

ISLE OF ARRAN FERRY COMMITTEE

Minute of Meeting
held on
Monday 8th April 2013
at 7.30pm
at
Brodict Castle

Present:

Ken Thorburn (Chair)	Cllr. John Bruce (NAC)
Jim Lees (ACVS)	Robert Waive (Visit Arran)
Iain Thomson (Construction/Haulage)	Colin McCort (CalMac)
Jim Henderson (Community Council)	Robbie Brown (CalMac)
Russell Duncan (Independent Traveller)	

In Attendance: Elaine Parker (Minutes)

1. Welcome & Apologies:

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed all present. Apologies were received from Liz Robertson (NFU), Kenneth Gibson (MSP) and Guy Bodie (Stagecoach).

2. Minute of Previous Meeting:

The minutes of the previous meeting were adopted as a true record.

Proposed: J. Bruce

Seconded: J. Lees

3. Matters Arising: 3.1 Campbeltown Ferry

Ken asked Robbie to explain to the Committee the changes that had been made to the timetable as the Committee had not seen the amended timetable. Robbie explained that the timetable had been amended to accommodate the Committee's wish for more early sailings rather than the late evening sailings, with special emphasis on a 7am Monday morning sailing from Brodict.

It was explained to the Committee that the Isle of Arran would remain in Brodict on Saturday nights to allow for a 0905 sailing from Brodict on Sunday morning. The vessel would then sail as normal between Ardrossan and Brodict at 1105 and 1230, after which the vessel would sail directly from Ardrossan to Campbeltown. It will remain on Campbeltown runs for the remainder of Sunday, until the 2000 sailing from Ardrossan to Brodict, returning the vessel to Brodict to berth overnight.

The Isle of Arran will sail from Brodict to Ardrossan at 7am on Monday mornings and it will continue to sail the opposite of the Caledonian Isles timetable until Thursday afternoon. On Thursdays there will be no 1640 sailing back from Ardrossan as the vessel will instead, sail directly to Campbeltown on Thursday evening. The Isle of Arran will return to Ardrossan at 1000 on Friday and will resume normal sailings from 1105.

Robbie explained that there was a proviso that the Isle of Arran was to leave Brodict at 1800 on Saturday night and that it was the Committee's decision as to what time they felt was best for it to return from Ardrossan from the following options: 1920, 2030 or 2200.

There was general discussion regarding the time of the return sailing. It was agreed that a 2030 sailing on Saturday nights from Ardrossan would be the best

option as it kept the timetable in line with the 2030 sailing on Friday night provided by the Caledonian Isles.

Ken enquired as to the proposed start date of the new timetable and Robbie said that he believed it would be implemented in the middle to the end of May, and would run until September.

Russell expressed the Committees general feeling of unhappiness and frustration felt towards the delay in the timetable being agreed. The general feeling was that the level of delay experienced was completely unacceptable and that it was ridiculous to still not have a firm and published timetable for a service that is to start next month.

Robert enquired with the representatives from the Community Council if they felt that the Community Council would be happy with the decision made by the Ferry Committee Regarding the new timetable. Jim Henderson and John Bruce both confirmed that, yes they felt the Community Council would agree with the decisions made.

3.2 Gourock

Robbie explained to the Committee that if there are any problems at Ardrossan eg. Technical issues, power cuts etc. They could use Gourock, however, this remains the Masters decision.

3.3 Brodick Pier Development – Car Park Layout

Robbie expressed that this was not within the scope of the Ferry Committee; it was an issue to be brought up with CMAL. Ken felt that should there be any fundamental changes to the design, CMAL would hold another public meeting, but he would also make sure that Guy Platen was invited to the next Ferry Committee meeting.

4. Finance It was agreed that the balance of £175.57 would be sufficient to remain until a decision regarding finances was made at the AGM.

5. Correspondence Nothing to report.

6. Port Managers Report:

Colin reported that aside from the upheaval of the severe power issues experienced on the island, it had been a quiet Easter. The majority of the equipment brought over has now left the island, and only some large generators and a "core squad" of power personnel remain. Passenger figures were down over the Easter period, but Colin stressed that this was a fall across the board, not specific to Arran.

7. Date of Next Meeting:

The next meeting will take place on the **13th May, at 7.30pm at Brodick Castle.**

8. Any Other Business:

Ken asked the Committee to begin thinking of candidates for the position of Chairperson and Vice Chair for the upcoming AGM.

9. Close:

As there was no further business to discuss; the Chair thanked all for attending and closed the meeting at 20.15.

Signed:

Dated: