

**MINUTES of MEETING of OBAN LORN & THE ISLES AREA COMMITTEE held in the MCCAIG  
SUITE, CORRAN HALLS, OBAN  
on WEDNESDAY, 14 DECEMBER 2011**

**Present:** Councillor Duncan MacIntyre (Chair)

Councillor Gordon Chalmers	Councillor Mary-Jean Devon
Councillor Louise Glen-Lee	Councillor Neil Mackay
Councillor Roderick McCuish	Councillor Elaine Robertson

**Attending:** Kenneth Macdonald, Customer Services  
Jane Gillies, Area Governance Assistant  
Bill Brackenridge, Independent Chair of the Argyll and Bute APC  
Ronnie McIlquham, Area Manager, Adult Care  
Laura Macdonald, Community Development  
Nicola Debnam, CHORD Project Manager  
Neil Halket, AECOM  
Robert Pollock, Head of Development & Infrastructure  
Graham Brown, Roads  
Hugh Blake, Estates

**1. APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies for absence

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Chalmers declared a non-financial interest in the Tobermory High School Annual Report, dealt with at item 4c in this Minute.

As this was the first area committee meeting since the untimely death of Councillor Donald McIntosh the Chairman invited those present to stand for one minutes silence in respect and appreciation of the work Councillor McIntosh undertook.

The Chairman welcomed Councillor Louise Glen-Lee to her first area committee meeting, joining the members of Ward 5 – Oban North and Lorn.

**3. CUSTOMER SERVICES**

**(a) MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of Oban Lorn & the Isles Area Committee meeting held on 13 October 2011 were approved as a correct record.

**(b) APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES**

The Committee were invited to consider filling vacancies arising as a result of the deaths of the late Councillors Macdonald and McIntosh

Decision:

The Committee made appointments to each of the bodies as set out below:

Catherine McCaig's Trust 2 representatives to join Councillor Duncan MacIntyre	1. Councillor Mary-Jean Devon (Proposer: Cllr Mackay; Seconder: Cllr Robertson)
	2. Councillor Neil Mackay (Proposer: Cllr MacIntyre; Seconder: Councillor Robertson)
Oban Lorn and the Isles Community Safety Forum	1. Councillor Gordon Chalmers (Proposer: Cllr MacIntyre; Seconder: Councillor Robertson)
	Councillor Roderick McCuish, having been proposed by Councillor Devon, seconded by Councillor Mackay declined to accept this position at this time.
Soroba Community Association	1. Councillor Roderick McCuish (Proposer: Cllr Mackay; Seconder: Councillor MacIntyre)

(Ref: Report by Area Governance Officer, Customer Services, dated 21 November 2011, submitted)

(c) **LORN & ISLANDS HOSPITAL - HOSPITAL REDESIGN TASK GROUP**

A formal approach had been received from NHS Highland setting out their agreement to expand the number of Councillors on the Hospital Redesign Task Group and requesting the Council to arrange appropriate nominations.

Members felt that Oban Lorn and the Isles Area Committee would be best represented on the Task Group by appointment of 2 members, 1 from each of Ward 4 and Ward 5.

Decision:

It was agreed that Councillor Gordon Chalmers would represent Ward 4 and Councillor Louise Glen-Lee would represent Ward 5 on the Task Group.

(Ref: Report by Executive Director of Customer Services dated 14 November, submitted)

#### **4. COMMUNITY SERVICES**

(a) **ADULT SUPPORT AND PROTECTION - PRESENTATION BY BILL BRACKENRIDGE, INDEPENDENT CHAIR OF THE ARGYLL AND BUTE APC**

Bill Brackenridge, Independent Chair of the Argyll and Bute APC, and Ronnie McIlquham, Area Manager – Adult Protection, provided a power point presentation on Adult support and protection and followed by answering questions put by Members.

The Chairman thanked the speakers for their informative presentation and it was agreed that a follow-up presentation be brought to the December 2012 area committee meeting.

(b) **HOPE KITCHEN - PRESENTATION BY GROUP FOLLOWING FUNDING APPLICATION**

It was agreed that this presentation would be included at the next meeting in February.

