

**Isle of Arran Ferry Committee Meeting  
held via Zoom on  
Monday 9 November at 7.00pm**

**Present:**

I Thomson, Haulage (Chair)  
A Dobson, Business (Vice Chair)  
B Calderwood, ACC (Secretary)  
S Gilmore, Tourism (Treasurer)  
N Arthur, Independent Traveller  
S Clark, Stagecoach  
M Currie, ACVS  
D Henderson, NFU  
E McMaster, NAC Local Councillor

**In Attendance:**

K Gibson, MSP  
T Gore, CalMac  
C McCort, CalMac

**1. Welcome and Apologies**

- 1.1 IT welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from R Betley and S Borthwick.

**2. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

- 2.1 The adoption of the minutes of the previous meeting on 12 October were proposed by SC and seconded by MC.

**3. Open Actions and Updates**

- 3.1 The Open Actions List had been circulated prior to the meeting. No further inputs were submitted.
- 3.2 Regarding the 80/20 split, it was highlighted that, on the day of travel, all sailings online were showing unavailable. Everyone was reminded that those wishing to travel on this day should contact the port office.
- 3.3 With respect to the Gourock linkspan, an aerial photo showed the removal of the old system. CMAL had stated a few days had been lost due to weather. However, completion was still on target for before year end dependent on weather.
- 3.4 It was agreed that the action from ARG regarding the Resilience team should sit with other ARG members.  
Action: BC to raise at next ARG meeting.
- 3.5 Summer 2021 timetables were still being finalised by CalMac and TS. BC had expressed the need for publication as soon as possible. However, some routes had still to be confirmed.
- 3.6 Members voiced concern about the lack of public information regarding the Ardrossan upgrade. BC informed the committee on progress for the publication of an update which would be available online. It is hoped to arrange a "preview" of the info when complete and the NAC councillors have been informed.
- 3.7 Answers still required as to what can be changed to provide an early morning repositioning sailing when the vessel had to berth overnight in Brodick. IT suggested that if a sailing had to be sacrificed it may be more acceptable that it be the 19:20 rather than the 07:00. Even if the repositioning sailings were not carrying passengers it would then allow essential services and resources on to the Island for the start of the day.

TG explained that weather would have a big influence in the master's decision. IT asked if AFC could be advised of the reasons reported for not sailing at 5:40 in the recent interruptions.

- 3.8 TG informed the committee that a meeting was scheduled for 10 November between CalMac and Peel Ports regarding the fender situation at Ardrossan. It is the responsibility of Peel Ports to maintain the port.

**4. Treasurer's Report**

- 4.1 Peg SG, the current balance was £632.54.

**5. Port Manager's Report**

- 5.1 The current capacity carrying numbers stood at approximately 32%.
- 5.2 Approximately 98-100% of passengers were wearing face coverings on board although staff had been challenged by some regarding the necessity.
- 5.3 The demolition of the old Brodick pier infrastructure will take place in January.

**6. Date of Next Meeting**

- 6.1 A meeting will be held on 17 November with AFC to give a briefing on Ardrossan. A further meeting will be held on 26 November with P Wheelhouse, Minister. The normal monthly scheduled meeting will take place on 14 December.

**7. Any Other Business**

- 7.1 SG informed the committee that the recent survey held by the ARG had a question relating to the ferry service. This had solicited many responses. It was decided that details be passed to the AFC. SG will identify common threads, collate and submit to AFC.

**8. Close**

- 8.1 The meeting closed at 8.26pm.

Signed .....  ..... Date ..... *27<sup>th</sup> December 2020* .....

Iain Thomson,  
Chair, Isle of Arran Ferry Committee