

# ISLE OF ARRAN FERRY COMMITTEE

## Minute of Meeting

Held on

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2014

At 7.30pm in the

John Thomson Construction Offices

<b>Present:</b>	Iain Thomson(Chair)	Liz Robertson (NFU)
	Simon Richmond (CalMac)	Jim Henderson (Community Council)
	Cllr John Bruce (NAC)	Jim Lees (Arran CVS/Elderly Forum)
	Sheila Gilmore (VisitArran)	Alistair Dobson (Taste of Arran)
	David Cameron (NTS)	Colin McCort (CalMac)
	Kenneth Gibson (MSP)	
<b>Also Present:</b>	Graham Laidlaw (Transport Scotland)	Bill Main (CalMac)
	Bobbi Adamson (Minutes)	

**1. Welcome & Apologies:**

The Chairman opened the meeting, thanked all for attending. Apologies were received from Robert Waine.

**2. Minute of Previous Meeting**

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

Proposed: Jim Lees                      Seconded: Sheila Gilmour

**3. Matters Arising**

Clydeport are due to visit Ardrossan Harbour in several weeks' time. AD queried any updates on draughting plans.

**4. Bill Main's Report (CalMac)**

BM displayed a presentation to the committee which consisted of the proposed 'mezzanine deck timetable' and requested the views of the timetable from the various local group representatives.

LR raised concern for the MV Isle of Arran being cancelled as the livestock in transition have a certain time window for travelling.

BM explained that in such a case the pier staff would likely re-prioritise.

IT explained that he met with BM earlier in the day to discuss the proposed timetable. The general feeling was that the 'mezzanine deck timetable' will only need to be utilised on a Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

SG requested confirmation that if the MV Caledonian Isles does not get filled with cars on a 'mezzanine deck sailing', if there are commercials on the pier and ready to board they will be carried. This was confirmed.

AD felt that provided the local hauliers are comfortable with the proposed timetable, it should be a positive step in demand management.

BM stated that the biggest constraints will be on and Friday and Saturday coming to Arran and a Sunday leaving Arran.

AD and SG explained that many local businesses felt happy with the proposed timetable.

KG raised the issue of 'no show' bookings.

BM explained that the new ticketing system should help to stop this.

DC explained that while in Canada he noticed that a booking fee must be paid to reserve a place on any sailing.

BM then presented slides showing the MV Caledonian Isles capacity when the mezzanine deck is being utilised on various days and that the need for restrictions appears to be on Whit week and during the October Holidays.

**5. Finance**  
None

**6. Correspondence**  
IT passed around copies of a letter sent to RW by Andrew Duncan. RW has invited Andrew Duncan to the next committee meeting. AD stated that we are still awaiting a timescale and that hopefully this is something that Andrew Duncan can bring to the committee. AD then suggested that the Arran Ferry Committee put together a provisional timetable for Transport Scotland, CalMac, CMal and Clydeport to amend where necessary.

**7. Port Managers Report**  
CMcC explained that the disabled parking signage is to be erected in the near future. The Claonaig port is to have work done. The Lochranza port has had additional rock armour installed. The Loch Inver's Capacity is 150. A 'dangerous goods day' is to be decided to enable timetabling the lowered capacity on transit days.

**8. Date of Next Meeting**  
The date of the next meeting will be on the 20<sup>th</sup> of October at 7.30pm. Venue to be confirmed. SR conveyed his apologies in advance as he will be unable to attend.

**9. Any Other Business**  
IT produced a 'screen grab' of the CalMac service status page from the 30<sup>th</sup> stating that the 2200hrs sailing was placed on amber alert due to a forecast of winds gusting to 23mph. IT queried why the sailing was placed on amber alert at such low gusting speeds. IT also pointed out that on the 16<sup>th</sup> of August the 2200hrs sailing sailed at 2000hrs. SR and BM explained that this is down to wind direction. AD then queried what has changed over the years, as 23mph gusting would not have cancelled, or threatened to cancel a sailing in the past. SR and BM again explained that this is down to the direction of the wind. KG queried the promotion of RET off the island. SR explained that there is a radio campaign starting. AD queried a date for rolling out the 'smart ticketing' system. BM explained that it is due to roll out at the start of winter '15. AD then queried if it will link up with the buses smart ticketing. GL explained that the plan is to have the ticketing linked up. SG queried if it will link up with Scotrail. GL explained that it will. SG raised a concern for the safety announcements and procedures that are in place.

With no further business, the Chair closed the meeting.

**Signed:** .....

**Dated:** .....