreciated that without the bus passing by Fishnish there was no way for passengers coming off the ferry to know whether the bus was coming or not.
- vi) A further problem was that increasingly often the bus could not get down the road to Fishnish because of ferry traffic backing up beyond the two-way section. BMcC would investigate whether the two-way section could be extended.
- vii) Following the fall of rocks that had blocked the B8035 (Loch na Keal to Loch Scridain) road at Gribun Rocks, notice had been received from Argyll & Bute Council authorising closure of that section of the road potentially until January 2027, if so required. However, it was not clear whether this closure would be permanent, or only intermittent during periods while works were in progress.
- viii) Concern was expressed that recently, after their sailings had been cancelled, SPAR supply trucks had not been able to get to the island for several days. It was agreed to ask the ferry committee to press CalMac to provide greater resilience for such lifeline bookings.

## 8. Community Council Administration

- i) SW stated that the Action Register had been updated; it was agreed that an updated version should be re-circulated with each Agenda.
- ii) The table of members' responsibilities and of topic leads had been further updated and will be re-circulated.
- iii) A list of key topic leads will be posted on the upgraded Community Council website, when it becomes live.
- iv) RO reminded members of a circular letter from Argyll & Bute Democratic Services summarising a shift in staff roles and inviting ideas for encouraging more residents to participate in community councils.

## 9. Education

- i) **New Mull Campus.** Tracy Mayo reviewed developments concerning the planned new School Campus.
  - The Mull Campus Working Group (MCWG) held an on-line public meeting on June 10<sup>th</sup> to discuss the submission of a request for judicial review (JR) of the means by which Argyll & Bute Council had determined the location of the proposed new School Campus.
  - A petition for a JR was lodged by the group's legal representatives on June 6<sup>th</sup>, care having been taken to fully inform Argyll & Bute Council of the steps being considered.

- It was noted that Judicial review is a legal process where a court examines the lawfulness of a decision or action made by a public body. It's not about whether the decision was right or wrong, but rather whether the decision-making process was fair and reasonable and followed legally acceptable procedures.
- The motion for a JR had been accepted and the Court of Sessions will hold the substantive hearing of the case on Monday October 13<sup>th</sup>, the case to be heard by Lord Cubie. JR hearings do not normally last more than one day, but a decision is not likely until late October or November.
- The action required the securing £50,000 to cover legal fees, an amount that had been raised in 7 days by crowd funding within the community.
- The Statutory Consultation process concerning the school's relocation is due to begin on the 18<sup>th</sup> August and a meeting held in Tobermory High School on the 9<sup>th</sup> September at 6 pm. However Bunessan Primary School are not being included in this process.
- Emily Greenhalgh added that the decision to petition for the review had only been made after Argyll & Bute Council had declined to attend the round table discussion organised by Jenny Minto MSP.
- MCWG consider that in the absence of the Council's willingness to meet them they have no choice but to proceed with the action at this point.

#### ii) **Additional Support Needs (ASN) Funding**

- Concerns had also been raised that under a new formula the provision of Additional Support Needs funding was to be reduced during the coming academic year.
- This issue was discussed at the Full Council meeting of June 26<sup>th</sup> when reassurances were given that there have been no cuts.

iii) **Examinations and School Garden.** SW reminded members that this was school exams results day and informed them that there had been an increased level of attainment by pupils overall in Scotland. Further breakdowns will be shared as they become available. It was noted that the Head of Tobermory High School congratulated all students on their performance. She also described a recent work party at Tobermory Primary School at which a new garden area had been created.

iv) RO asked for clarification over whether it was expected that after the new campus was completed Ross of Mull pupils would be able to choose whether to attend the Mull High School or the Oban High School. He was informed that if the school was located centrally then Bunessan area pupils would fall into the Oban catchment, but that come the time they could like pupils anywhere request transfer to another school, although as usual there was no guarantee of this transfer being approved, and since there was no early bus service from Fionnphort, this would not be very practicable.

## 10. Planning

SF referred to the planning applications registered during the past month.

