



MULL COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting of the Council
held on-line and in person on Wednesday 1st October 2025 at 7pm

Attendees

Community Council
John Maughan
James MacLennan
Sharon Worrall
Billy McClymont
Michelle Devlin (on-line)
Susan Ringwood

Guests

Cllr Amanda Hampsey
Tracy Mayo, Mull Campus Working Group
Joe Reade, Mull and Iona Ferry Committee
Alasdair Whyte, Mull and Iona Gaelic Partnership
Norma MacInnes, potential new member
+ others

1. Apologies and Introductions

Apologies were received from: Steve Fisher, Ben Donovan, Rupert Ormond, Cllr Willie Hume, Cllr Jim Lynch

2. Declarations of Interest

None to declare

3. Minutes of the Last meeting

Minutes of the meeting held 1st October 2025 were approved without amendment. Proposed by SW, seconded by SR.

4. Police report

SR spoke to the August report. 26 calls were made and 6 crimes reported in the month. There were two instances of graffiti on the Tobermory clock tower and an appeal for witnesses has been issued. There was a report of a dog worrying sheep at Fidden Farm; the dog's owner has not been identified. Other reports were of attempted scams and fraud.

PC Tara Watt has agreed to hold a scam awareness session at either Buessan or Pennyghael in October, a date is yet to be confirmed.

5. Scottish Languages Act

Alasdair Whyte of Glasgow University and the Mull and Iona Gaelic Partnership spoke about the opportunity for Mull to become officially designated as an 'Area of Linguistic Significance' under the criteria of the Scottish Languages Act. Argyll and Bute Council (A&B C) would need to submit an application, and full details of the requirements are not yet known, however AW is confident that Mull would meet the criteria. AW sought support from the Community Council to raise awareness, promote any consultation events and to provide a letter of support in November when the proposal is submitted.

AW also spoke about plans to establish a Gaelic Cultural Hub in Salen which would provide a base for Gaelic culture, language and experiences for both residents and visitors. Plans include accommodation within or near the Hub. A recent survey which MCC supported showed a strong support for this initiative. Funding is being sought from Scottish Government for a feasibility study of buildings in Salen and to draw up plans.

Achieving the Area of Linguistic Significance status would be an important step in developing the Cultural Hub.

Discussion followed. Cllr AH said she would raise the issue in Council when appropriate and offered to request a slot for AW at an Area Committee meeting. Cllr AH would also write to the policy lead.

6. Education

i) TM reported on behalf of the Mull Campus Working Group (MCWG)

Purpose of the Judicial Review (JR)

MCWG are challenging the way in which a decision has been made, rather than the rights and wrongs of the conclusion reached.

What MCWG have been up to

The group has been busy over the past few weeks preparing the final documents for the JR hearing, to be held in the Court of Session, Edinburgh on Monday 13 October. It is MCWG's understanding that all papers are now submitted.

Attending the Substantive Hearing on the 13th October

In-person Members of the public are welcome to attend in person; it would be helpful to know if anyone is intending to be there as a larger court room can be requested if necessary.

On-line The hearing will also be available via a live weblink, and the link will be circulated as soon as possible

Sharing Documents/Notice of Argument

When the MCWG's legal team advises that documents can be shared, they will be. MCWG are checking if their counsel's Note of Argument can be shared before the hearing on the 13th October. It is becoming more usual to this to help make it easier for those watching to understand and to follow the case.

Accessing Information

MCWG's first petition is available on the Crowdfunder website, and this and a great deal of other information gained through Freedom of Information requests, the Education Updates delivered at Mull Community Council, and Council information relating to the campus are available at Wise4All. The link is: <https://wise4all.co.uk/>

The matters before the court relate to means of consultation, irrationality of options, inappropriate handling of a site offer, and not taking a vote on the council decision. These matters are before the court so cannot be discussed in detail.

The Judicial Review is about process, namely the decision-making process that led to the council's decision of 7 March 25, if the court finds in MCWG's favour, the community of Mull will need to think about how best and meaningfully to engage in the required re-visiting of A&BCs decisions.

The decision of the court is not due for some weeks, possibly 12 weeks. MCWG look forward to sharing their experiences of the hearing in November. TM invited people to get in touch by return email if they are intending to go in person to the hearing or if she can help in any way.

ii) SW reported

- The 2026 to 2029 School Holiday dates have now been set. See: <https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/news/2024/dec/school-holiday-dates-set-2026-2029>
- As outlined in the Full Council Meeting held on 24th September (<https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/moderngov/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=257&MId=16508&Ver=4>) :
 - Argyll and Bute Council are focusing on improving achievement of the developmental milestone for first-year primary, further tackling sickness absence and are looking at other trends and targets to see what changes are required.
 - There is a new Child Poverty Action Plan report which shows that progress is being made but makes clear the need for further action. There is a new child friendly, single page infographic available - <https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/moderngov/documents/s223894/Appendix%20%20-%20Graphic.pdf>

- Changing Lives Through The Power Of Mentoring. The MCR Pathway Programme is being extended to include Tobermory High School. If you have any spare time and are able to give 1 hour per week during school hours and would be interested in becoming a mentor, please visit the MCR Pathways website : <https://mcrpathways.org>

Discussion followed. JM confirmed that he has written to A&B C in support of Cllr AH's statement at the Community Services Committee. JM reported that one Tobermory resident has raised a concern about the implication for Tobermory High School of delays resulting from the Judicial Review. JM stressed the MCC will push the Council on any matters of concern. Cllr AH reported that she had not received any correspondence from parents about the condition of the High School, but would welcome any and would raise them at Council. It was stressed that there is an open invitation for any Mull residents to attend the MCC meetings either in person or on-line.

