



Mull Community Council

Minutes of the Council meeting held on-line and in person on Wednesday 5th November at 7pm.

Attendees

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

Guests
Cllr Willie Hume
Tracy Mayo, Mull Campus Working Group
PC Tara Watts
Norma McInnes
+ members of the public on-line

1. Apologies and Introductions

Apologies were received from Steve Fisher, Michelle Devlin and Ben Donovan

2. Declarations of interest

None to declare

3. Minutes of last meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on 1st October 2025 were approved subject to the correction in the attendance list where Norma MacInnes was incorrectly recorded as Nancy MacInnes. Proposed by SW, seconded by BMC.

4. Police Report

PC Tara Watts gave a report for October. Most items were related to the Rally, or to Storm Amy. There were 58 calls in total in the month, including an attempted break-in to the Coastguard premises. RO asked about lengthy response times to calls, as all now go through 101. PC Watts stressed that 999 should be used for emergencies, and that the police website has a page for non-urgent matters to be reported in addition to 101. Scam awareness sessions are being planned for Pennyghael and Dervaig, details will be advised as soon as possible.

Formal notice has been issued that the police station in Salen will be offered for sale. Information requesting comments will be circulated and SW will put the details on MCC social media.

5. Education

i) General Matters

SW reported that congratulations go to Ulva Primary School staff, pupils and school community. They have received very good results in their recent assessment.

Further to the discussion at the meeting last month, SW confirmed that there are no outstanding works required at Tobermory High/Primary School. Recently the school had considerable work undertaken, including the new Learning Centre and repositioned Library. There are clear mechanisms to record and request property works, including for any emergencies (for example recent storm damage to the fence). If any parents have any concerns, please report them to the school/parent council.

This year, Primary 1 registration will open on 17 November which is earlier than usual. This is to allow more time and support to help children to prepare for primary school and to enable Improved staffing and planning.

SW is currently working with Tobermory High School to identify any students who would like to join the Islander Network which is for any young person aged between 5 and 25. This would be a great opportunity for 1 or 2 representatives to be a part of. SW will be sending this out to the primary schools shortly to see if there are other students who would like to take part. Further details can be found at <https://yin.scot/about/>

SW is also looking to set up a youth council that feeds into the Community Council or to get one or two students to become associate council members to attend our meetings and take part in discussions. SW invited any interested students to contact her.

<https://www.communitycouncils.scot/data/assets/file/0024/44277/Youth-Members-F.pdf>

MCR Pathways are still looking for Mentors to join their scheme with Tobermory High School. If anyone can spare one hour a week, please contact them. Responding to a question, SW stated that the mentoring programme involves 1:1 support to students where mentors share their experiences. Full training and support is given. <https://mcrpathways.org/about-mcr-pathways/>

ii) Mull Campus Working Group

TM on behalf of MCWG explained that since the Judicial Review (JR) was *sub judice*, she could not give any analysis or interpretation of the hearing. A decision from the presiding judge Lord Cubie is hoped to be received by the end of the year but could take longer. The MCWG were pleased to see that 120 people attended the hearing on-line, including members and executive from Scottish Government, the Head of Islands Policy and other officials. TM wished to express thanks to all community members and A&BC elected members who gave support- to Amanda Hampsey and Tommy McPherson who attended, to Tim Eagle MSP and to Cllr Julia McKenzie and others for their support for greater transparency. TM said that the reports by James McEnaney in the Herald provide a good review of what happened.

It is considered that regardless of the decision of the JR, the ultimate outcome will be dependent on a political solution, so people are encouraged to ensure their elected members and MSPs are aware of their views.

TM attended an event in Lenzie regarding the new Academy at which other similar projects were presented and discussed. TM discovered that other communities have faced similar difficulties in being listened to, heard and involved in the process.

TM showed a map on-line which outlined sites that were being considered by A&BC prior to the LEIP bid being submitted. These were not shared with the Mull Campus Working Group at that time.

6. Transport

i) Ferries- no report

ii) Speed limits

RO reported that there has been general support for the suggestion to reduce all current 30mph limits to 20mph, as is now being implemented on much of the mainland. There have also been some suggestions about extending the current 30 mph boundaries as 30 or 40 mph zones so as to cover areas of population or where pedestrians are frequently walking.

