

Comhairle Coimhearsnachd Mhuile

MULL COMMUNITY COUNCIL



Coinneamh na Comhairle 10mh Ògmhios 2026

Meeting of the Council 10th June 2026

Minutes / Geàrr-chunntas

Minutes of the meeting held in person and on-line on Wednesday 10th June 2026

Attendees

John Maughan
Rupert Ormond
Sharon Worrall
Billy McClymont
Norma McInnes
Susan Ringwood
Cllr William Hume
Cllr Andrew Kain

Guests

Tracy Mayo, Mull Campus Working Group
Emily Greenhalgh, Mull Campus Working Group
Margaret Matthew, Visit Mull and Iona
Joe Reade, Mull Ferry Committee
Clare Graham
Rob Claxton-Ingham
Duncan Swinbanks
PC Kevin Bonar

Also attending: Peter Kirkby, Andrena Duffin, Terry Hegarty, Fiona Brunton, Anne-Marie Rigby, Allan Maclean and other members of the public on-line.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Steve Fisher and James MacLennan

2. Declarations of interest

None to declare

3. Minutes of the last meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on 6th May were approved without amendment (proposed SW, seconded NMcl).

4. Argyll & Bute Councillor's reports

i) Cllr WH submitted a written report. Capital works at a cost of £500,000 have been going well. Surfacing has been completed at various locations on the B8073; Glen Seillester B8035 will be done at a later date due to timber extraction. There are also a small scheme at Beach Bridge Cottage Pennyghael and outstanding Bunessan footway works. Pre-surfacing dressing has been completed on the C46 Glen Bellart / Glen Aros road with an anticipated start date for the Surface Dressing at the end of the month,

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at a cost of £161,000. Re the road closure at Gribun Rocks, works have started to form 4 turning areas, 2 to the north of the affected area and 2 to the south.

ii) Cllr AK highlighted that there was a £10 million shortfall in the current Argyll & Bute Council budget which severely limited what the Council was able to achieve. This he argued reflected the country's declining economic situation.

5. Police Report

PC Kevin Bonar summarized key points from the community police report for May. There had been two reports of theft – one of the theft of banners, and one of theft of wood. The Music Festival had gone off well with people well-behaved and no incidents reported. Fraud prevention events were continuing, with one held the previous day and one to be held the following day. PC Bonar highlighted that a new phone number “159” had been established for reporting or queries related to bank fraud. SW added that a new printing of the fraud prevention leaflets was to be arranged.

6. Roads

i) Clare Graham enquired about the implementation of a 20 mph speed zone through Lochdon. PC Bonar explained that this was an Argyll & Bute Council (A&BC) matter, rather than a police one. RO advised that the Community Council had already pressed A&BC for 20 mph speed zones through each of the main settlements on the island. The police had been requested to undertake speed checks on the island, but had apparently had problems securing bookings on the ferries. Action: RO would follow up on progress in implementing 20 mph speed limits with A&BC. SW and PC Bonar were asked to contact Sgt Shaw re speed checks.

ii) The school speed limit signs in Lochdon were not working correctly. Action: Cllr WH to pursue.

iii) NMCI raised the issue that through the Ross damage to roads had resulted in places where excavations, to lay broadband cabling along the road edge or across the road, had been inadequately filled, resulting in collapse of the road edge or potholes. Action: SW and NMCI to pursue the matter with Cllr WH.

iv) Adrena Duffin raised concern at the risk to pedestrians and vehicles using Tobermory Main Street. Funding had previously been found to build a park and ride car park by the new cemetery, but de-crofting issues had held up this proposal. While the issues had been resolved, the £260,000 previously budgeted by A&BC for the work had apparently been re-allocated. Action: Cllr. Willie Hume to arrange for the Landowner and A&BC to re-open discussions on the park and ride proposal.

v) A Dervaig resident had drawn attention to a danger created by the way in which the road verge adjacent to the bridge on the A8073 had been re-shaped, since it was no longer possible to stand or walk safely on the verge when vehicles approached. Ian Elwis from A&BC is going to inspect the site.

vi) Funds had been ring-fenced to continue the operation of traffic lights on Breadalbane Street, Tobermory.

vii) The speed alert sign in Salen had stopped working. Action: RO & Cllr WH to pursue.

viii) A resident had urged the need for missing Passing Place signs and posts to be replaced, in view of the fact that in many places successive passing places and intervening roadside ditches are not visible, increasing the risk of accident. Action: RO and Cllr WH to raise with A&BC.

7. Machair Wind Offshore Windfarm

Margaret Matthew (Visit Mull and Iona) spoke on behalf of Hebridean Horizon about their opposition to project, approval for which was due to be submitted to the Scottish Marine Directorate in the next few weeks. She suggested that the community had been inadequately consulted and were only now becoming aware of the proposed windfarm. Some residents on Iona and Mull had formed a campaign

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group, information about which can be found on their website at: www.hebrideanhorizon.co.uk. The group were concerned over a series of issues including:

- a. The evident impact on the landscape / seascape of Iona and south-west Mull and resulting decline in tourism
- b. The impact on marine life
- c. The lack of evidence that the community would benefit in any way

MM asked what the view of the community council was to the proposal. JM & RO mentioned that MachairWind had twice spoken at Community Council meetings about their proposal and that they had held a consultation event on the Ross at Creich Hall, as well as on Iona. RO added that as a professional marine biologist he would be surprised if the development resulted in a net impact to the marine environment in the way implied.

It was agreed that the Community Council would invite representatives of adjacent islands and other organisations to further discussion of the proposal. The Community Council would also publish the licence application and the link to the Hebridean Horizon website on their Facebook and Website pages.

