

**Isle of Arran Ferry Committee
Annual General Meeting held on
Monday 24 June 2019 at 7.30pm
at The Arran Mountain Rescue Centre
Draft to be approved at Next AGM**

Present: I Thomson, Haulage (Chair)
A Dobson, Business (Vice Chair)
B Calderwood, ACC (Secretary)
S Gilmore, Tourism (Treasurer)
N Arthur, Independent Traveller
S Borthwick, AEG
S Clark, Stagecoach
D Henderson, NFU
J Lees, ACVS
E McMaster, NAC Local Councillor

In attendance:
K Gibson, MSP

Public: D Bowles J Climie J Graham B Haddow

1. Welcome and Apologies

- 1.1 IT welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- 1.2 Apologies were received from R Betley, D Lockhart and S Richmond.

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

- 2.1 The minutes of the last meeting held on 10 June 2018 were proposed by EMcM and seconded by SG.

3. Matters arising from Minutes

- 3,1 There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

4. Chairman's Report

- 4.1 Over the past years the AFC has represented all sectors on the island, consisting of Community Council, Voluntary Services, Haulage, Tourism, Business, Arran Economic Group, NHS, NFU, Public Transport and Island residents to help improve resilience of service and develop timetables.
- 4.2 He voiced his appreciation for the support of Kenneth Gibson MSP, Councillor Ellen McMaster and CalMac staff at the meetings. He also acknowledged the efforts and huge contribution of Bill Calderwood, Secretary to the committee.
- 4.3 Ten monthly meetings had been held during the year and Arran had been represented at numerous external meetings at all levels of Scottish Government including a meeting in September in Edinburgh with the Islands' Minister (P Wheelhouse) together with Islay representatives. PW attended a meeting with FC members on Arran in November. KG had subsequently sent a letter to him seeking reassurance of actions from previous meetings and received a response in March.
- 4.4 In April, after a further meeting with PW, called to highlight the continued reliability / resilience issues we experience and also to pressure support for additional sailings. This successfully resulted in 89 extra sailings carrying 11800 passengers and 3200 cars and allowing over 700metres of HGV traffic to move to IoA freeing up space on the CI.
- 4.5 Requests to extend Lochranza service for summer and winter were refused by TS. Reasons cited were crew hours, safety, vessel availability etc. Also, request to extend

Ardrossan was refused because of unavailability of Glen Sannox or other capacity in the fleet.

- 4.6 Connectivity with bus and rail services re Brodick/Ardrossan is also being pursued. Currently, these services only operate to main vessel schedule. The issue is ongoing.
- 4.7 The early deployment of the extra vessel had been requested for 2nd January 2020 and has now been confirmed.
- 4.8 The procedure for NHS transport to support residents requiring to travel in an emergency off the island is now in place. Ongoing discussions regarding returning transport onto island are making good progress.
- 4.9 The PAS has given frequent problems. Many were warranty repairs with other faults due to operator errors and learning issues?
- 4.10 CalMac are challenged, when sailings are cancelled, if they could provide an extended / compensating capacity. They have estimated the cost for alternative /additional crewing which TS are considering
- 4.11 AFC are represented on the Ardrossan Task Force and participates in their discussions.
- 4.12 The AFC continues to request a joint meeting between CalMac and TS pressing for a two boat service and timetable but this has been delayed. The first meeting is now expected to be held next month.
- 4.13 The committee is pushing PW for a conclusion of the review of RET and commitment to establish a procurement policy based on the VRDP regarding two boat service and preparation for new ferries plan.
- 4.14 Chief Executive of CMAL has recently attended AFC meeting and discussed new vessel delivery, design and other aspects of fleet and harbours.

5. Presentation of Accounts

- 5.1 Via SG these were presented at the meeting. AFC is funded from groups represented on committee and receives no funding from external bodies. They were adopted by NA and seconded by DH.

6. Appointment for Representative of Independent Traveller

- 6.1 NA was re-elected unopposed.

7. Any other Business

- 7.1 JC (member of public) enquired regarding the passenger access system (PAS) at the new Ardrossan terminal. IT stated they were pressing the point. It was stated that Brodick was not optimum and this is an ongoing discussion. KG said the document for Ardrossan was out for consultation. At a recent meeting with K Hobbs (CMAL) he conceded that future standardisation of access points was required across the fleet.
- 7.2 JC also enquired regarding the health and safety aspects of LNG. This is still being discussed and agreed. The first installation will be at Ardrossan with its specific location in the port in development stages.

8. Close

- 8.1 The meeting closed at 8.00pm.