(c) **TOBERMORY HIGH SCHOOL ANNUAL REPORT**

Richard Gawthrop and Janice Mitchell were unable to attend due to inclement weather and it was agreed that this presentation would be moved to the next meeting in February.

(d) **SCHOOL HOLIDAYS AND IN-SERVICE DAYS: 2012/2013**

The Executive Committee at its meeting on 29 September 2011 agreed the framework of main holiday dates for schools in 2012/2013. These dates were then circulated to schools to consider the remaining in-service days and occasional days. The final patterns of in-service days and school holidays have now been identified for all schools in Oban, Lorn and the Isles as outlined in Appendices 1 to 3 attached to the report by Executive Director, Community Services

Decision:

Members (a) endorsed the final patterns of school holidays and in-service days for all schools in Oban, Lorn and the Isles as outlined in Appendices 1 to 3 of the report by Executive Director, Customer Services, noting that the Executive committee are investigating the possibility of introducing a holiday to coincide with the Argyllshire Gathering in August; and (b) agreed that the details of schools holidays and in-service days for 2012/2013 should now be circulated to schools and all relevant organisations

(Ref: Report by Executive Director Community Services dated November 2011, submitted)

(e) **GRANTS TO THIRD SECTOR 2010/11**

The Committee noted that the application by Oban War and Peace Museum had been withdrawn.

## 5. DEVELOPMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE

### (a) CHORD

Robert Pollock introduced Neil Halket who updated the Committee on progress on the CHORD project since the last meeting with a powerpoint presentation. They then answered questions put by Members and advised that a report will go to the next Project Board meeting in January.

### (b) CYCLING SCOTLAND: UPDATE ON LEADER FUNDING APPLICATION AND PROGRESS TO DATE

To be submitted to the next meeting.

### (c) PASSENGER ACCESS SYSTEM (CRAIGNURE)

Councillors Chalmers, Devon and McCuish outlined the background to this issue and the Members unanimously expressed concern over the matter.

### (d) ROADS RECONSTRUCTION CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2012/13

Members considered and noted a report detailing the process undertaken to identify the Roads Reconstruction Capital Programme for Oban, Lorn and the Islands (OLI) for the financial year 1<sup>st</sup> April 2012 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013 and were presented with a draft programme for consideration and subsequently for budget allocation by Council in February 2012.

(Ref: Report by Head of Roads and Amenity dated November 2011, submitted)

## 6. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Mr David Miller Ganavan Resident	Irrespective of the outcome of the request for funding from CHORD by Oban Bay Marine I would fully support the proposal to provide a floating pontoon at the North Pier to provide a facility for cruise passengers to visit Oban. I understand the current arrangements through the Oban Times slip are not entirely satisfactory
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Response from CHORD Manager:

The arrangements for cruise ship tenders are being Considered as part of the reconfiguration of the bay component of Oban CHORD; this includes improvements to the Oban Times slipway and consideration of a pontoon at the North Pier.

It was noted that Oban Bay Marine were unsuccessful with their bid for funding in September 2011.

Mr David Miller Ganavan	The toilet facilities at Ganavan Sands were vandalised during the summer and have remained closed for some
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Resident

months. As a resident of Ganavan Sands I, together with the vast majority of residents, fully support the provision of Ganavan Sands, the car park and the shinty pitch for the enjoyment of the people of Oban. You will be aware that many people use the car park throughout the year and the sight of a scruffy, out-of-use toilet does not instil confidence in the Council and its elected members from the people they serve. I understand there may be an issue as to who is responsible for the toilets. If that is the case then it needs to be resolved and the toilets re-instated without delay

Response from Streetscene Manager:

The toilet building is not insulated therefore has been closed up and drained down to avoid frost damage over the winter.

The toilets were closed temporarily earlier in the year due to vandalism and were re-opened following remedial works.

Users of the shinty pitch have never requested the use of these facilities and the Council have not received any complaints regarding these issues.