Cllr WH stated that he had raised this issue and also spoken to traffic control officials in Oban where conversion to 20 mph is currently being implemented. Any changes will require a Traffic Regulation Order and for new areas these can take 18 months to achieve. An order for Lochdon is underway and awaiting signage. Traffic control officers have been requested to review the increased traffic and pedestrian numbers at Pennyghael, with Port na Gael, the shop and campsite developments, with a view to installing a 20 or 30mph zone. RO will send Cllr WH details of the areas and suggestions that have been received and previously shared with Cllr AH.

iii) **West Coast motors** - no further issues reported with Fishnish.

iv) **WCM winter timetable** - SW to follow up with Finlay MacDonald who was raising with WCM

7. Emergency Plan and Resilience

i) Working group

RO reported on the working group and welcomed the contribution being made both formally and informally by residents. These have included: from the MCC- RO, JMacL, MD, JM; other contributors - Rob Claxton-Ingham, Susan Donnelly (A&BC), Kae Rayburn, Stuart Davidson, Paul Richmond, Amanda MacQuarrie, Brian Swinbanks, Sue Morrissy, Michelle Erskine, Mike Shilson and Annemarie Rigby.

ii) Advice leaflet

The advice leaflet has been revised and will be available on-line and at community facilities once finalised. If funding is secured, it will be printed and distributed to all households. An application will be made to the Waterfall Fund (RO). Cllr AH had advised the other funding may also be available. It is also proposed that more detailed booklets published by other agencies should also be made available on-line.

iii) SSEN call centre

It was noted that during Storm Amy, calls to SSEN were 'triaged' by a call centre in Southampton. In one instance this resulted in a vulnerable person being without power and with live cables on her property for 96 hours before Mull based engineers were dispatched. RO will write to SSEN to raise the concern.

iv) Digital Voices

MCC members met virtually with BT/EE Digital Voice Engagement Manager Sodhi Dhillon to discuss concerns about communication during power failures. It was reported that the batteries supplied to allow routers and digital phones to continue to work will only operate for 3 hours. They automatically switch off when 25% of battery power remains but can be switched back on manually for emergency operation. People with generators and AC battery packs can keep routers operating for longer, but at present broadband stops working after several hours when the batteries in roadside cabinets are exhausted. This situation will be solved once the new digital systems are fully installed, because roadside cabinets will no longer be used, while diesel generators will be used to maintain a power supply to the exchanges.

Telecare facilities are being switched over, except for About 20% which are areas with no mobile reception or in homes without access to broadband – this is intentional until BT determine the best solution to the problem. It seems a copper line may be retained interlinking with the digital system. Anyone concerned about a vulnerable person using telecare should ensure they are notified to the BT vulnerable person's database.

v) & vi) Open meeting and future plans. An open meeting is being held on-line on Thursday 6th Nov, and all interested groups and individuals are encouraged to attend to share their thoughts, concerns and suggest ways forward. The proposal is that similar solutions to the Covid community response be considered for times of emergencies such as power cuts, wildfires, floods etc. It will be necessary to liaise with A&BC's response teams who have statutory responsibilities in these events, but there is much that informal volunteer led initiatives can do.

8. Tourism

JM to arrange a meeting with MMC members to discuss potential sites for information plaques and 'brown' tourism signs. Concerns have been raised about promoting some locations because of access and parking etc.

9. Planning

RO has written to the A&BC planning dept querying the permission granted for a dwelling house at Kintra, near Fionnphort, within a designated Nature Conservation Site. He has received an acknowledgement but not yet a reply (now received).

10. Housing and Utilities

No issues

11. Health and Social Care

No issues

12. Business Forum

No report

13. By Election

RO reported that A&BC have given MCC the option to participate in a by-election for the Community Council to be held in January. If current co-opted members stand for election, then further co-opted members can be invited to join. JM and SR have agreed to stand for election.

14. Other matters

i) **Postal deliveries.** nothing to report

ii) **Slaughterhouse.** It is understood that matters are in hand to address this issue. Separately, it was noted that the Scottish Government is revising its decision to close all landfill sites, previously due to take effect Dec 31st.

iii) **Craignure flooding.** The culverts have been jetted, but the underlying issue of the need to replace the drainage remains.

iv) **Broadband to southern area.** NM reported that the R100 project is ending, and Open Reach have the contract for the next phase to connect the rest of Scotland not covered by R100. Unfortunately, Mull is in the round that will not be undertaken in 2030's. JM will follow up.

v) **Gribun road.** Cllr WH reported that the road remains closed. Surveys have been done and a decision will be made in November about next steps.

15. A&BC Councillors' reports

Cllr WH spoke about the current status of the Visitor Levy. He invited all to contact him with issues, or else the relevant A&BC officers whose details can be found on the A&BC website.

16. Any Other Business or Matter Arising

SW shared proposals to seek funding to install new notice boards to key locations across the island. SW will make an application to the Waterfall Fund

JM passed on information from Alasdair Whyte about a community consultation event for the proposed Gaelic cultural centre in Salen. The event will be in Salen Church on Nov 15th 11-2. Refreshments provided and all welcome. There will also be a ceilidh. SW to publish details on MCC's social media

MCC need to decide which platform to use to host their on-line meetings. SW to investigate and make a recommendation.

The date of the next meeting is Wednesday 3rd December, to be held in An Roth, Craignure, and on-line at 7pm.

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