

# Isle of Arran Ferry Committee Meeting held via Zoom on Monday 12 April 2021 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  
D Henderson, NFU  
E McMaster, NAC Local Councillor

## In Attendance:

K Gibson, MSP  
T Gore, CalMac  
F MacRae, CalMac

### 1. Welcome and Apologies

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from R Betley, M Currie and C McCort.

### 2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

- 2.1 The adoption of the minutes of the meeting held on 15 March 2021 was proposed by EMcM and seconded by SG.

### 3. Open Actions and Updates

As before, these had been previously circulated. Updates were noted. The items for discussion were as follows:

#### 3.1 Dry dock schedule

TG stated that the CI will go off on 5 January 2022 to Greenock. There will be a full two boat service from 2 January until 4 January. On 5 January the HI will come into service together with the lofA until the CI returns.

Action: TG to confirm duration of service period.

#### 3.2 Gourock linkspan

The plans remain in place that the CI will commence berthing trials when she comes out of dry dock.

#### 3.3 Turn up and go

This issue prompted considerable discussion, the salient points being:

- 3.3.1 The AFC's initial assumption of the 80/20% split was that this also included vehicles. TG confirmed that this was only for foot traffic. The AFC asked if an analysis could be done to assess the impact that had to car travelling passengers.

Action TG

- 3.4 Because of the uncertainty of the process, TG was asked to ensure that CalMac's communications be made clear and transparent, particularly for residents not living in Brodick who wished to check availability prior to long road journeys which some may be able only to undertake on limited public transport and then capacity may not be available. IT reinforced the issue by saying, if this was not so, the ferry could be operating with spare capacity. TG stated, to avoid duplication and confusion, those wishing to "turn up and go" should contact the port office and not the Call Centre.

Action TG to prepare procedures and discuss with BC/SG to agree a consistent message to the customers.

3.4.1 It had been previously requested that the 80/20 split reduce to 90/10 for some sailings and was told this was not possible due to the current booking system. However, it was asked of TG/FM to investigate if this was a possibility. There was a suggestion that Arran go to 90/10 with the assurance that the situation be consistently reviewed and we would revert to 80/20 if restrictions were experienced. All AFC members agreed.

Action: TG/FM to investigate as noted above.

Action: TG /FM to provide sailing details of utilisation

3.5 If it is not possible to reserve a small vehicle allocation, TS to be approached to discuss alternatives. Action TG/FM to establish criteria. Note: This may be a request which is retained until sufficient capacity is provided to cope with demand.

3.6 A proposal had been submitted by CalMac regarding the Campbeltown situation. The proposal provided a stopover in Brodick enabling a further two additional sailings on Thursday and Friday and one on Saturday. It was deemed that this was a suitable compromise to the timetable. AFC also questioned the allocation of capacity and, if the proposal was accepted, the requested 60/40 split be in favour of Arran customers. CalMac will take this back to Transport Scotland but the final decision rests with the Government Minister.

Action: AFC to confirm in writing to CFL.

3.7 NAC have highlighted an opportunity regarding pop-up information at the ports. BC/SG have spoken about this. SG will have a further meeting with TG later this week on behalf of VisitArran.

3.8 The ability to track the transportation of campervans, cycles etc is progressing. BC is currently working with CalMac on this issue.

#### **4. Port Manager's Report**

4.1 The items of interest had already been mentioned by TG previously (see 3.1 and 3.2)

#### **5. Correspondence**

5.1 BC said that he had received an email from the Arran Ferry Action Group asking if there was any information he could share regarding the Ardrossan Task Force. BC had responded that all info is in the public domain and further updates would be provided to the AFC.

#### **6. Treasurer's Report**

6.1 Per SG the current balance was £512.54.

#### **7. Date of Next Meeting**

7.1 The date of the next meeting will be held on 10 May 2021 at 7.00pm via Zoom.

#### **8. Any Other Business**


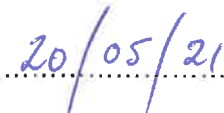
8.1 DH enquired about the maintenance costs for the walkway at Brodick. TG stated that he was unsure whether this should be a Freedom of Information Request or not.

Action: TG to check.

8.2 AD offered the support of the AFC to CalMac in the event of any issues arising after 26 April.

#### **9. Close**

9.1 The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Signed .....  ..... Date .....  .....

Iain Thomson,  
Chair, Isle of Arran Ferry Committee