**AGENDA**

**TIREE COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**Tuesday 20 September 7pm**

**By Zoom**

1. **Present**: Phyl Meyer (chair), Dr John Holliday, John Patience and Cllr Amanda Hampsey. The meeting was quorate.
2. **Apologies**: Iona Campbell
3. **Declarations of interest**: PM is a member of the Parent Council; JH has a family member who owns a short-term let property.
4. **Minutes of last meeting**: these were agreed as accurate. Proposed PM and seconded JP.
5. **Matters arising:**

* JH has an estimate for the repair of fencing and gates in Scarinish. He has given these to the three businesses, with one approval in principle and two decisions pending
* The Tiree Ferry Survey has not been done
* JH has talked to the Trust Ranger about irregular parking in the east end. This matter was in hand
* We were not sure if a submission had gone in on the Net Zero and Climate Change Committee on ferries. **JH would enquire**

1. **Correspondence**:

* JH had written to Argyll and Bute Council about Short-Term Lets Control Areas. These should be coming in locally in mid-2023
* Cycling UK Shift Funding Programme for community councils to encourage cycling in their area. We did not have any projects for this at the moment
* Duncan Nisbet had written to say the R100 project had been extended by 2,500 properties. We were not sure if this would benefit Tiree
* Inglis Lyon, the CE of HIAL, has replied to say that the project to provide Tiree Airport with portable solar-powered lighting should ‘go live’ in early January, conditional on the all clear from the CAA
* Heating at Pier View: the Project Officer, John MacDonald, has provided us with the architect’s report. There are three options and they are costing all of them
* Concerns have been raised about earthworks at The Camp in Crossapol. We passed these on to Environmental Health, who have inspected the site visually

1. **Meetings**:

* Jenni Minto, MSP: JH had met her at her surgery on 19 August. He raised the subject of Island Community Impact Assessment appeals. She will raise this with the relevant Scottish Government Minister; ABC’s community engagement standards; the Argyll Islands Sounding Board (see later); and she promised to write to Ovo about the delays in connecting new builds to the National Grid
* Cllr Amanda Hampsey: PM and JH had met her at her surgery. We welcomed her travelling to Tiree and we hoped to see more councillors face-to-face. We raised the matters of Council Officers’ attitudes to Island Community Impact Assessments and community engagement, as well as the Argyll Islands Sounding Board
* Mull Community Council meeting: one relevant matter that was raised was the Deposit Return Scheme which comes in on 16 August next year. PM had heard of a proposed facility for this at the pier. Small outlets could apply an exemption, although few had done this. **We will keep an eye on this**

1. **Ferries**: three links had been posted on the TCC website.

* **Results of the community engagement on new CalMac Terms and Conditions**: the proposed changes in the Terms and Conditions, particularly in relation to cancellations, were much criticised and have been dropped for the time being, although the company will review this decision in six months. We welcomed this. They do intend to be firmer in future in applying the existing cancellation charges, of £10 24 hours before sailing and 100% less than 24 hours
* **Replacement of Waitlist by Advanced Standby tickets**: there is to be a consultation until 5 October about changes to the standby system. High priority passengers (such as medical appointments and shellfish lorries) can apply for an Advanced Standby ticket and these will get priority in the standby queue. You will still be able to arrive early and physically wait. **We decided that we would write a support this. JH would do this**
* **Should we lobby for a trial of an islander parity system for the Oban-Coll-Tiree route next year?** The ‘Samsosystem’ provides people who live on that Danish island with a travel card and then reserves a certain number of car spaces for them, calculated individually for each sailing. The Mull and Iona, Arran and Coll communities have all given their endorsements to this system. The Ferries Minister has indicated that it could be used for the Mull-Oban route next year. If CalMac only uses historical travel numbers, they may not accurately reflect the true travel needs of the island, as capacity has been so constrained in the past. Another consequence of the scheme is that passengers without an island card (visitors) would be competing for a smaller area of deck space. **We decided to support a pilot system in principle. JH will write to Transport Scotland to this effect and will copy the letter to Jenni Minto**
* **Winter timetable**: this is still not available. This is making travel plans very difficult

1. **School**: it was noted that Argyll and Bute Council has withdrawn the Collective Leadership Model for the time being; TCC has applied to Argyll and Bute Council for a Review of their refusal to do an Island Community Impact Assessment on the appointment of the Executive Head Teacher at Tiree High School. This is awaited.
2. **Light pollution at school**: we had been assured that two security lights are set to go off at 7pm, and two more at 10pm. Several neighbours have continued to complain that the lights are on much later than that. However, it now appears that the timer has been reset in the last couple of days. **JH will write to thank the Authority.**
3. **Argyll and Bute Council’s islands representation**:

* **The Argyll Island Sounding Board** has been meeting twice yearly since November 2020. There are nine members, including our own Andrew Kain and Amanda Hampsey. Three members come from the most populous island, Bute. It is not a full Council committee and the minutes had to be obtained through a Freedom of Information request. It considers reports about islands from central government. It reports to the Policy and Resources Committee, although JH could not find any reference to the Sounding Board in that committee’s minutes. **We agreed to write to the Sounding Board’s chair to ask that minutes could be passed to island community councils, and that committee members reach out to their island community councils before the Sounding Board’s meetings so that this top-down approach could be balanced by an input from the grass roots**
* **Island Community Impact Assessments**: Argyll and Bute Council has done just three in the past year, showing that their appetite for this legislation was weak. They should publish ICIAs on the Council website, but this does not seem to be happening. **JH would continue to monitor this**

1. **Planning matters**: JP presented applications over the last month, including work at the water treatment plant in Balephuil. No matters needed the attention of the community council.
2. **Community garden**: the proposed meeting was cancelled due to the death of Queen Elizabeth. **PM will reconvene this.**
3. **Community phone boxes, Phase 1 completion:** JP reported on this. The Balephuil box has been restored by Niall MacDonald. David Clark has restored the Mannal box. The Scarinish box is being used by Solar. The Caolas box has also been partially restored and contains a defibrillator. JP will finish this work. Two new doors have been purchased and have arrived. PM thanked JP and all the other volunteers for the success of this scheme.
4. **Community Council elections**: three applicants have been elected: Phyl Meyer, Dr John Holliday and Jacqui Bennett. However, there need to be four councillors to constitute a new community council. There will therefore be a by-election in a couple of months if there is sufficient interest. There will be no community council for a minimum of three month. We asked islanders again to put their names forward. The elected community councillors can continue to do case work and monitor correspondence.
5. **Date of next meeting**: we will try to agree a date before 19 October, although members are already heavily committed.
6. **AOCB**:

Dr John Holliday

21 September 2022