

## Council Islay Community

### Draft minutes of meeting held via Zoom on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2022

#### Attendees and Apologies

|                       |                  |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| Islay McEachern       | Chair            |
| Garry MacLean (GM)    | Vice Chair       |
| Jim Porteous (JP)     | Secretary        |
| Calum Murray (CM)     | Minute Secretary |
| Morag Stirling (MS)   | Police Scotland  |
| Billy Sinclair (BS)   |                  |
| Niall Colthart (NC)   |                  |
| Kathie Griffiths (KG) | Oban Times       |
| Jim MaCalman          |                  |
| Laura Jenkins         | Minute Taker     |
| Apologies/Not Present |                  |
| Colin Fraser          | Treasurer        |
| Robin Currie          | A & B Council    |
| Frazer Campbell       |                  |
| Mike Senior           |                  |
| Dougie Macfadzean     | A & B Council    |

#### 2. Declarations of Interest

None

#### 3. Previous minutes and Matters arising.

Minutes were adopted with no amendments.

Proposed by GM and seconded by BS

Matters arising:

Writing to Councillor Currie regarding Alistair Redman's efforts supporting funding applications.

Action was not complete as awaiting results from Council elections

ACTION POINT- GM to follow up the action.

ICAG meeting held

Water improvement in Broomhill, letter sent to councillor Currie- BS still waiting on a response.

ACTION POINT – BS to chase up.

Church of Scotland- proposed sale of Islay Churches.

JP wrote to church of Scotland for clarification, they responded with a press release which stated a plan would be reached by 31/12/22.

A local church meeting was held and an attendee advised the proposed date was June 22.

The press release is to be published in the local paper to give the community a chance to respond to the proposal.

JP to send KG the press release for review.

#### 4. Police Report – MS

There has been an increase in the reporting of online scams which could be the increase in social media coverage on scams. In particular romance scams which is possible side effect from lockdown. Police Scotland are continuing to work with people to highlight the risks involved.

With summer approaching and the increase in tourism the Division has come up with A Rural Crime Prevention Pack will be issued out to land owners and farmers with advice on keeping you livestock safe, what to do if you see suspicious persons and dog attacks to livestock.

There has been an increase in road traffic incidents including anti-social driving, minor road traffic accidents and minor driving offences.

Questions raised:

IM asked on behalf of Colin Fraser if there is police involvement in the continuation of the street works through Feis.

MS – The police do not have a say in the works, it is the council that are responsible but police continue to help to prevent any disturbance that may arise.

ACTION POINT:

Council to be contacted with regards of the plans to continue the works during Feis.

#### 5. Councillor Currie Report.

None – apologies sent

#### 6. Councillor MacFadzean Report

None – apologies sent

#### 7. Councillor McAlpine Report

None – apologies sent

#### 8. Treasurer's Report

Question submitted on continuation of works in Bowmore. (see Police Report)

#### 9. ICC Ferry Committee

JP reported on the meeting held by the ferry committee.

ICCF - last regular meeting 4<sup>th</sup> May, minutes on website. Next meeting due 8<sup>th</sup> June.

#### **Calmac's Proposed New T&C's for No Shows, Cancellations etc.**

Presented at ICCFC meeting by Alan Hood, Calmac 'Customer Experience' manager.

30 day's to respond formally from date of meeting - we have asked for 1 week's extension due to inadequacy of statistical evidence. Members strongly opposed the proposals, in terms of timing after a Winter of breakdowns, incompleteness (block bookings excluded), unfairness, lack of balance with Calmac's compensation terms, inflexibility - sledgehammer to crack a nut approach, to name a few. We know that other FC's have also objected.

**Timetables** - 'short life working group' meeting attended by IM and JP 27 April to continue discussing a range of options to improve capacity via the timetable and other measures. Calmac say they are still working on some potentially beneficial timetable changes. A meeting was also attended 10<sup>th</sup> May with Colonsay representatives to discuss the Islay/Colonsay/Oban link.

Most suggestions put forward by the FC have been rejected but a few are still on the table. Date for next meeting to be agreed.

Are any members experiencing regular space problems? Not all ferries seem to be full, e.g. 18.00 ex KC Tue. On Sat 25<sup>th</sup> June 300 passengers booked on 7.00 am ferry for a football festival by PE school. (Feedback from members was that apart from Feis week, no major problems reported - the test would come in June/July/Aug peak months)

**New Ferries** - IM and JP met briefly with CMA's CEO Kevin Hobbs and Brian Fulton on 12th May to discuss progress regarding the new ferries and to highlight concerns regarding the readiness of port modification work. Procurement of steel and other materials by the shipyard for the new ferries is apparently going well but CMAL has recently confirmed that completion of marshalling space works at PE may not be until 2026 due to the time needed to obtain a harbour revision order and planning consents. IM and JP are insisting that the full capacity of the new ships must be able to be handled at least at one of the Islay ports on delivery - otherwise we couldn't rule out the need for assistance from a 3<sup>rd</sup> vessel until resolved.