8. Planning

- i) No issues were raised in relation to current planning applications
- ii) Local Place Plan. An on-line meeting was needed to progress work further. Fiona Brunton (a local resident with relevant consultancy experience) and Kate Payton and Denise Baxter (both MICT) were willing to participate.

9. Health & Social Services

BMCC reported that he had had a meeting with the new head of department at A&BC about the need to convert Bowman Court; she was very supportive but clarified that there were 3 major projects on the list with H&SC of which Bowman Court was but one. Talks are on-going.

10. Transport

JR reported that there were two ongoing issues subject to debate.

Passenger access to vessels at Craignure. The problem preventing use of the passenger walkway at Craignure Pier is that the winch that raises and lowers the last section is broken.

The 2030 Vessel Programme. It is understood that the committee concerned will be publishing a proposal for the two new vessels to carry 60 vehicles each, even though this specification does not match Transport Scotland's criteria, and such vessels would still result in a mean 70% fill of vessels during peak summer use. While this can be repaired or replaced, CMAL state that they would need to bring the whole PAS up to current regulations. If they fail to do this, they believe that they would have corporate liability in the event of any accident involving the ramp. The view was expressed that they could have the same or higher levels of corporate liability if passenger access was continued via the vehicle deck or via a replacement gangway.

11. Education

- i) On-going School Matters.

SW reported that she and Denise Baxter and Kate Payton (both MICT) were extending the community survey to local schools and had arranged to meet S4 – S6 pupils in Tobermory and Oban. She also hoped to encourage some of them to join a Young Persons Community Council/MICT board to feed into the main groups, or the Young Islanders Network (see <https://yin.scot>), which currently has no representatives from Mull, and perhaps also the Community Council as young members. SW also noted

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that going forward Tobermory High School would have a full timetable for senior pupils, including active citizenship and voluntary work experience sessions.

ii) New Campus

TM responded to the point about A&BC's financial constraints, stating that legal obligations should nevertheless be met. She also announced that the First minister John Swinney had, in response to an MSP's questions in Parliament, stated that he is happy to consider greater funding flexibility in order to help the council resolve the dispute concerning the location of Mull's new campus.

The A&BC CEO Pippa Milne had responded unfavourably to the letter from the convenor urging the Council reconsider its decision. RC-I reiterated that unaffordability was not an excuse for failure to comply with the legal requirement to protect the rights of all children. Cllr AK stressed that the only way the council could borrow the extra money would be if new businesses could be attracted to the area so as to generate additional tax income. TM responded that there was a specific test in the relevant legislation and that on Barra the Scottish Government had found a way forward by providing majority alternative funding for the new school. There was disagreement over whether or not A&BC had costed both fully and transparently the costs of different options for a new campus. AK suggested that perhaps Tobermory High School could act as a hub for a number of satellite schools, on Mull and further afield; Alan Maclean asked if this idea had been explored.

12. Telecoms.

LM confirmed that he believed £2.4 million were being allocated to securing broadband provision to remaining homes in Scotland.

13. Mull Sports Hall (Duncan Swinbanks)

DS described an initiative to fund an all-weather sports hall for the island, to be built at Garmony alongside the existing sports facilities. He stated that Mull was the only significant island not to have such a facility, the Local Authority for some reason assuming Mull could be left to fend for itself. It was intended that the hall be operated by an independent charitable organisation managed by representatives from all walks of life. Already over £100,000 had been raised, encouraged by sponsors who had offered to double any amounts contributed by individual donors. It was intended to make a bid to Sport's Scotland for a grant of £240,000. It was also proposed that a bid be made jointly with Highland Council if the facility can be made available to adjacent Highland Council communities in the Morvern Community Council area. Construction costs could be reduced if the facility is considered a Village Sports Hall, which, subject to approval by HMRC, would render the project VAT free. An economic study had suggested that £0.75 million could be bought into the island's economy through the successful operation of the Sports hall e.g. through use by visitors in poor weather, and attracting additional residents. DW asked that the Community Council assist in publicising the project. Action: JM agreed to write to Morvern Community Council to encourage their participation.

14. Gaelic Initiative

Alastair White had advised that his proposal for a Gaelic Cultural Centre in Salen (Ionad Gàidhlig an t-Sàilein) was one of four projects selected to go forward in Argyll & Bute Council's Islands Programme Fund. The application is to support a full feasibility study for the centre. He had also organised the production of a Virtual Reality (VR) performance of a well-known Gaelic song 'A' chnò Shamhna'¹ A drop-in event at which the VR production could be experienced was being held on Thursday 18th June at

¹ 'A' chnò Shamhna' is widely regarded as one of the greatest Gaelic songs of the 17th century. It was composed in 1649 in praise of Sir Lachann MacIllEathain (Sir Lachlan Maclean) of Dubhaid ~ Duart, chief of Clan Maclean. The song's composer was the Mull songmaker Eachann Bacach.

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Salen Church Centre from 10.30 am. to 7.15 p.m. SW will publicise these details on the Community Council website and Facebook pages.

15. Royal Mail

SW reported on the ongoing crisis within Royal Mail (RM) on Mull. She had met with the newly appointed Delivery Office Manager M, responsible for Mull, who had confirmed that there were now 9 vacancies for staff on the island (including one spare), for which part-time and split-duty applications were welcome. There was also a large backlog of mail still requiring delivery, and this was impacting from Craignure up to the north end of the island. Plans are being put in place to use village halls for the collection of post. RM are looking for extra sites which could be used for temporary storage and sorting of mail.

16. AOB

Community Council election papers need to be submitted with A&BC by the 25th June 2026. A request has been made to place a noticeboard outside of the CalMac office to provide visitor information.

17. Public questions : None were raised

18. Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Council will be on Wednesday 1st July at 7pm.

Mull Community Council Members

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