

Isle of Arran Ferry Committee Meeting held via Zoom on Monday 12 October 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

In Attendance:

K Gibson, MSP
T Gore, CalMac

1. Welcome and Apologies

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

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

- 2.1 The adoption of the minutes of the previous meeting on 14 September were proposed by SC and seconded by DH.

3. Open Actions and Updates

3.1 Open Actions

- 3.1.1 BC advised that the action list was being reviewed and intended to be distributed by email before the next meeting. This would ensure that any ensuing questions could be pre prepared and responses given at the meeting.
- 3.1.2 Still no progress with livestock/timber carriage. This has been open for several years. Arran appears to be the only routes which is so badly impacted by this ruling.

3.2 Updates

The question of the 80/20 split for “turn up and go” needed clarification. It had been assumed that the 20% would include both foot passengers and car transportation. However, TG explained that the 20% was held back for foot passengers only. SG stated there was confusion among the residents with many being unaware. Much discussion took place regarding the effect of this on residents and small businesses both on and off the island. One suggestion was that, perhaps, up to 10 vehicle spaces be held back. TG will seek CalMac’s opinion.

Action: TG to report back.

- 3.3 There remains uncertainty regarding the January dry docking schedule for the CI. TG stated that the contract had not been awarded but was due this month. This was considered unsatisfactory as advance notice was required for bookings for earlier in the month. Dock entry is confirmed for 5th but need confirmation of when she will leave service on 4th. Heb isles is confirmed will arrive on 4th to complement the IoA for the period providing two boat cover.

- 3.4 A message had been received from Brian Gordon, TS, advising that Lochranza – Claonaig service would end 24 October. Winter timetable would then run to Tarbert. Point was raised regarding the Lochranza timetables. It would seem the website is ambiguous with one instance stating that this would be 18 October but another part stating it was 24th. TG took an action to try and improve the messages and direct folks to the winter timetable directly.

3.5 Regarding the fender issue at the Arran berth in Ardrossan, TG stated that this was currently with the lawyers and insurers. In the meantime, the issue had been escalated through CalMac, TS and Minister to have PPG implement the required repairs. It is PPG's legal responsibility to maintain the harbour. CalMac are responsible for the operations.

3.6 Several options were considered to help minimise the impact of the vessel overnighting in Brodick and it was agreed to look at whether it was more appropriate to lose the 19:20 and operate an 05:40 sailing in the morning. TG to review and feedback. There was a radical suggestion that the winter timetable could be reversed to have the first sailing at 7:00 from Brodick. However, it was agreed that this was not for consideration in the short term and more evaluation was required on connectivity etc and impact on bus timetable on Arran.

4. Ardrossan

4.1 With the permission of Transport Scotland (TS) BC gave an update on the current situation regarding the Ardrossan upgrade programme. There is still an element of commercial confidentiality which would restrict full disclosure at this time. It is planned for outline papers to be released as soon as all agreements were confirmed. NAC were also working to expedite the publication of the information.

5. Treasurer's Report

5.1 Per SG, the current balance was £662.54.

6. Port Manager's Report

6.1 There was nothing of significance to report which had not already been discussed in other agenda items.

7. Date of Next Meeting

7.1 The date of the next meeting will be 9 November. As previously, an interim meeting will be called if circumstances necessitate.

8. Any Other Business

8.1 There was no other business.

9. Close

9.1 The meeting closed at 9.17pm.

Signed 
Iain Thomson,
Chair, Isle of Arran Ferry Committee

Date 