

ISLE OF ARRAN FERRY COMMITTEE

Minute of Meeting

Held on

Monday 10th March 2014

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)	Alastair Dobson (Taste of Arran)
Jim Lees (Arran CVS)	Kenneth Gibson (MSP)
Scott Goodwill (CalMac)	Cllr John Bruce (NAC)

Also present: Richard Hadfield (Transport Scotland) Bobbi Adamson (Minutes)

1. Welcome & Apologies:

The Chairman opened the meeting, thanked all for attending and introduced Richard Hadfield representing Transport Scotland. Apologies were received from David Cameron.

2. Minute of Previous Meeting

The minute of the previous meeting was adopted as a true record
Proposed: Jim Henderson Seconded: Liz Robertson

3. Matters Arising

3.1 Vessel Review

The Chair explained that he has spoken to CMal and was informed that a statement of requirement is needed from CalMac before further progress can take place. The Chair has written a letter to both regarding the lack in communication between both CMal and CalMac.

4. Finance

There were no financial matters to be discussed.

5. Correspondence

There was discussion over the letters which had been printed in the Arran Banner at the start of the month. The Chair explained that he had discussed the questions with Chris Trail and had answered all questions before the letter was sent to the Banner, and was surprised to find the letter still printed.

A timeline is required for the public eye.

The Chair explained that Clydeport have been invited to next month's meeting. It was confirmed that CalMac have met with Clydeport on at least 2 occasions since October.

6. Transport Scotland Report

RH explained his roles with Transport Scotland and his involvement with CMAL and CalMac and his involvement in the finance side of things.

The funding side of the project at Brodick was discussed. RH explained that he had spoken to Ramsey earlier in the day. Still working towards completion in early 2016.

RET was discussed, there will be at least a 6 month start. Pilot in the western isles had roughly 25% increase in foot passengers, 30% increase in cars.

Meaning more of the island may be accessed by day visitors etc. who maybe wouldn't have left Brodick previously due to being on foot. This will benefit the Island as a whole.

KG expressed the need for the pricing structure to ensure packages can be offered to visitors.

SR explained that once the structure and pricing has been agreed there will be a consultation process within the committee.

KG expressed concern over a consultation regarding the pricing, he feels that this may cause confusion.

The committee expressed the need for a date and pricing structure for the public. The demand management needs more discussion.

KG expressed hope for two boats all year round or earlier than normal if RET takes off. He also added that there is a need for more business over winter, perhaps cheaper tickets over the winter period may bring more business.

There is a draft now with Transport Scotland for the HRO. The feeling is that any objections will be design based.

KG added that most objectors don't realise that the linkspan requires to be replaced as a matter of urgency.

Any objections would go to Transport Scotland and would then go on to CMal to be dealt with.

It was clarified that Gourock is open for use by masters. SG added that the Caledonian Isles sailed to Gourock successfully last Saturday for the first time in 2 years.

The Chair added that in RM's email he explained that there have been no changes made that may affect the operations at the harbour. There was a bollard removed due to corrosion, this caused dispute over the effect on the sailings and it was questioned as to whether or not this affected accessibility. It was confirmed that this bollard was not necessary and did not need replacing. SR will get confirmation of this.

RH discussed Ardrossan and the new vessels. Clydeport do not want to spend money unless necessary. Clear issues over mooring at Ardrossan although there is still disagreement over a solution for this. Until it is known what needs done there will be no progress. Transport Scotland will discuss this with CMal and CalMac.

There were discussions over "Amber Alerts" and the threats of cancellations causing a loss of business.

SR explained that on one hand the warnings are praised as it prepares people with what to expect. There is currently a process of meetings taking place looking to improve this area of the service.

RH explained that the Ferries capital funding budget has been limited in recent years. However the vessel building programme has been kept going with the funding secured. Significant sums had now been allocated by the Scottish Government from 2014-15. The next step is to discuss with CMal and CalMac regarding what vessels to be built and discuss priorities and pressure, Arran is near the top of priorities.

The Chair suggested that CMal, CalMac and Transport Scotland are invited to the meeting in May. This was agreed.

7. Port Managers Report

Although the Port Manager was not present, Scott Goodwill of CalMac was in attendance.

It was reported that sailings were quiet over February.

The 2013 carryings are available on the CalMac website.

The barge for the new terminal is to be onsite this week.

The short stay car-park has been resurfaced and CalMac will be closely monitoring the car-park.

Clr JB questioned having a sign on the disabled parking spaces. SG will look into this.

The String Road closure will be blogged to ensure travellers are made aware. Reminder to renew concession cards.

Will relay to school re. Young Scott vouchers validity dates.
SR added that there had been a small oil spill in the harbour which has no involvement with CalMac.

8. **Date of Next Meeting**

The date of the next meeting will be on the 7th of April at the Mountain Rescue Centre, Brodick.

9. **AOB**

Charity collection on board is being restricted as people, at times, are feeling harassed. To collect for charity on board you must apply through the site.

With no further business, the Chair closed the meeting.

Signed:

Dated: