

Isle of Arran Ferry Committee

Minute of Meeting
held at
Brodick Castle
11th February 2013
7.30pm

Present: Ken Thorburn (NTS) (Chair)
Robbie Brown (Calmac)
Brian Fulton (Calmac)
Ian Thomson
Jim Henderson (Community Council)
Robert Waine (Visit Arran)
Liz Robertson (NFU)
Colin McCort (Calmac)
Russell Duncan (Independent Traveller)

In attendance
Kenneth Gibson (MSP), Chris Mills (NTS) (acting secretary)

Apologies: Jim Lees(ACVS), Cllr. John Bruce (NAC)

Minutes of previous meeting. Minute of previous meeting adopted as true record
Proposed: Robert Waine Seconded: Russell Duncan

Ferry Plan Brian Fulton spoke on the Ferry Plan for Summer 2013 (May/September)
Plan calls for 3 sailings to Campbeltown via Brodick per week.
Argyll and Bute Council have asked for a delay of 12 months as they feel marketing is lacking and the heavy trade use of Campbeltown harbour by timber extraction and wind turbine engineering needs addressed. This is to be referred to Transport Scotland.
Calmac's position is that they need finalised timetable to go to print by 25th February to be ready for new summer season.
Kenneth Gibson expressed his dissatisfaction with Argyll & Bute Council's position.

Indicative Timetable; 1st May - 30th September MV Isle of Arran to sail as second ferry (trailing during April) -will remain as relief ferry for other routes (1 of 3 vessels)
2 options proposed to meet requirements of Ferry Plan
noted that if Campbeltown sailings do not operate Arran will benefit through 7am sailings from Brodick.
Robert Waine asked how long this would be in operation baring in mind the 2014 implementation of RET. Brian Fulton responded that this would only operate for 12 months.

Committee's position; 7.00am sailing from Brodick with a full service (no limitation on passenger numbers)
Timetable must be available for the season. Back to back service would be ideal.

Fare increase 2.8% increase in fares for 2013

9 Day Saver The proposal for a 9 day saver ticket was raised. The scheme has been trialled on the Mull service but there are questions about how success can be measured.

Wifi WiFi on Arran service. Calmac's Project Valiant will be run out starting January 2014
Ian Thomson enquired if this would be a free service. No decision has been made as yet.

Finance report given by Ken Thorburn

Port Manager's Report given by Colin McCort

Concession Cards – a number are due to expire.

A notification to be placed in Arran Banner; Kenneth Gibson to action
Gangway at Brodick fixed – out of action for 1 ½ days Arran Electrical remedied the situation
spare motor now held as back up.

Proposal for community email – notification of ferry disruption
full email address to colin.mccort@calmac.co.uk

AIS web fixed

Gangway at Ardrossan has been repaired.

Other Business

Robert Waine raised the issue of 30 minute deadline for arrival of ferry traffic.
Robbie Brown to investigate whether Ardrossan staff are checking the arrival time of vehicles at busy times.

Liz Robertson raised the issue of why the ferry does not use Gourock as a relief port as in the past.

Calmac's view is that there are problems of berthing at Gourock in strong westerlies and issues with Argyll Ferries using the same pier for the Rothesay service.

Robert Waine asked for confirmation on the issue of light goods vehicles and camper vans being eligible for RET fare reduction. LGVs up to 6m in length and camper vans are likely to be included. Kenneth Gibson to investigate matter.

Robert Waine also referred to letters printed in the Arran Banner calling for the establishment of a Transport Committee to look at all aspects of Arran related transport issues. The Ferry Committee felt that it did not have a remit to look at all issues but that their discussion inevitably covered other transport issues.

The new improved timetable will have obvious implications for connecting services both on the mainland and on Arran.

Next Meeting The next meeting is to be held at Brodick Castle 11th March at 7.30pm. Russell Duncan to chair in Ken Thorburn's absence.

Close With the completion of all other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.25pm

Signed:

Date: