

ISLE OF ARRAN FERRY COMMITTEE

Minute of meeting

Held on

Monday 11th May 2015.

At 7.30p.m. In the

Arran Mountain Rescue Centre.

Present: Robert Waine (Chair) Liz Robertson (NFU)
Iain Thomson (Haulage) Jim Lees (ACVS)
Jim Henderson (ACC) Colin McCort (Cal Mac)
Alastair Dobson (Business) John Bruce (NAC)
Sheila Gilmore (Tourism) Kenneth Gibson (MSP)

1. Welcome and apologies

- 4.1 The chair, Robert Waine, welcomed all to the meeting and thanked IT for Chairing the last 2 meetings. Apologies for absence were received from D.Cameron, G.Bodie and S.Richmond.

2. Minute of previous meeting

- 2.1 The minute of the previous meeting held on the 13th April was approved by JL and seconded by LR after a correction to 3.5 deletion of (AD Island capacity issues.) 7.1. Addition of (one of the first)

3. Matters Arising from previous minutes

- 3.1 The action plan was discussed and updated.
3.2 With reference to item 5 of the action plan, RW read a response from T Scotland which confirmed what the committee knew about the port of refuge and decisions taken by the Captain. T Scotland were continuing discussions with Clydeport who are seeking a long term contract with the operator to justify investment at Ardrossan. RW will arrange a meeting with T Scotland on Monday 25th May to discuss outstanding matters.
3.3 LR reported that the livestock issue is ongoing and is now being progressed by the NFU.

4. Early Sunday Sailing

- 4.1 IT read an email received from SR regarding our request for an early Sunday sailing which required an immediate response from the committee. The committee were unable to respond to this within the required timeframe and the matter was deferred for further discussion when SR is present.

5. Finance & ACVS Position

- 5.1 IT asked JL to explain the position with ACVS regarding financial reporting. JL explained that ACVS no longer had resources to carry out this service. JL was asked to seek clarification of ACVS intention when Bobbie returns to work in December.
5.2 Following further discussion, SG offered to carry out the financial reporting in the meantime and that Visit Arran can be the mailing address for bank statements. IT will contact the bank to change the mailing address.

6. AGM Agenda

- 6.1 The Banner advert and the proposed agenda for the AGM were approved .
6.2 The election process for the Independent Traveller was discussed and JH suggested that this should be by means of a paper ballot.

7. Correspondence

7.1 No new correspondence

8. Port Managers Report

8.1 A fenced area will be provided to marshal cyclists coming off and on the ferries.

8.2 Concession cards are raising complaints as the Post Office is out of stock of cards.

8.3 Following representation from the Ferry Committee, CalMac have now agreed that 6 journey car tickets will no longer be vehicle specific and can now be used for any vehicle.

8.4 Lochranza marshalling area has now been re-surfaced with spaces for 28 vehicles.

8.5 Repairs at Ardrossan have been confirmed to include Fencing, Lighting, Surfacing and White Lining.

8.6 SG asked for an update on WiFi. CMc reported no change from last month but erection of a mast at the harbour was in progress.

9. Date of Next Meeting

9.1 The next meeting will be on Monday 8th June 2015 following the AGM at the Mountain Rescue Centre in Brodick

10. Any Other Business

10.1 AD informed the meeting that the Clyde Ferries User Group are due to meet soon and that the FC should be represented.

10.2 A working group was appointed to discuss capacity and booking issues with CalMac. The members of this group are Alistair Dobson, Sheila Gilmore and Jim Lees. The group will report back to the committee on a regular basis.

10.3 KG spoke of the public perception and misunderstanding of what the FC has achieved. It was confirmed that ACC publish the FC minutes on their website and JL agreed to place a copy in Brodick Library. KG suggested that it may be worthwhile producing a quarterly newsletter.

10.4 The Chair proposed that a meeting be arranged with Transport Scotland on Monday 25th May to discuss outstanding issues including Ardrossan Harbour, Port of Refuge, Brodick Harbour, New Vessels, Reliability and next year's timetable.

10.5 IT raised the issue concerning the Campbeltown service and its impact on the Arran service at times when we really need the second vessel. It was noted that the 3 year trial period ends this year and we should make representation to have the Isle of Arran serving Arran only.

10.6 SG spoke of the action taken by Visit Arran, on social media, to advise the public at the time of cancellation of the Isle of Arran on 30th April. Further discussions took place and it became apparent that CalMac did not notify the public that the Isle of Arran would not come into service as planned despite knowing at least 12 hours earlier that this was the case. C McCort explained CalMac's decision and expressed his own frustration.

11. Close

11.1 With no further business, the meeting was closed at 9.30pm

Signed.....

Dated.....