

ISLE OF ARRAN FERRY COMMITTEE

Minute of Meeting held on Monday 9th December 2013 at 7.30pm in the Kinloch Hotel

Present: Robert Waine (Chair) Liz Robertson (NFU)
Simon Richmond (CalMac) Jim Henderson (Community Council)
Iain Thomson (Construction/Haulage) David Cameron (NTS)
Guy Bodie (Stagecoach)

Also present: Elaine Parker (Minutes)

1. **Welcome & Apologies:**

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed all present. Apologies were received from Jim Lees, John Bruce and Kenneth Gibson.

2. **Minute of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 11th November were adopted as a true record with an amendment being made to section 3.2.

Proposed: Iain Thomson Seconded: David Cameron

3. **Matters Arising**

3.1 Ardrossan Car Park

The Chair reported that he had delayed contacting Clydeport to allow Calmac to continue their discussions surrounding the car park and the possible move of the Passenger Access System hut. Simon explained that they were still waiting for a rescheduled meeting with Clydeport, although some minor work had been carried out on the car park. The Chair confirmed that he would write to them to invite them to the January meeting.

3.2 Brodick Pier Development

The committee discussed the possibility of the pier staff being included in the consultation process, as they may have some good ideas or suggestions. Simon was aware that Colin had been attending the consultation meetings and that the Skippers had been consulted, but agreed to raise this idea. The Chair would also email Ramsey Muirhead to suggest this. Guy confirmed that Stagecoach had been consulted and SPT had also been involved.

3.3 Passenger Flow at Brodick Pier

Having contacted Stagecoach, the Chair reported that the fence to divert people around the front of the pier building, had been erected after discussions with Calmac and the Council. Its purpose was to keep people from walking behind the buses, as there was not personnel to marshal the buses out of their stances.

Guy reported that several health and safety measures had been put in place to help the situation, including signs, railings and no-entry straps.

4. **Finance**

Copies of the financial statement were distributed at the meeting.

5. **Correspondence**

None

6. Port Managers Report

As the Port Manager was not present, Simon gave a summary of recent events. There had recently been a number of cancellations due to the high winds. Simon also reported that NAC were currently offering Health Checks on board the ferry. The Chair explained that he had contacted Simon asking for a clear statement from Calmac as to when Gourock could be used. Simon would report back to the committee with a definitive statement once he had received one.

7. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 13th January at 7.30pm in the Kinloch Hotel.

8. A.O.B

RET

The Chair expressed the need for accurate information on RET and how it would affect people when it is introduced with regards to ticketing etc. The committee presently felt unable to answer questions that members of the public are asking, due to the lack of information.

Simon reported that, having spoken to Transport Scotland, the preliminary ticketing schedule was being tabled so there would hopefully be consultation in the New Year. The Chair agreed to contact Cheryl Murrie regarding this.

Visit Arran Representative

It was agreed unanimously to offer a place on the committee to a Visit Arran representative to represent the islands Tourism industry.

Arran Banner Article

The Chair expressed his disappointment at an article published in a recent edition of the Banner following a Community Council meeting. Jim felt that the article misquoted, and was unhelpful to both parties. The Chair asked that any issues raised by the Community Council be brought to the Ferry Committee, as cohesion is important between the 2 groups.

Ferry Reservations

Liz reported that she had been contacted by a member of the public regarding their concern that car deck space on board was not being used for unbooked vehicles should commercial vehicles not turn up for a ferry. Liz explained that her understanding of the situation was that if a lorry did not turn up, the space could be used for other vehicles and the possibility for using a mezzanine deck could become an option. Simon confirmed that this was correct. He explained that it was not in Calmac's interest to sail a boat under capacity and they will utilise the space as much as possible. He reported that the number of commercial vehicles carried had increased, so this had impacted on the use of mezzanine decks.

Claonaig Bus Connections

The issue of the 6pm bus passing Lochranza 3 minutes before the ferry's arrival was raised. Guy explained that the bus could not wait in Lochranza as it had a tight schedule to keep to be able to meet the boat at Brodick.

It was agreed that Simon and Guy would discuss this issue to see if anything could be done to improve the situation.

Sunday Morning Sailing

Iain asked Simon for his opinion on an earlier Sunday morning sailing from Brodick, as it is generally felt that not being able to get to the mainland before midday on a Sunday is unacceptable. Iain suggested that there was not a need for a 7.20 sailing back to Ardrossan on a Saturday night in Winter, so the boat could berth overnight in Brodick in readiness for an earlier sailing on the Sunday morning. Simon agreed to explore this possibility.

The Committee expressed their thanks to Elaine for her work over the past months as she will be leaving her post at ACVS before Christmas.

With no further business, the Chair thanked all for attending and closed the meeting.

Signed:

Dated:

Action Points

- Chair:**
- **Contact Clydeport regarding the PAS Cabin and car park at Ardrossan.**
 - **Invite Clydeport to January meeting.**
 - **Email Ramsey Muirhead regarding consultation of Pier staff.**
 - **Contact Cheryl Murrie regarding RET.**

Simon Richmond: - **Research possibility of an earlier Sunday morning sailing.**