**MINUTES OF TIREE COMMUNITY COUNCIL (TCC)**

**AUGUST PUBLIC MEETING**

**7pm 13 August 2025**

**By Zoom and TCC Facebook live stream**

1. **Present**: Gerard McGoogan (chair), Dr John Holliday and John MacCaskill. Three members of the public joined the meeting on Zoom. There had been 511 views on Facebook within two days.

2. **Apologies**: Cllr Willie Hume and Tim Arkless.

3. **Political notice**: there is a Holyrood election next May, and TCC will need to be careful not to be party political until then. The next TCC election is next August. If anyone on the island’s electoral roll wants to put themselves forward to be a co-opted member, please get in touch.

3. **Minutes of last meeting**: these were proposed as a true record by GMG and seconded by JMC.

4. **Matters arising**:

* Reuse container at Recycling Centre is not being very well used. The staff member on duty is currently needed to open the heavy doors, which they may not have time to do
* Visitor Levy: the date that this will be considered at Argyll and Bute Council (ABC) has been fixed for 1 September. We decided that we had made our views known, and no further action was needed

5. **Correspondence**:

* ABC Housing Needs survey
* GMG had asked SSEN if they would fund a new fence around the centre of Scarinish, but this had been declined. The power transmission lines will be surveyed by drone over the next few months
* Vacancy for canvassing work has been advertised on FB

6. **Councillors’ reports**: there were none.

7. **Meeting reports**:

* Police: GMG and JH had met Inspector M Shaw to discuss policing on the island. It was a positive meeting. We brought up the burglary at the post office, which had seen a slow police response time. We (with TA) also had a useful meeting with the new police officer to welcome her and discuss operational issues. She had come from a seven-year posting in Fort William
* Jenni Minto, MSP: we brought up LiveArgyll and the library. Our issues had been responded to promptly
* Islay Community Council: it was useful to see another community council in action. Our impression was that their issues were very similar to ours
* Louise Tickle: GMG had met this journalist from the *Observer*
* Island Teams: JH had met two civil servants from the Scottish Government who are reviewing the Islands Plan. We made the point that the Island Community Impact Assessment was not working as it is currently set up.

7. **Transport update (JMC)**:

* The CalMac Ebooking system has been updated. The Mezzanine deck has finally been included in the booking system. We (with Coll CC) have asked for the ferry statistics for this season
* Tiree is losing the Barra link on 10 and 17 October so that the vessel can be deployed to Colonsay
* Stephen Wood is the new CalMac Regional Manager. JMC & GM have met him.
* There have been a few examples of travellers being unable to get onto the ferry at short notice at weekends
* The new CHFS contract with CalMac will include the possibility of an islanders’ residence priority for the first time. It is unsure at this stage what this will lead to, whether Road Equivalent Tariff (RET) scheme will be amended or not. It looks as though people who do not live on the island will be paying more in the future than island residents. We might need to debate RET at some time in the future
* The next meeting of the Transport Forum will be in late October
* The programme for new pierhead works including a new office will not now start until early 2026. We were concerned that this might impact on the Easter period. There had been some concern with cars that had been left in the pier carpark for months and sometimes years.
* The two charging points in the pier car park were not working. **We have written to CMAL Assets**. GMG pointed out that the Government app that tells you your nearest charging point only has one marked on Tiree. In fact, there are charging points at at the fuel station and at the business units. **GMG will raise this with the Trust**
* Two ferries to Tiree and Coll last week had run out of food. **GMG had written to the Area Manager**
* There appear to be some confidential documents on the CalMac website. **GMG has reported these**
* The bank flights are well used. The lamb sale, the Sea Change event and the Ultra are still to come
* David Gammiel, the CalMac IT Director, had written to ask for a meeting wrt eBooking system. **JMC will reply**
* **Islands Business Resilience Fund**: this £4.4 million fund has now been earmarked for the Uists and Colonsay. Tiree had not been included because the way HIE had calculated ferry disruption only took into account cancelled ferry sailings. We had written to the Cabinet secretary to protest. Mull and Iona Transport Committee had done the same. Their correspondence and Freedom of Information requests had uncovered a possible lack of an Islands Community Impact Assessment. By the Scottish Government itself! **We will put this correspondence up on our website.** We should combine our efforts with Coll, Mull and Islay. If the funds had been more fairly distributed, Tiree might have got around £40-60,000

8. **Veterinary practice**: Tiree and Coll Vets is closing. We thanked them very much for their service to the island. We were not sure where things stood, and will make enquiries. We stand by to help.

9. **Tiree Library**: GMG has talked to Ross McLaughlin, an ABC estates officer. They hope to convert the old library building into teacher’s accommodation. It may be that the library moves into the school, but we have not had this confirmed. There had been no more news on the state of play. GMG has submitted an FOI to LiveArgyll for correspondence and received an inadequate response. LiveArgyll has a big problem with storm damage to the Helensburgh leisure centre. ABC has given them considerable funds to allow them to lay off staff and to keep their revenue-generating services going. We have received an excellent letter from Tarbert CC on LiveArgyll. This is on our website. We feel we have been let down by our councillors on this issue.

10. **A&BC budget**: we have asked several times for a breakdown on the money ABC spends on Tiree, but have not had a reply. **GMG will submit an FOI request.**

11. **R100 update**: Open Reach has now supplied 400 houses, more than originally planned. There are some areas, such as Caolas, that have not been reached. Also, houses with good current speeds, such as those in Crossapol and Scarinish, have not been supplied. The next programme, Gigabit, is designed to cover these properties, and Open Reach hope to carry on and finish the whole island in the next months. As properties are increasingly connected, Tiree Broadband will become progressively unviable and will cease operating. There are discussions between Open Reach and the Trust about how this will be coordinated. ISP provide a cheaper Social Tariff for people on certain benefits wanting a broadband connection.

12. **Water availability for new builds**: we had been approached by another person whose building plans had been turned down by Scottish Water because they couldn’t guarantee a mains supply. This has happened twice before in the last three years. We contacted Euan Innes at SW and the permission has now been granted. **We will meet SW to clear this up**.

13. **Planning**: there had been three applications since the last meeting. One is a new access road to the tank on Dùn Mòr a’ Chaolais. The main one was for a horse facility in Caolas. None concerned TCC.

14. **AOCB**: there was none

15. **Date of next meeting**: 10 September 2025. This may be online or in person.

Dr John Holliday

15 August 2025