

ISLE OF ARRAN FERRY COMMITTEE

Minute of Meeting

Held on

Monday 8th December 2014

At 7.30pm in the

Arran Mountain Rescue Centre

Present: Robert Waine (Chair)
Iain Thomson (Construction / Haulage) Liz Robertson (NFU)
Jim Henderson (Community Council) Colin McCort (CalMac)
Cllr John Bruce (NAC) Sheila Gilmore (VisitArran)
Alistair Dobson (Taste of Arran) Jim Lees (ACVS/Eld Forum)

Also Present: Bobbi Adamson (Minutes)

1. Welcome & Apologies:

The Chairman opened the meeting, thanked all for attending. Apologies were received from David Cameron, Simon Richmond and Kenny Gibson.

2. Minute of Previous Meeting

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

Proposed: Iain Thomson

Seconded: Cllr John Bruce

3. Matters Arising

The action plan was discussed.

The misconceptions on RET were discussed and it was clarified that it is not a pilot scheme and future rises in fare will be inflation linked in line with the RET formula.

It was explained that Ramsey Muirhead will be returning in the New Year when further progress has been made to report.

John Salton's report was very gratefully received by the committee.

4. Finance

None.

5. Correspondence

RW explained that concerns have been raised regarding the Lochranza service and the lack of promotion and the restrictions in capacity during a sailing carrying dangerous goods. The situation has not changed since it was discussed previously. Whilst the Loch Linnhe is operating on the run, at present it is the relief vessel for a number of other routes and could be reassigned at any time. It will definitely not be on the run in February and March next year. It will be replaced by the smaller vessel with lower capacity and as a result of the issues, it had not be felt prudent to advise the extra capacity. CMcC explained that Calmac cannot dictate when commercial vehicles e.g. tankers, book and board on sailings, market demand determines when a supplier decides to book passage on the ferry.

The capacity of the vessels on this route was discussed again in light of RET and CalMac reaffirmed they would be monitoring this very closely. RW again requested that when one of the larger vessels were being introduced in the future that the Lochranza route would be of high priority.

JH was requested to ensure this information was fed back to the Community Council members so that local groups are kept appraised.

6. Port Managers Report

CMcC is now also responsible for Ardrossan Harbour as well as Brodick, this should make no difference to operations on either side. Time will be spent manning both piers.

Traffic at the Brodick Pier and car lanes has been reviewed and a serious health and safety issue was noted. The traffic access to this area is going to be drastically restricted. The issues in accessing space in the 'short stay' car park was discussed.

RW had been asked to query if the redevelopment at Wemyss Bay would allow the MV Caledonian Isles to berth in the case of adverse weather situations at Ardrossan Harbour.

CMcC explained that it is not a redevelopment that is taking place, it is repair work and will not allow the MV Caledonian Isles to berth.

8. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting will be on the 12th of January at 7.30pm at the Arran Mountain Rescue Centre.

9. Any Other Business

LR raised some questions that had been brought forward by the NFU at their recent AGM. - If a tractor is under the size and weight restrictions, can they be charged at the same price as a car? CMcC confirmed that this was indeed the case.

- What are the priorities on allowing livestock floats to board during adverse weather, as there have been occasions where the Master has not allowed a float to board in the interest of the animal's welfare? CMcC explained that this is solely the Master's decision and the safety of the boarded livestock will not be compromised.

IT sought out clarification that any vehicle boarding under the size and weight restrictions can be charged as a car or LGV? CMcC confirmed this. RW requested that all members of the committee read over the constitution and ensure they are all comfortable and satisfied with the process of election of the Independent Travellers position.

AD explained that Brodick Harbour Redevelopment Group met on Tuesday 2nd December. Ramsay Muirhead, CMAL reported that the project is on track and tenders will be issued on 15th December with a return date of March 2015. The group has also identified a number of key opportunities to assist economic development including development of potential yacht station and cruise tourism. There was a subsequent meeting with Arran businesses, NAC and HIE where the BHRG was identified as a very good public/private partnership and have charged them with developing their initial thoughts into a wider economic development plan.

With no further business, the Chair closed the meeting.

Signed:

Dated: