

# **Isle of Arran Ferry Committee Meeting held on Monday 8 November 2021 At the Ormidale Pavilion**

**Present:**

I Thomson, Haulage (Chair)  
A Dobson, Business (Vice Chair)  
B Calderwood, ACC (Secretary)  
S Gilmore, Tourism (Treasurer)  
S Clark, Stagecoach  
M Currie, ACVS  
D Henderson, NFU

**In Attendance:**

D Burke, CalMac  
F MacRae, CalMac

**1. Welcome and Apologies**

1.1 The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, particularly D Burke, Commercial Director, and F MacRae, Head of Operations. Apologies were received from N Arthur, R Betley, K Gibson, T Gore and C McCort.

**2. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

2.1 The adoption of the minutes of the meeting held on 11 October was proposed by MC and seconded by SG.

**3. Open Actions and Updates**

As before, these had been previously circulated. Updates were noted.

3.1 Ardrossan Task Force

3.1.1 A meeting will take place on 7 December to be cochaired by J Cullinane, NAC, and G Dey.

3.1.2 SG queried the timetable arrangements when the service relocates to Troon. BC stated there had been no progress to date. However, there will be engagement with all interested parties when a solution has been reached. FM stated that there may be less sailings because of the extended turnaround times. SC said that bus timetables should be considered, particularly around school terms. BC confirmed SPT are involved. AD stated that this should be a topic for wider discussion and perhaps it would require the formation of another group to consider all island transport needs.

3.2 Livestock Transportation

FM stated that the marine team are working with those on the boats to try to tidy up the guidelines. However, there is a problem with Saturday sailings where no bulk livestock can be transported. MC stated that hauliers were frustrated with the situation, particularly at Ardrossan. FM asked DH to provide contact details for the hauliers so that he can engage with them. IT said the discussions should be broadened to include timber. FM replied that the master had requested that the height of the load be reduced to accommodate this. IT stated that timber lorries were more secure than some other freight traffic and this was not financially economical.

3.3 Booking/Ticketing

There will be an update provided at the Ferries Communities Board meeting in December. DB stated that the implementation date for Ar Turis was still on schedule but may slip by a month to March. She said it is critical that this should not slip further. MC asked if it would still be possible to make a booking through port offices. DB affirmed that it would.

- 3.4 Public Facilities at Claonaig  
This issue will be raised again in February and it was suggested that CalMac respond at that time if the permanent facilities are not available. DB stated that temporary facilities would be installed before summer service if the permanent ones are not in place.
- 3.5 Relocation of Brodick Kiosk  
Finance was confirmed available. It was highlighted the dangers of queuing traffic backing on to the main road with non-ferry traffic having to navigate on the wrong side of the road. FM stated this was not unique to Brodick. It was suggested there might be some sort of staggered arrival times or alternative parking.
- 3.6 Carrying Numbers  
The September numbers were available two weeks ago. These were sent off to request a review of the summer 2022 timetable. Based on the current allocation of space on Saturday to Campbeltown suggested it may continue to be a 50/50 split.  
**Action:** FM to follow up issue.
- 3.7 Relocation Sailings  
A scenario planning meeting will be scheduled.  
**Action:** FM.
- 3.8 Catering Trial  
DB indicated that some aspects had worked but others had not. When the CI goes to dry dock the catering facility will be adapted to allow for both "grab and go" and a plated meal. An additional till will also be installed. She also said that a plated breakfast would be reinstated. Payment will continue to be by credit card but a question was asked if an alternative could be considered if digital payments are not available.  
**Action:** DB to respond.
- 3.9 Cancellation Procedures  
There was a perception that unbooked cars were being given priority at Ardrossan over freight involving significant inconvenience for drivers and additional costs for business owners, particularly in the event of cancellations. TG will hold a scenario meeting with the AFC. IT asked if toilet facilities could not be provided in the event of a cancellation of the 1800 sailing. DB replied that this will be included in the new terminal.
- 3.10 Claonaig Diversions  
This item related to compensation for those diverted from Ardrossan. Whilst private vehicles were compensated, freight was not. DB stated that they had asked Transport Scotland but there had been no reply as yet. BC said he will raise at the next Ferries Community Board and Transport Scotland meeting.  
**Action:** BC
- 3.11 Passenger Booking  
There still seemed to be a concern regarding the option to make a passenger booking and there was a view it should be removed immediately. FM stated that it was becoming the norm for some travellers, even now including locals. DB will look at wording.  
**Action:** DB
- 3.12 The new vessels being proposed for Islay will be unsuitable for Ardrossan even after the planned upgrades because of health and safety regulations and limited draft restrictions. The AFC agreed this needs to be challenged. BC will raise with Ardrossan Task Force.  
**Action:** BC

**4. Correspondence**

- 4.1 The AFC had been copied on a letter to G Dey from Lochranza Village Association. Its content contained nothing that the AFC had not already requested on numerous occasions. The request by the LVA for a response from the AFC was deemed not necessary.

**5. Treasurer's Report**

- 5.1 As per SG, the current bank balance is £650.90.

**6. Port Manager's Report**

- 6.1 All items of interest had been discussed previously.

**7. Date of Next Meeting**

- 7.1 The date of the next meeting will be held on 10 January 2022 unless circumstances arise which require an interim meeting.


**8. Any Other Business**

- 8.1 Regarding the recent meeting with CalMac management, the AFC had requested an incident report of the situation at Ardrossan where the port had to close because of a Covid situation. The AFC had written their own summary which they will publish. However, FM was asked to obtain permission from CalMac to also publish their response which was asked for at the meeting. However, this was not available on the day but was subsequently received.

Action: FM.

**9. Close**

- 9.1 The meeting closed at 9.20pm.

Signed .....  .....  
Iain Thomson,  
Chair, Isle of Arran Ferry Committee

Date ..... 9<sup>th</sup> December 2021 .....