

Comhairle Coimhearsnachd Mhuile

MULL COMMUNITY COUNCIL



Coinneamh na Comhairle 1^d Giblean 2026 Meeting of the Council 1st April 2026

Minutes / Geàrr-chunntas

Attendees

James MacLennan
John Maughan
Billy McClymont
Norma McInnes
Rupert Ormond
Susan Ringwood

Guests

Tracy Mayo, Mull Campus Working Group
Jean Lanteri- Laura, NW Mull Community Woodland Co
Terry Hegarty
and other members of the public on-line

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies received from Sharon Worrall and Steve Fisher.

2. Declarations of interest

None to declare

3. Minutes of the last meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on 4th March were approved. Proposed by NMcl, seconded JMcl.

4. Argyll & Bute Councillor's report

Cllr Jim Lynch had submitted a written report. He drew particular attention to the fact that the signal that supports RTS (Radio Teleswitch) meters is being switched off in June. This is the signal that controls when electricity meters switch between peak and off-peak rates. Anyone concerned that their meter is connected in this way and will no longer function correctly should contact their energy supplier. The Ofgem website has full information. www.ofgem.gov.uk/replacing-your-radio-teleswitch-electricity-meter

5. Police

SR shared the report for February. There had been 45 calls in the month and 2 crimes reported. These included one instance of fraud and one of shoplifting. Scam awareness sessions have been held at Salen lunch club and Ulva Ferry Warm Spaces lunch. A total of 32 people attended, and the sessions were well received. Most people present had either experienced or knew of friends and family who had been at risk of being scammed, and several had been scammed themselves. Further sessions are scheduled for Craignure and Dervaig in the coming weeks.

RO mentioned an excellent series of BBC Radio 4 programmes called Scam Secrets that warns listeners of numerous different types of such frauds (broadcast on Thursdays at midday, or available on iPlayer).

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6. Hustings

The Hustings for the Scottish Parliamentary elections will be held on Tuesday 7th April at Craignure Community Hall. Posters have been displayed and all are welcome to attend. All candidates have been invited, and those who cannot attend will be given the opportunity to submit a short written statement in support of their candidacy.

7. Community Survey

Drop-in meetings have been held at various locations to allow people to discuss the results of the community survey which MICT had organised. The Drop-ins were poorly attended with low single figures at most venues. JM stressed the importance of people expressing their views so that these can help inform the Island and Argyll & Bute Development Plans.

8. Health and Social Care

BMc stated that no meetings had been held in the past month.

9. Planning

The applications submitted and validated during March were reviewed and no objections or comments raised. Concerning the proposal for a dwelling house on the north side of Calgary Bay, RO stated that 843 public comments have been submitted with Argyll & Bute Council, almost all objecting to the proposal. He commented that any decision will be mainly made based on whether the application meets the Local Development Plan criteria.

RO spoke about the Local Development Plan. Details will be posted on the MCC website **ACTION SW**.

It was agreed to hold a working group meeting, although the response time available is now limited.

ACTION RO

10. Transport

Concern was raised at the current state of the ferry service and its impact on residents, businesses and visitors. After significant discussion it was agreed that any formal response should come from the Mull Ferry Committee.

11. Education: Mull Campus Working Group

- i) TM reported that it has been an exceptionally busy month and the interest in the case remains high. Tim Eagle, MSP, Ariane Burgess, MSP, and Ms Gilruth, the Cabinet Secretary for Education have all recently written to Argyll & Bute Council about the case. Press articles demonstrate cross-party interest in the case. There is a full Council meeting on the 29th April; papers for that meeting should be published on the Council's website around the 22nd April. Council officers are working with other project partners to update the project programme and costs. There is some concern that a refurbishment could be suggested again, as £7m was allocated in funding in the recent budget to the project. Several Councillors sought clarification regarding this allocation, but have been unable to satisfactorily do so.
- ii) The Human Rights Explainer – Education Provision on Mull addresses the challenges of delivering education on Mull given the deteriorating state of Tobermory High School and the need for children on south-west Mull to travel off island to complete their high school education and thus being denied their right to family life. It is now available on the WISE4ALL website <https://wise4all.co.uk/> (as well as the recording of the webinar held in An Roth on the 16th February) and it has been widely shared. TM has also requested that the Explainer be shared through the school email systems with all parents & carers.