Mr David Miller  
Ganavan  
Resident

The council should be congratulated for its success in being nominated to go forward to the next stage of the Scottish Futures Trust's provision of funding under the TIF scheme. While the business case for the Lorn Arc project is being prepared the council should take the opportunity to go ahead with the formation of a Harbour Authority/Trust. I understand this subject has been raised on numerous occasions. If the burghers of Oban plan to extend the size of the North Pier then it would be appropriate for a form of Harbour Authority/Trust to replace the existing untidy arrangement

Response from CHORD Manager:

The CHORD consultation has confirmed the desire to see a joint arrangement; there have been positive steps within the Oban Harbour Development Group to take this forward. Whilst the requirements for this include revenue funding (which CHORD cannot deliver being a capital only project), CHORD is seeking to support this work where possible and the Refreshed Oban Action Plan identifies this as a priority action for the future of the bay.

Mr David Miller  
Ganavan  
Resident

The new cycle track that runs behind the Corran Esplanade and ends near Dunollie house has been the target of a small amount of fly tipping at the junction which leads up the hill to the Dunollie housing estate. The rubbish which is made up mainly of wood could be

removed in a small pick-up/van and I would do it myself if I owned such a vehicle. Do you know who is responsible for the on-going oversight and maintenance of the track. Has it been adopted by the Council?

Response from Streetscene:

Adoption of the cycle track is presently being progressed. With the exception of about a barrow load the rubbish was cleared on 14 December 2011 by Argyll and Bute Council. Remainder being removed as soon as a vehicle and staff are available.

Mr S Leddy  
Seniors Group

Asked for information on the "Change Fund" and how Argyll and Bute Council have used this funding which was ring-fenced for older people.

Response from Chair:

It was agreed this would be investigated and a written response be sent to Mr Leddy to enable him to report to the next Seniors Group meeting.

Mr Lawrence  
Nugent:

Raised concerns that there were no mental health / psychiatric representatives on the LIDGH Redesign Task Group  
Mr Lawrence also asked who the group report to and other issues.

Response from Chair:

It was agreed to write to Mr Lawrence stating that the Committee would meet with Mr Lawrence at his convenience to discuss these issues on a one-to-one basis.

The Committee resolved in terms of Section 50(A)(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, to exclude the public for the following items of business on the grounds that it was likely to involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A to the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

## **7. ACQUISITION / DISPOSAL / LEASING OF PROPERTY**

### **(a) MOBILE SNACK BAR SITE, OBAN - HUGH BLAKE**

Members considered a report requesting that they give consideration to the various mobile snack bar sites advertised for let within Oban each year with a view to ceasing to advertise for let the sites at the Corran Halls, McCaig's Tower and Pulpit Hill.

Decision:

- a) That the Executive Director of Customer Services cease advertising for lease the mobile snack bar sites at;
  - i) The Corran Halls
  - ii) McCaig's Tower
  - iii) Pulpit Hill; and
- b) That the mobile snack bar site at Ganavan Sands Car Park be advertised for let during the summer 2012 season.

(Ref: Report by Executive Director of Customer Services dated 18<sup>th</sup> November 2011, submitted)

**(b) ROCKFIELD SCHOOL**

Members considered a report by the Executive Director of Customer Services in regard to Rockfield School.

Decision:

The Committee agreed the recommendation contained within the report by the Executive Director of Customer Services dated 21<sup>st</sup> November 2011.

(Ref: Report by Executive Director of Customer Services dated 21<sup>st</sup> November 2011, submitted)

**(c) THE WHITE BUILDING, NORTH PIER**

Members considered a report advising on the outcome of the Council's initial TIF (Tax Incremental Funding) bid and to recommend the retention of the White Building pending the final outcome of the Council's TIF bid.

Decision:

The Committee agreed the recommendation contained within the report by Executive Director of Customer Services dated 15<sup>th</sup> November 2011 in respect of the White Building

(Ref: Report by Executive Director, Customer Services, dated 15<sup>th</sup> November 2011, submitted)

**8. CRANNOG LANE**

Members considered a report by the Executive Director of Customer Services regarding Crannog Lane.

**Decision**

The Committee agreed the recommendation contained within the report by Executive Director of Customer Services dated 30<sup>th</sup> November 2011.

(Ref: Report by Executive Director dated 30<sup>th</sup> November 2011, submitted)