

ISLE OF ARRAN FERRY COMMITTEE

Minute of Meeting held on Monday 12th August 2013 at 7pm in the Kinloch Hotel

Present: Robert Waine (Chair) Jim Lees (ACVS)
Iain Thomson (Construction/Haulage) Liz Robertson (NFU)
Jim Henderson (Community Council) Kenneth Gibson (MSP)
John Bruce (NAC)

Also present: Elaine Parker (Minutes)

1. Welcome & Apologies:

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed all present. Apologies were received from Simon Richmond (CalMac).

2. Minute of Previous Meeting:

The minutes of the previous meeting were adopted as a true record.

Proposed: J. Lees

Seconded: L. Robertson

3. Matters Arising: 3.1 Transport Links to Additional Sailings

The Chair reported that, following discussions at the previous meeting, he had received a reply from Judith Ainsley at Transport Scotland. The Chair read the email reply to the committee.

Kenneth Gibson explained that he would enquire towards the end of September about the possibility of getting the summer timetable to start the Friday before the bank holiday.

It was also suggested that the Committee should invite Angus Bodie, the Consultant currently reviewing public transport on Arran, to the next Ferry Committee Meeting. The Chair will write to him and invite him.

3.2 MV Isle of Arran Gangway

Cllr. Bruce confirmed that there was now a gangway for the MV Isle of Arran at Brodick, although certain tidal conditions can render it unusable. Kenneth agreed to seek clarification of this from CalMac.

3.3 Brodick Pier Development

Cllr. Bruce reported that he had chaired a meeting of the Brodick Pier Development Group on 2nd August. It was reported that there was currently a consultancy team in to research the economic benefits of the new Pier development to decide on the level of funding from Transport Scotland – thought to be in the region of 75%.

Although CMAL are confident, Transport Scotland explained that there was no guarantee of a single phase development.

The Chair enquired if the Scottish Government would have any input in the decision making process. Kenneth confirmed this and would chase it up.

The Chair read out an email received from the head of the Consultancy team, Chris Kelly. It was agreed that the committee should invite Chris to the next meeting.

Liz Robertson raised the issue of the timing of the development, and expressed the importance of giving the public a realistic timeframe for the development so people do not become disillusioned.

The group expressed the wish to invite Ramsey Muirhead to the October Ferry Committee meeting and to ask CMAL for an up to date progress report. The chair will make sure Ramsey is invited.

3.4 Constitution

It was agreed to leave any amendments to the wording of the Constitution until the next AGM.

3.5 RET

Kenneth confirmed that the introduction of RET was on schedule to be brought in in October 2014. RET will only to be applied to the Arran services but Kenneth will get clarification for the Campbelltown service. The discount on tickets would be approximately 60% for cars and 30% for passengers although Kenneth explained that the hard clarification for fares would most likely happen in spring '14.

4. Finance

Financial statement handed out at meeting.

The Chair asked that any outstanding Membership Fee's be paid promptly.

5. Correspondence The Chair read out a letter received from Margie Currie regarding the large increase of fares for the Lochranza - Clonaig route. Liz explained that the Day Trip tickets had increased in price by 40% in 3 years and the committee agreed that the Lochranza – Clonaig route was disproportionately more expensive than other comparable routes.

Kenneth expressed the need to have figures giving the percentage of passengers carried this year over past years, to be able to see what effect the price increase has had. The Chair will write to Simon Richmond at CalMac to ask for such figures and to enquire about the reasoning for the price increase. The Chair would ask Simon to present the figures at the next meeting.

6. Port Managers Report: Port Manager not present.

7. Date of Next Meeting:

There was discussion surrounding the timing of the meetings and it was agreed that the meetings would return to the usual 7.30pm time.

The next meeting will take place on the **9th September at 7.30pm in the Kinloch Hotel.**

8. Any Other Business:

- Iain asked for clarification of when the timetable is printed every year. This was stated as being October. Iain explained that the only downside of the new timetable was the ferry going to Campbelltown on a Friday afternoon. Kenneth explained that he didn't believe any changes would be made to the timetable but he would liaise and clarify this with Transport Scotland.

- Jim Lees raised a couple of issues he had experienced on board the MV Caledonian Isles on 2 occasions recently. There had been no announcement to call passengers to the car deck and then the car deck had remained locked after the ferry had berthed, causing delays. The committee would raise this issue with Colin and Simon at future meetings, and the Chair will phone Colin regarding this.

9. Close: As there was no further business to discuss; the Chair thanked all for attending and closed the meeting at 20.00.

Signed:

Dated:

Action Points:

CHAIR:

- Contact Angus Bodie and invite to next meeting.
- Invite Chris Kelly to the next meeting.
- Invite Ramsey Muirhead to the October meeting.
- Contact Simon Richmond, CalMac regarding the Lochranza-Clonaig Service figures.
- Phone Colin McCort regarding lack of announcements on MC Caledonian Isles.

Kenneth Gibson:

- Seek clarification from CalMac regarding tidal conditions affecting the MV Isle of Arran gangway at Brodick.
- Raise the issue of the Pier Development with the Scottish Government.
- Seek clarification as to whether RET will be applied to the Campbelltown service.