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- iii) MCWG also hopes to have 2 meetings later this month - one in Tobermory and one in Bunessan with Prof. Boyle attending in -person – details to follow. It is an invaluable resource and TM would like to record their thanks on behalf of the MCWG to Prof Boyle and Dr Donnelly for undertaking this work pro bono.
- iv) A meeting was held at Creich Hall on the 7th March. This was not a MCWG meeting, but rather a space for community members to discuss their feelings post the Judicial Review decision. It was well attended. Past trauma has meant the community is slowing finding a way to speak about this matter. Specialist Support for the community was requested several times, because of its sensitive nature.
- v) TM was invited to Coll Community Council to discuss these issues since the community there also has concern about the number of school days students are losing.
- vi) A great deal of preparation was undertaken for the meeting with the Cabinet Secretary for Education, Ms Gilruth. The Human Rights Explainer was shared in advance of the meeting with Ms Gilruth and others. An agenda and brief were also prepared. A student from Oban High School spoke first about their concerns including asbestos in the hostel; bullying; the impact separation from family; the food etc. This was followed by 3 other short talks. One was on past lived experience of the impact of leaving home at a young age and of separation from your family has and how hard it is to discuss this for the community. Another was on LEIP funding and the lack of island proofing etc and fears regarding whether the campus will be built and an update on the position. These talks were followed by a presentation on the UNCRC, including the rights to education and to family life, on the progressive realisation of rights, and on the 30 school days or so per year students from south-west miss each year. Finally, the asks were addressed, including a request for the Cabinet Secretary to write to Argyll & Bute Council. The Cabinet Secretary took notes while MCWG members spoke and asked questions; she expressed her concern that a community found it necessary to take legal action against their Council. It is TM's understanding that the Cabinet Secretary has written to the Council and we await a copy of the letter. A Press Release re the meeting was shared.
- vii) It was interesting to note in a Herald article that the amount of funding needed to resolve the situation is likely to be less than the total MSPs expenses bill and to be a very small proportion of the Scottish Government budget. Thanks are due to the working group members for the huge amount of work undertaken.

12 Flooding

RO has circulated a response from Argyll and Bute Council following his correspondence with them about flooding at Ledaig car park. The Council's reply stated that flooding at extreme high tides had been acknowledged as a known risk when the car park was constructed, but they would investigate whether one-way valves could be installed.

13. Resilience

SR reported that Craignure Community Centre have had an initial meeting to discuss becoming a warm centre. The Craignure Centre covers a widely distributed community, and this needs to be considered. Several people have come forward to offer help and a second meeting is planned for after Easter.

14. Elections

Nominations close in late June for the Community Council elections and new members are encouraged to put themselves forward - all are welcome. RO confirmed that given his age he will not be standing again and JMCL thanked him for his contribution over the years.

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15. Action register

ACTION SW will circulate the latest version to members and prompt members for their updates

16. Any other business or matter arising

- i) SR reported that an issue had arisen again with a septic tanker not being able to discharge at Tobermory treatment plan, despite having booked an agreed slot. This resulted in the contractor having to go to Lochgilphead to empty their tanker. Enquiries with Scottish Water revealed that this had been caused by a mechanical failure at the treatment works and could not have been avoided.
- ii) SR reported that some residents have had problems with mail being severely delayed. It seems that post arrives at Glasgow on time but can then get 'stuck' there, sometimes for several days, before making it across to Mull. SR has been in correspondence with Royal Mail who are investigating the issue but have not yet given a full response.
- iii) JL-L gave an update on Ulva. There have been issues with the mooring which are being resolved. The funders involved have agreed to extend the deadline to allow the project to be completed. Significant quantities of rubbish have been removed from the island. The report into the proposed future of Ulva Church is due this week and will include a proof of concept for the next stage of any development. Repairs are needed to the church roof and funding is being sought for this. The specification for the new landing craft type vessel is still being developed, but it will include that the vessel should carry a crane and be technically capable of travelling as far as Colonsay, for example.
- iv) TH congratulated the MCC for joining the Scottish Islands Federation and stressed that the Federation can be a really useful source of advice and information about the islands. In particular, he encouraged the MCC to circulate the regular newsletter that it will receive as part of its membership; it was agreed that this would happen.

17. Public questions

None were raised

18. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be Wednesday 6th May at 7pm in person at An Roth and online. All are welcome to attend by either means.

Current Mull Community Council Members:

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