We are awaiting an update from A&BC regarding the options and timelines for shore side work at PA to enable handling of the full capacity of the new ships. We have been trying since 5<sup>th</sup> April to agree a date to meet with Scott Reid, A&B C's marine manager and have sent him a further message today to chase this up.

We are planning to engage further with Kevin Hobbs to seek CMAL's assistance.

Next 'Reference Group' meeting planned for 14<sup>th</sup> June

Open 'drop in' meeting proposed for 4<sup>th</sup> July - late pm, evening at Port Ellen. Would this work for community and CC members, bearing in mind school hols start 30 June? Are there any other events taking place? (Consensus at meeting was that this should be held before the school holidays to help enable maximum attendance - JP to report back to CMAL accordingly).

### **Electric Vehicles (EV's)**

Further to concerns raised in the press last week around the risk of EV's combusting, we have asked Calmac whether any actions may be necessary to ensure safest possible stowage on the ferries. For example, should they be categorized separately from other vehicles to enable a degree of segregation, if not now, perhaps in future as the numbers increase? Do the ferries carry adequate firefighting materials and sufficient safety gear to protect from toxic chemical fumes, should a fire break out? Calmac advises that they are consulting with the MCA and guidance is expected to emerge soon.

A member of the public has also highlighted the substantial weight difference between an EV and its equivalent petrol or diesel counterpart - plus 30 to 50% in some cases. Another possible reason for different categorization - e.g. weight on mezz decks etc. We have also raised this with Calmac.

CMAL has advised that progress on the build is going well and ahead of schedule in the order of steel and shipyard readiness – they have also confirmed that Port Ellen may not be ready until 2026. This would mean a diversion to Port Askaig and questions were raised on whether they could handle the extra capacity. A meeting with the owners A&B Council has been requested and awaiting response.

A Port Ellen reference group meeting will be taking place on 14<sup>th</sup> June which IM and JP will attend, local stakeholders will be informed of updates.

CMAL have proposed a meeting in the Ramsay Hall on 4<sup>th</sup> July, concerns were raised on the date as it falls on the school holidays and people may not be able to attend if on holiday. CMAL could make an earlier date but some representatives would not be able to attend.

JP put round the table on proposal of date.

- Committee agreed to proposal of earlier date.

Issues with electric vehicles and the dangers of lithium batteries catching fire on board.

Question was raised to Calmac of procedures in place for electric vehicles. Calmac are consulting with MCA seeking guidance. The other issue is the weight of an electric vehicle is much higher than a diesel car and the committee is concerned that Calmac are not identifying these vehicles which has safety concerns.

#### 10. Planning reports:

None

#### 11. Education:

No updates

#### 12. Roads:

No updates

#### 13. Islay Community Action Plan:

The meeting was held on 3<sup>rd</sup> May, IM consulted with SCDC who were in agreement that work should be moving forward on the action plan group.

A follow up meeting has been requested- IM to follow up.

JM - Murdo will be happy to get involved and provide help if required.

#### 14. MAKI Meeting

NC provided update on the recent MAKI meeting.

MS had provided most of the information given out on the MAKI meeting by Police Scotland.

Police Scotland have started a recruitment drive- Live Local, Work Local.

Presentation on fuel poverty and cost of living crisis was given and the potential effects over the next 12 months. The organisation can provide guidance on access to grants to help the vulnerable.

A presentation on climate change issues within local communities was presented and a representative from Scottish government provided information on setting up action groups and highlighted that the environmental issues should be part of a community action group.

NC- asked if A&B council to set up something that the public could visit if they require help or advise on funding that could be available for people?

BS – The Islay Community Poverty Fund was set up to help people apply for funding but had no applicants possible down to ‘Poverty’ in the wording.

Although there has been a lot of applications for replacement windows and insulation. The group have been looking into way to provide help and funding to help people with heating bills, etc.

#### ACTION POINT:

Issue to be raised to the councillors to what A&B are planning to help with the crisis – BS to follow up.

#### 15. Correspondence

JP – Loganair are changing their policies on cancellation fees, on the upside the numbers are returning and they may be increasing their services.

This is to be published in the Ileaf this week.

NC – added that Loganair will have a couple of additional schedules for Feis and with the numbers returning to pre-COVID levels there is scope for additional schedules plus with the possibility of the ATR's being introduced there could be higher seating capacity on these aircraft.

#### 16. AOCB

Nothing raised.

#### 17. Date of next meeting

TBC