



Mull Community Council

Minutes of the meeting held on-line on Wednesday 7th January 2026 at 7pm.

Attendees

James MacLennan
John Maughan
Steve Fisher
Billy McClymont
Susan Ringwood

Guests

CLlr Willie Hume
PC Tara Watt
Norma MacInnes
Jean Lanteri- Laura, NW Mull Community Woodland Co
Sam Spencer, Mull Rally Committee
and members of the public on-line

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies received from Rupert Ormond, Sharon Worrall, Ben Donovan, Joe Reade, Tracy Mayo.

2. Declarations of interest

None to declare

3. Minutes of the last meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd December were approved subject to minor corrections
Proposed by JML, seconded BMc.

4. Police report

PC Tara Watt gave a verbal report for December. There was a total of 40 calls to the police, 26 in Tobermory, 9 in Bunessan, 3 in Salen and 2 in Craignure. There were no serious issues and it was mostly a quiet and settled holiday period.

The scam awareness sessions proposed for Pennyghael and Dervaig will now take place in February/ March.

5. Rally Report

Sam Spencer gave an update on preparations for the 2026 Mull Rally. The consultation document for the route and proposed road closures has been published in Round and About; posted on Mull social media and sent directly to key stakeholders. Responses so far have been positive. Current plans are based on the assumption that the Gribun section can be used competitively but a contingency is also in place. The Rally committee are in dialogue with Argyll & Bute Council's Highways department. Discussion and questions followed. It was agreed that the proposed new stage incorporating Bunessan/ Ardtun would be a good

spectacle. The proposed later start to the stage was appreciated by carers needing to travel to their clients in the early evening,

6. Education

i) JM read from a report supplied by SW

As reported last month, the output of the Independent Education Service Review was released with 10 strategic actions recommended for implementation over the next 2–4 years. A number of efficiency savings have now been prepared for consideration as part of the Council's revenue budget process, with efficiency saving options starting in the 2026/27 financial year. Full details can be found here:

<https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/moderngov/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?AllId=186261>

Latest figures released in December show that 94.6% of 16–19-year-olds in Argyll and Bute are engaged in education, training or employment. This places Argyll and Bute above the national average and in the top ten of local authorities for the eighth consecutive year.

A December 2025 report detailed continued efforts to close the attainment gap for care-experienced young people. Full details can be found here:

[https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/moderngov/documents/s226358/CARE_EXPERIENCED CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE.pdf](https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/moderngov/documents/s226358/CARE_EXPERIENCED_CHILDREN_AND_YOUNG_PEOPLE.pdf)

Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA): Applications for the 2025/26 session remain open until March 31, 2026.

ii) There was no report from the Mull Campus Working Group, however JM noted that the outcome of the Judicial Review is not yet published. SW has written to Cllr Keiron Green concerning the lack of data collected about rates of absence of Mull children from Oban High School caused by issues with ferries. Currently in such instances Mull children are marked as 'present', which means that the impact of having to travel to Oban for schooling is not capable of being quantified.

iii) MCC has also written to Argyll & Bute Chief Officer Pippa Milne to request that the council make the Note of Argument which the council presented at the Judicial Review hearing publicly available, as residents had requested to see it.

7. Transport. No report

8. Tobermory Council Offices.

There is an engagement published concerning a proposal to change to a 'booking only' service for residents wishing to attend the Tobermory council offices. Currently there is an option to drop in at times. People are encouraged to send their comments to RO by the end of January.

9. Emergency Planning

i) Advice leaflet: JM reported that the advice leaflet is ready for publication and quotes are being sought for printing costs.

Warm Centres: Dervaig Community Hall is holding a resilience meeting 07/01/26.

ii) Digital Switch over: Council members are meeting on 08/01/26 with the BT/EE Digital Voices Engagement Manager Sodhi Dhillon and will be seeking assurance about the exact practical arrangements for once the switch over is made. Telecare clients remain a key

concern. Sodhi Dhillon has put members in touch with Open Reach staff and with Ian MacInnes, Digital Liaison Officer from Argyll and Bute Council with a meeting expected soon.

iii) JM noted that the Scottish Government's Community and Renewable Energy Scheme (CARES) funding is available for solar installations but must be spent and any funded project completed by the end of March.

iv) In RO's absence, information on flood risk management was held over to the next meeting.

v) More than 30 people are currently involved in the resilience group, and all are invited to join or to contribute information for the group members to share. A separate group to work on longer term sustainable issues may be formed from current group members.

10. Planning Applications

Two were validated in the month. No objections were raised to either.

11. Housing and Utilities

Housing- no report

Utilities- the roll out of the R100 project will be covered in the meeting due to be held with Open Reach mentioned at item 9 above.

11. Health and Social Care

A face-to-face meeting with council staff is expected soon and will be reported on in due course. The excellent efforts to replace the storm damaged greenhouse at Bowman Court were noted and congratulations given to all involved.

12. Argyll and Bute Councillors' reports

i) Cllr WH requested that minuted thanks be given to all staff involved in gritting and clearing roads in the recent spell of icy weather. Discussion followed concerning the criteria applied to determine when a road is gritted. It was acknowledged that resources are tight but there is a policy that roads connecting communities with fewer than 12 school aged children do not routinely get gritted. This was felt to be a situation which disproportionately affected dispersed island communities. Cllr WH agreed to query this with the relevant council officers.

ii) Cllr WH has raised the request for a bus shelter to be installed outside the doctor's surgery at Java, and reported that MCC need to contact the hospital to take this forward.

ACTION: BMC to contact the relevant people.

13. Action log

Community Council members reviewed the Action Log of items from meetings held during 2025 and agreed those which can be closed as completed and those which remain open.

14. Any Other Business

i) JM referred to a survey which North-West Mull Community Woodland Company have issued to key stakeholders concerning a feasibility study to determine the specifications of a landing craft for Ulva. J L-L gave further details. The craft would be used to bring building supplies etc. to the island and would not replace the existing ferry. It could also be used by other islands or communities. Views are sought up to the end of March.

- ii) JM referred to the proposal to create a Place Plan for Mull. Kate Payton, MICT Housing Officer is drafting a survey in collaboration with MCC to gather views which will be used to identify key themes which will then be explored at drop-in sessions.
- iii) JM reported that Alasdair Whyte of Mull and Iona Gaelic Partnership is due to meet with staff from Scottish Government next week to discuss the proposed Gaelic Cultural Centre for Salen.
- iv) Cllr WH reported that the Mull Sportive for 2026 has been cancelled due to the Gribun road closure, and noted the impact this will have on visitors etc.

15. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 4th February at An Roth in Caignure and on-line. Residents were reminded that anyone can attend the in-person meeting if they wish.

Community Council members and contact details

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