

# ISLE OF ARRAN FERRY COMMITTEE

## Minute of Meeting held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2013 at 7.30pm in the Kinloch Hotel

**Present:** Robert Waine (Chair) Jim Lees (ACVS)  
Iain Thomson (Construction/Haulage) Liz Robertson (NFU)  
Jim Henderson (Community Council) Simon Richmond (CalMac)  
David Cameron (NTS) John Bruce (NAC)

Also present: Elaine Parker (Minutes)

### 1. Welcome & Apologies:

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed all present.  
Apologies were received from Kenneth Gibson (MSP).

### 2. Minute of Previous Meeting:

With an amendment being made in section 3.3, the minutes of the previous meeting were adopted as a true record.

**Proposed: I. Thomson**

**Seconded: J. Henderson**

### 3. Matters Arising: 3.1 Transport Links to Additional Sailings

The Chair reported that he had invited Angus Bodie to the meeting, however, he was unable to attend due to other commitments. He is however, fully aware of the Ferry Committees concern with the lack of communications between Transport Scotland and SPT, and he would be very happy to attend future meetings.

#### 3.2 MV Isle of Arran Gangway

Cllr. Bruce spoke of the issue of passengers missing the train, if they have to disembark via the car deck, after the cars. Other committee members confirmed this issue and expressed that they felt the CalMac employees were oblivious to the time issues. Robert confirmed that Kenneth had not yet received a response from CalMac regarding this matter, and asked if Simon could take this issue up. Simon confirmed that he would be happy to raise this issue.

The Chair then handed over to Simon to explain the issues surrounding the gangways. Simon explained that the issue of the gangways had been recognised, and 2 new gangways had been purchased at the start of the summer. The problem had however been exacerbated by the late announcement of the timetable. Simon explained that due to the MV Isle of Arrans relatively small size in comparison to the large pier, there would be issues with using the gangway with the tide at its extremes. Simon also mentioned that there was plans to move the old passenger hut at Ardrossan which should help to alleviate the issues experienced.

#### 3.3 Brodick Pier Development

The Chair read a letter that he had received from Guy Platten and handed over to John to speak about the Brodick Pier Development group meeting. John reported that the report was due on the 4<sup>th</sup> of October. It was reported that the tenders would be likely to be issued late spring 2014, with the work starting later in the year. There was discussion surrounding the need for an environmental impact survey, and it was confirmed that this was not necessary for all developments.

### **3.4 Timetable**

The Chair read the email he had received from Kenneth Gibson, regarding the correspondence between himself and Transport Scotland. They confirmed that the Campbeltown route will also benefit from RET, and they are also able to accommodate the 2<sup>nd</sup> May start date for the Summer Timetable, to benefit the holiday weekend. The committee asked Simon to ensure that when the timetable was printed that it was a complete timetable with both boats included. John felt it was important to ask Transport Scotland to ensure that they kept others in the loop in future with any alterations. The Chair also agreed to talk to Guy Bodie regarding feeding back the minutes to SPT, as this could also help to alleviate the issue.

### **3.5 Announcements**

The Chair confirmed that he had spoken to Colin McCort regarding the issue of announcements being missed.

## **4. Finance**

Financial statement handed out at meeting.

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

- 5. Correspondence** The Chair read an email that he had been copied in on between Neil Arthur and Valerie Davidson, regarding concerns over holiday home owners using their holiday home address to get concession ferry cards. The committee were pleased that his issue was being looked at, and would be keen for the money saved from this be used for a Youth Scheme for the Ferry. The Chair agreed to write to Valerie Davidson suggesting this.

The Chair also read an email he had received from Visit Arran regarding the complete lack of leaflets about Arran on display at Ardrossan. Simon agreed to raise this issue and will contact Sheila Gilmore to discuss. The Chair will write to Visit Arran to this effect.

- 6. Port Managers Report:** The Port Manager was not present, however, the Chair handed over to Simon to report back on the questions raised at the last meeting. Simon explained that the 40% increase in fare on the Lochranza to Claonaig route, was inaccurate and handed out information sheets with figures reflecting this. The £40 Saver Ticket was originally a promotional price and was never meant to be a long term price. The saver ticket is now £66, which still gives a 23% discount on full price tickets. Simon confirmed that the price rises of core prices over the past years had all been in line with Transport Scotland. He also explained that Visit Arran were in discussions with their marketing team to discuss the possibility of running a promotion on the route to help boost numbers. Simon agreed to look into why this route was more expensive than other comparable length routes

Simon reported that there had only been slight disruption of services on the Ardrossan-Brodick route. The Isle of Arran was delayed twice - once due to winds and once due to a burst pipe. The Caledonian Isles was disrupted last week due to a rope becoming caught around the propeller.

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

It was agreed that there would be no meeting in October.

The next meeting will take place on the **11<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm in the Kinloch Hotel.**

**8. Any Other Business:**

- There was discussion surrounding the 10pm Saturday sailing. It was felt that people had lost confidence in this sailing as it had been cancelled 3 times and people had been left stranded in Ardrossan. The committee also expressed that they had told Travel Scotland that an 8.30 sailing would be more beneficial, but this had been overruled. It was agreed that the committee would wait to see the figures for the late night sailing before deciding whether to raise the issue. Iain expressed that he felt it was extremely important for the last boat to sail and be reliable, otherwise it would not be used.
- The Chair handed out forms that he had received from Chris Kelly. He asked the committee members to fill out the form, expressing their opinions on the Pier Development. Completed Forms should be returned to the Chair. Elaine would also send out the form via email.

**9. Close:** As there was no further business to discuss; the Chair thanked all for attending and closed the meeting at 20.50

**Signed:** .....

**Dated:** .....

**Action Points:**

**CHAIR:**

- Contact Guy Bodie regarding the feeding back information to SPT.
- Write to Valerie Davidson, suggesting a Youth Scheme.
- Write back to Visit Arran regarding leaflets.

**Simon Richmond:**

- Raise the issue of passengers missing the train when disembarking via the car deck.
- Contact Sheila Gilmore of Visit Arran, to discuss leaflets at Ardrossan.
- Seek information on the price difference between the Lochranza-Claonaig route and other comparable routes.

**Elaine Parker:**

- Scan and email out Pier Development Form.

**Committee:**

- Complete Pier Development questionnaire and return to the Chair.