

ISLE OF ARRAN FERRY COMMITTEE MEETING

Minute of Meeting

held on

Monday 14th January 2013

at 07.30 pm

in

Brodick Castle

Present

Ken Thorburn (National Trust) (Chair)

Jim Lees (ACVS)

Cllr John Bruce (NAC)

Jim Henderson (Community Council)

Iain Thomson (Construction/Haulage)

Russell Duncan (Independent Traveller)

Robert Waine (Visit Arran)

Alastair Dobson (Taste of Arran)

In attendance Kenneth Gibson (MSP)

Robbie Brown (Cal Mac)

Colin McCort (Cal Mac)

Cheryl Murie (Scottish Government)

Ramsay Muirhead (CMAL)

Welcome and apologies

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed all present especially Ramsey Muirhead and Cheryl Murie

The chair proposed that the first part of the meeting would be devoted to a presentation by Ramsay Muirhead to update the committee on changes that had been made to the proposed pier infrastructure at Brodick .

It was agreed that the up date considered almost of the recommendations raised by both the ferry committee and the public meeting held in Brodick hall in November

As a result of the revised plan now incorporating the recommendations CMAL plan to hold a second public meeting in Brodick hall sometime in the middle of February

The recently published Scottish Ferries Services (ferries plan 2013 – 2022) was then the subject of our discussion with Cheryl Murie

Most of the discussion centered on the introduction of the second vessel, the NV Isle of Arran which would start the summer sailing at the beginning of May and be in service until the end of September

As indicated in the Scottish Ferries Service Plan, the introduction of a sailing from Campbeltown via Brodick to Ardrossan , three days a week received much discussion

In addition it was suggested that the CalMac marketing department should be encouraged to market the summer sailings more vigerously than they had done in the past

The committee had reservations on the potential success of including the Campbeltown link in the summer sailing schedule

The committee also asked when a timetable would be published in order that the summer sailings could be sold. It was suggested by Iain Thomson that the ferry committee should be involved in the planning of the summer timetable discussions

Cheryl Murie also confirmed that the price increase , effective at the start of the summer timetable would be 2.3%

Cheryl and Ramsay then left the meeting. The committee then started the routine business meeting at 8.30pm

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed all present

Apologies were received from Martin Dorchester, Liz Robertson(NFU) and Guy Bodie(Stagecoach)

Amendment

Cllr did not attend the December meeting

Jim Henderson did not attend the December meeting

Iain Thomson does not include a P in the spelling of his surname

Minute of previous meeting

With this amendment ,the minute of the previous meeting ,held on the 12th December was adopted as a true record.

Proposed Jim Lees

Seconded Robert Waine

Matters Arising

There are no matters arising

Finance

Bank Balance

Nothing to report .An update will be given at the February meeting

Correspondence

All the correspondence was handled during the presentations from Ramsay and Cheryl

Port Managers Report

The port manager gave an update on the current position regarding the gangways at both Ardrossan and Brodick

As the MV Hebrides has arrived as the replacement vessel with both of its own gangways defective It has not been possible for the vessel to deploy its own gangway

However it has been possible to use the existing gangway at Brodick, with the exception of high tides

In the case of Ardrossan it is unfortunate that the Ardrossan gangway is broken and passengers have had to use the car deck to enter and leave the vessel

It is anticipated that the Ardrossan gangway will be repaired in time for the return of MV Caledonian Isle ,anticipated on the 24th January

Earlier Sunday Sailing Carried Forward to the next meeting

Any Other Business

The committee agreed that in future when a member of the committee was unable to attend it would NOT be acceptable for that member to nominate a substitute

On behalf of the travelling public the committee asked the Port Manager to convey his thanks to both shore based staff as well as sea going staff for all the help and assistance they gave the travelling public during the recent festive period

The Chair reminded the Committee that in June when the Ferry Committee traditionally hold the AGM , both Chair and Vice Chair will be stepping down

Close

As there was no further business to discuss ;the chair thanked all for attending and closed the meeting at 09.30

Signed

Dated