

ANNUAL REPORT TIREE COMMUNITY COUNCIL 2016-17

1. Membership: Dr John Holliday (Convenor: health and social services); Rhoda Meek (Vice-Convenor: fishing and agriculture); Ian Gillies (Secretary: transport); Rosemary Omand (Treasurer: communications); John MacCaskill (initially Vice-Convenor: roads and transport); Donnie Campbell (governance, planning and education); Jessie Gray (education); Aisling Milne (environment); Calen MacNeill
John MacCaskill stood down as Vice-Convenor, and Rhoda Meek replaced him.

Paul le Roux and Iona Campbell stood down. Rhoda Meek, Aisling Milne, Jessie Gray were elected in October. Calen MacNeill was co-opted from the school.

2. Meetings: we held seven public meetings (7.9, 5.10, 2.11, 30.11, 1.2, 13.4 and 1.3). Graham Wilks (the head teacher), Stephanie Cope (the ranger) and Emma Rossiter (Tiny Tots initiative) were invited guest speakers. We held private agenda meetings two weeks before the public meetings. With members of the Tiree Community Development Trust (TCDT), we met Humza Yousaf, Scottish Government minister for Transport and the Islands, at Holyrood. We met Michael Russell, MSP, Roddy McCuish, Argyll and Bute Councillor, Coll Community Council, TCDT, and Hugh McNicol, the Argyll estates factor. JMCC is chair of Tiree Transport Forum, also attended by IG. IG attended the Argyll Ferry Users' Group.

3. Training: three members of TCC attended VC training in managing conflict

4. Procedure: we noted a fall in attendance by the public at our meetings. It was not clear why this was happening. We decided to ask for two weeks notice of new issues, so that we could respond to them fully, and not to include AOCB on our agendas. We recommend now that the public approach the relevant bodies in their line of enquiry before coming to us. We have an attractive and well-maintained web page and are on Facebook.

5. Issues dealt with (in no particular order):

- Cattle on the Reef: we contacted the crofters and the police. The onus is on drivers to be careful
- CMAL had promised to re-develop the pier head and consult TCC. Neither had happened and we are pursuing this
- There was complaint about disabled facilities on the ferry. We passed this on to CalMac
- Security has been removed at the airport. This has caused some inconvenience to travellers, particularly those with onward flights. We lobbied on this, including in person at ministerial level, but this is a reserved matter and no progress was made
- Loganair no longer accept unaccompanied minors. We lobbied on this too, but did not succeed in a structural solution
- We lobbied for extra flights to cover special events like TMF and the 10K and were successful
- Bank cash machine: we lobbied unsuccessfully for an ATM at the Scarinish branch, and are currently doing an online survey about this
- Kilkeneth chapel: we were notified that the fence around this scheduled monument is down and have notified Historic and Environment Scotland

- Salum beach: we were asked to enquire about overnight camping here. We passed this on to the Ranger
- Pre-school: we were asked to enquire into the stopping of teaching through the medium of Gaelic. We were satisfied that the school responded appropriately to this and that the parents were happy with the solution
- Marine Protected Area: we were lobbied by two fishermen and made a submission to the Scottish Government survey about this, reflecting their concerns, along with those from one member of the public
- Buchanan memorial in Baugh: we passed this project on to TCDT
- War Memorial: there has been concern about the railings. Argyll and Bute Council have been informed
- Remembrance service: this is now organised by TCC
- Abandoned trailers in Crossapol, Gott and Balephetrish were eventually removed by Argyll and Bute Council
- Library: we wrote to all Argyll and Bute Councillors to re-instate the school library on Tiree without success
- Roads: we asked the Council to review drainage at a cattle grid in Salum
- Chapel of Rest: we passed this project on to TCDT. We remain concerned about the state of the police mortuary at the airport
- Survey bins: we did an online survey about waste bin collection changes and passed the results on to Roddy McCuish. None of our recommendations have been acted upon
- Pier View: it was brought to our attention that an area of neglected ground had a considerable quantity of builders' rubbish, including an electrical box. This was cleared eventually by the developer
- BT delays: we had dealt with several customers who had waited a long time for phone and internet connections
- Balevullin hut: we performed a postal ballot of the entire island electorate on the huts on the Balevullin and Gott beaches. There was an exceptional 79% turnout. 314 votes opposed the beach huts and 102 supported them. This was presented to the planning committee at a public meeting. A complaint was subsequently made to TCC by Martin and Iona Larg. This was replied to, but there has been no further correspondence about this
- Flag: we have set up a sub-committee to proceed with the project.
- Phone boxes: we have set up a sub-committee to progress this. We bought eleven boxes and plan to renovate one, at Silversands, this year as a trial project

Dr John Holliday
 Balephuill
 14 May 2017