

Colonsay Community Council

Chairman's report for A.G.M

I have made no reference to financial matters because the Hon. Treasurer will be reporting to you on these.

Likewise the Hon. Secretary on actions made in relation to items raised.

There were 8 meetings during the period May 2018 to June 2019.

The first meeting was on 7th May 2018.

Shirley MacLeod from A&B council came to talk to us about governance matters. The community council considered and adopted the "model constitution," "model standing orders" and "Best Practice Agreement."

The Second meeting was on 29th May 2018.

The lack of numbers on the Fire and Rescue service was causing anxiety both at the Fire Station and at the airport.

The state of the roads was raised and this was a recurring subject until the recent work to repair the roads.

Third Meeting 10th July 2019.

Marine Harvest notified that they were seeking planning permission for 2 additional pens at their site.

Fire and Rescue reported that they had received two applications for the vacant posts which would relieve the current situation but would still leave some vacancies.

There was an agreement that an election process would be the best remedy for the shortage of community councillors rather than co-option.

There were complaints that general rubbish was being dumped at the re-cycling point in the council yard when the scheduled bin lorry did not turn up. Re-cycling and general rubbish disposal was another common subject during the year.

Fourth Meeting 11th September 2018.

A by-election took place to fill 4 places on the community council and ballot papers were to be returned by 4th October. There were 6 candidates.

Iain MacAllister and Dannie Onn were appointed as Island Champions for Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Isles by the Scottish Government.

Fifth Meeting 10th December 2018.

The question was raised of Oban High School pupils not being able to fly home at weekends on the winter timetable due to bad weather, or being sent home by ferry the day before thus losing nearly a days education. It was said that this was up to the parents if this happened and not engineered by the hostel which was normally closed at weekends.

The funding by A&B council for the air service and the Service Point on Colonsay was raised at the meeting and it was decided to write to the council underlining the importance of the facilities.

An other item raised was the the poor broadband connection on certain parts of the Island and Calmac's dry-docking program which has caused rescheduling and cancellations.

Sixth Meeting 4th February 2019.

The air service to Colonsay again came up as parents of OHS pupils were worried that if the service was cut it might lead to some parents leaving the Island.

Ferry cancellations were affecting the supply of heating oil by Brogans. Brogans said they would continue to supply as soon as possible.

Seventh Meeting 4th March 2019.

It was stated that the air service would be suspended on 15th May. (later amended)
The Monday Calmac service to Colonsay was unreliable because MV Isle of Arran started from Uist and could not keep to schedule especially in poor weather. Also the lifts on the ferry for elderly or other passengers needing to use them were often out of order.

Eighth Meeting 8th April 2019.

A complaint regarding Calmac diverting service to Kennacraig rather than Oban as timetabled, for operational reasons and the service then being classed as completed was voiced. This had many knock-on effects for those travelling by public transport not to mention the additional mileage for people with cars.

A power outage lasting 43 hours had many consequences including no phones due to the BT emergency generators failing. The fire service generator also failed. A new look at the Colonsay "Emergency Response Plan" will be required as we were lucky that there were no life threatening circumstances.

Keith Rutherford.

Convenor

May 2019