- He commented that the only potentially controversial application appeared to be a resubmission of a revised application for the building of houses on Aros Mains, Aros, though now for only four houses rather than six. As yet there had been no objections to the application. RO declared an interest as a neighbour and the application was not discussed further.
- Another application, that for the building of houses on Croft 2 at Pottie, Fionnphort, was still under consideration, but it was anticipated that a compromise should be possible.

## 11. Emergency Planning

- RO informed members that on June 18<sup>th</sup> he had attended on behalf of the community council's own emergency planning working group a meeting of the Mull & Iona Emergency Planning Group, which included first responders from across the islands chaired by the Coastguard representative, John Newing.
- The meeting, minutes of which had been circulated to members, had made progress in increasing awareness of the need for coordination between agencies and resolving a number of minor issues.
- A particular issue of concern was how parties could communicate in the event of a prolonged power outage affecting both landlines / internet and mobile phone masts, such has had occurred during and following Storm Eowyn.

- iv) Subsequently RO had discussed this issue with BT / Openreach staff at an open session in Tobermory. He was reassured that following the completion of the installation of full fibre broadband around the island landline phones and internet would still operate during a power outage because power would then only be required at the two exchanges, and not at intermediate cabinets, and that these exchanges would have their own emergency power supplies. Nevertheless users would need a power source to operate their own router / digital phone.
- v) BT would be providing vulnerable residents and all residents over 70 with a small emergency power source that that would run their router / digital phone for a few hours.
- vi) The need for automatic power switching (APS) for routers was discussed. RO was asked to investigate.
- vii) It was reported that Dervaig had lost mains power for 5 hours during the most recent storm, but this had been reinstated promptly.

## **12. Recreation & Countryside**

**Access issues.** SR reported on further developments concerning access to the hillside at Torosay through the deer fences erected to protect recent forestry planting. The landowner had agreed to install kissing gates. However the A&BC Access Officer has required self-closing gates. The landowner has now agreed to install these and to provide QR codes showing where the gates are located.

## **13. Health & Social Care**

BMCC informed members that unfortunately the meeting of the Health & Social care Group planned for the following day had had to be cancelled.

## **14. Housing & Utilities**

**Septic Tank Discharge.** SR reported on further communication with Scottish Water. Matt Bingham of Scottish Water had stated that Scottish Water had not changed rules about access to water treatment works, it was just applying them properly. He also stated that all save three septic tanks requiring emptying had now been emptied, though it was unclear if this referred to Scottish Water customers only, or to customers of other contractors also. Members stressed the need for a pre-agreed schedule that would enable independent contractors to discharge septic tank contents to the treatment works at a suitable frequency.

ii) RO drew members attention to on-line consultations concerning the Sectoral Marine Plan for Offshore Wind Energy and the Argyll & Bute Local Housing Strategy, details of both of which had been circulated.

## **15. Historic Sites**

JM described that correspondence had been received from Professor Nicholas MacLean enquiring about community council support for a proposal to improve signage on and to historic sites on the island. A small working party was proposed (to include JM, JMCL, RO and Alasdair Whyte) that would a) compile a list of priority sites, and b) look for funding for additional interpretative boards and directional signs. RO had identified two or more possible sources of small grants. The formation of the working party was approved.

BMCC advised members that Argyll & Bute had a budget for brown directional (tourist) road signs some of which he thought might still be available.

## **16. Forestry**

RO drew members' attention to an open session being held in Pennyghael on August 13<sup>th</sup> by EJD forestry concerning the proposed creation of a large area of native woodland.

## **17. Any Other Business**

It was reported that the toilets by the Lochaline ferry terminal were currently closed. The convenor would write to Highland Council emphasising the importance of the toilets to passengers awaiting the ferry.

There were no Councillor's Reports, Public Questions or Matters Arising.

The next meeting of the Council was scheduled for Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2025, to be held at 7 pm at An Roth, Craignure\*. (\*in the event held on-line only)

APPROVED

Mull Community Council Members Details:

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