

# ISLE OF ARRAN FERRY COMMITTEE

## Minute of Meeting

Held on

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2014

At 7.30pm in the

Mountain Rescue Centre

**Present:**

Robert Waine (Chair)	Liz Robertson (NFU)
Simon Richmond (CalMac)	Jim Henderson (Community Council)
Cllr John Bruce (NAC)	Jim Lees (Arran CVS/Elderly Forum)
Sheila Gilmore (VisitArran)	Richard Hadfield (Transport Scotland)

### 1. **Welcome & Apologies:**

The Chairman opened the meeting, thanked all for attending. Apologies were received from Kenneth Gibson, Alastair Dobson, David Cameron, Colin McCort and Iain Thomson.

### 2. **Minute of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting were adopted as a true record, subject to amendments.

Proposed: Liz Robertson

Seconded: Jim Lees

### 3. **Matters Arising**

None

### 4. **Finance**

None

### 5. **Correspondence**

RW has sent a letter to Graham Laidlaw stating that the FC stood by its decision that Demand Management should not be price led. RH stated that TS did not agree with this but would obviously abide by it. RW stated the Community were willing to discuss any options put forward and would keep the issue on the table. Jim Lees discussed a letter which he had received explaining that the tender has gone through for the Brodick Groundwork's and that the barge is coming this weekend, weather permitting. RW confirmed that this had been confirmed by CMal.

### 6. **Port Managers Report**

For the Queens Baton Relay the 6pm sailing from Brodick will be delayed to 6.40pm. There are 200+ passengers travelling free of charge to watch the baton passing.

The small shelter has arrived for pier staff when the Isle of Arran gangway is in use.

CalMac have started weighing LGV. Over-plated 3½ tonnes won't be sailing. This is being exercised network wide.

SG raised the issue that some people have been unable to book on sailings in November.

SR explained that the winter timetable has not yet been released, therefore, CalMac are unable to take bookings on sailings out with the summer timetable. JB queried if there will be compensation for people that have bought 6 journey book before RET is in place. SR stated the tickets would still be valid but that there would be no compensation.

RW pointed out that being able to buy 6 journey books is very convenient.

SR explained that this option will be likely still be available.

There was discussion on the need for more detailed pricing structures.

RW queried the rules on people phoning ahead to let pier staff know they are on way to the boat but running slightly late. He then explained that this was the case for a member of the public recently although the boat proceeded to leave at 10 minutes to 6.

SR explained that he will investigate this although he needs to know the date of this occurrence.

JB asked how far along 'smart ticketing' is.

SR explained that the system will be introduced in the near future.

RW asked, as there would be a different boat on the Lochranza sailing in the winter, whether the capacity would be increased. SR said he would confirm.

## **7. Transport Scotland Report**

RH discussed the need for a new vessel.

Capacity, efficiency, fuel costs and reliability are all major considerations.

New vessels may require to be changed around the network to ensure the most suitable vessel is being utilised.

Transport Scotland are hoping that CalMac will be in a position to place the order this year with a view of delivery in 2017.

A deeper drafted vessel will hopefully make the vessel more reliable in bad weather.

RW queried if Ardrossan Harbour is going to be considered in the design process for vessels regardless of what route each vessel may end up serving.

RH explained that all vessels will need to be fairly flexible but that would obviously have to be a major consideration.

RW expressed the Ferry Committees frustrations at the lack of communication from Clydeport and asked RH the best time to try and engage with them. RH intimated he would do this and should they not agree to meet with us directly then he would take our concerns forward.

LR queried using alternatives if Ardrossan is so difficult to berth in.

RH explained that although there are difficulties in Ardrossan there are many benefits and when a new ferry is agreed discussions need to take place with Clydeport.

JH questioned the planned size of the new vessel, thought it was to be smaller not larger.

RH explained that they don't want to compromise reliability for size.

RH said TS had received questions from the CC and was encouraged to see that they were mainly in line with the issues being pursued by the FC.

RH thanked the Committee for their time and promised to keep them abreast of any developments.

RW asked, once a decision on the new ferry had been made, that the Community be consulted. RH said he would pass this request on.

## **8. Date of Next Meeting**

The date of the next meeting will be on the 11<sup>th</sup> of August at 7.30pm in the Arran Mountain Rescue Centre.

## **9. Any Other Business**

JH pointed out that the disabled parking facility is still being abused.

SG expressed her great disappointment at the letter in the banner from the Arran Community Council. She felt there were no positive points in the letter.

RW clarified that it has not been said that the Community Council should not contact Clydeport, CMal or CalMac.

All issues that have been raised by the Community Council are being addressed where possible. The Ferry Committee will continue to meet as usual and would welcome questions and concerns from the Community Council through their representative to ensure everyone is on the same page and pursuing the best options for the Island.

CMal have clarified that the Linkspan, whilst safe, is in urgent need of replacement as the cost of maintenance is excessive  
LR stated that a recent visitor of hers arrived at Ardrossan as the gangway was coming down, staff held the boat, issued the tickets and the visitor boarded as planned and expressed extreme thanks to the staff for their efforts.

With no further business, the Chair closed the meeting.

**Signed:** .....

**Dated:** .....