7. Transport

i) Ferry Committee. Joe Reade reported that the Ferry Committee are seeking a meeting with Scottish Government Island's Minister Mairi Gougeon to discuss Mull's claim to be eligible under the Island Business Resilience Fund. MSP Tim Eagle is seeking to arrange a Round Table on the issue.

The Ferry Committee have concerns that when the MV Isle of Mull is finally withdrawn from the fleet in 2026, it is likely to be replaced by the Caledonian Isles. If this were the case, it would provide a worse service than the IOM, as it would take fewer vehicles, have a longer turn round time, require passengers to board via the car deck and be less dependable in high winds. The Ferry Committee have requested that the Hebrides or the Clansman is deployed instead.

Discussion followed. JM reported that good progress is being made on the Iona breakwater. MD raised an issue about the reliability of the Kilchoan ferry, **JR will make local inquiries about this.**

Cllr AH shared information from the Oban Harbour Board which shows that A&BCs finance team have rated as 'red' the Craignure Pier Project status. This shows that there is a significant risk to the current funding model which may result in the project being paused or delayed. AH agreed to keep MCC informed of any further issues or information. She stated her thanks to the Ferry Committee for their insights and information shared.

ii) Speed limits. JM reported that A&BC are planning to conduct a survey with a view of reducing all current 30mph limits to 20 across the Council area. There was broad support for this notion, but with a comment that speed calming measures would be needed in addition to signage.

Cllr AH reported she had raised the requested transport issues with the A&BC's Head of Roads and Infrastructure, Andrew Summers, and requested an in person meeting. This discussion included speed limits; double white lines reinstated at Java; Radar sign at Salen; Craignure traffic management as part of the pier project; Salen festive lights and flooding outside Craignure Stores. She invited any further issues to be sent to her.

iii) West Coast motors. BMcC confirmed that standing is not allowed on West Coast buses. No further information was available.

8. Visitor Levy.

MD reported that strong opposition to the proposed Visitor Levy was shown in the consultation document published and considered by A&BC. Correspondence from Scottish Government Minister for Public Finance, Ivan McKee sent prior to the A&BC meeting had raised the issue that changes could be possible to the criteria and implementation of any visitor levy, but full details are not yet available.

As a result of this, and the consultation report, A&B C have decided to pause the decision to implement the Levy.

9. Planning Applications

BMcC reported that planning approval has been granted for the site at Pottie.

10. Housing and Utilities

Scottish Water. SR reported that no further issues have been raised about problems with emptying septic tanks and that STS have been able to resume providing a service on Mull.

11. Health and Social Care. No report

12. Business Forum

MD spoke about early ideas for establishing a Business Forum for island businesses and will report back once plans develop. MD spoke in addition about an initiative by local businesses collaborating to promote “Mull open for Winter”. A publication with a QR code giving access to details about what is open during the winter will be produced. MD encouraged any businesses or enterprises to contact her about being included.

With the closure of the iCentre, consideration is being given to producing a visitor guide leaflet and posters. **Cllr AH offered to check if any funding was available to support this initiative** and suggested CalMac be approached for a ‘goodwill’ offer of funding.

13. Any other matters arising from previous meetings

- i) Postal deliveries. SR had raised the issue with Royal Mail and received a reply from HQ stating there are no issues on Mull. She invited anyone who is experiencing a problem to contact her.
- ii) Slaughterhouse. **JM to provide contact details to Cllr AH for her to follow up.**
- iii) Lochaline toilets are now open again
- iv) Salen festive lights. Cllr AH included this issue in her meeting with Andrew Summers
- v) Craignure flooding- as above, and BMCC reported the affected area has been measured up and will be jetted first, but doubts remain if funding is available for more substantive work.
- vi) Broadband to southern area. **JM is making enquiries and will report back**
- vii) Gribun rockfall. Cllr AH reported that she has raised the issue of the significant impact on local residents. There is now a dedicated webpage on the Council’s site. **SW to place a link on MCC social media.**

14. Argyll and Bute Councillor’s reports

None given, other than Cllr AH’s contribution to the meeting

15. Any Other Business or Matter Arising

- i) MachairWind Offshore Windfarm. JM reported that second round consultation meetings will be held on Iona on 28th Oct, and Bunessan on 29th Oct. There will be webinars on the 6th and 8th November. **SW will issue a reminder on social media.**
- ii) Fishnish roadworks. Work to improve the access will not now be done in time for the rally.
- iii) Cllr AH requested that details of A&B Councillors are updated on MCC webpages. **SW to action**
- iv) SR reported that 3 gates have been installed on Torosay estate tracks, with 8 more in progress.

Date of the next meeting: Wednesday 5th November, to be held in An Roth, Craignure, at 7pm.

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