

CLYDE, KINTYRE, AND ISLANDS FERRY STAKEHOLDER GROUP
(Arran, Bute, Campbeltown, Cumbrae, Colonsay, Islay, Jura, Gigha and Cowal)

Minute of Meeting held virtually through Microsoft Teams, on Thursday 6th June at 12.00.

<p>IN ATTENDANCE</p>	<p>ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL Cllr John Armour (Chair) Liz McCabe Scott Reid</p> <p>NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL Timothy Billings Cllr Alan Hill</p> <p>INVERCLYDE COUNCIL No attendees</p> <p>TRANSPORT SCOTLAND Alison Wills Ashley Jones Mr Mark Hoskins Mr Dominic Calgie William Millar Callum Donnelly Paul Flynn</p> <p>CALEDONIAN MACBRAYNE LTD (CALMAC) Finlay Macrae</p> <p>CALEDONIAN MARITIME ASSETS LTD. (CMAL) Chris Fisher</p> <p>HITRANS Neil Macrae Clare Harper</p> <p>HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS ENTERPRISE (HIE) Nicky Sobey</p> <p>SPT Allan Comrie</p> <p>SCOTRAIL Desmond Bradley</p> <p>SCOTTISH CITYLINK / CPT Mr Ker Corbett</p>
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	<p>COWAL TRANSPORT FORUM Ms Kirstie Reid</p> <p>CAMPBELTOWN FERRY COMMITTEE Ewen MacDonald</p> <p>KILCREGGAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL John Auld</p> <p>BUTE FERRY COMMITTEE Jean Moffat</p> <p>CUMBRAE FERRY COMMITTEE / FERRIES COMMUNITY BOARD No Representative</p> <p>ISLAY FERRY COMMITTEE / FERRIES COMMUNITY BOARD Jim Porteous</p> <p>ISLAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL Islay MacEachern</p> <p>ARRAN FERRY COMMITTEE / FERRIES COMMUNITY BOARD Bill Calderwood</p> <p>NFU No representative</p> <p>WESTERN FERRIES Gordon Ross</p> <p>HAULAGE Jim Martin</p>
APOLOGIES	<p>Ranald Robertson (HITRANS) Angus Campbell (Cumbrae Ferry Committee) Cllr Martin McCluskey (Inverclyde Council) Cllr Sandra Reynolds (Inverclyde Council) Jane Macleod (Business Rep) Cllr Dougie McFadzean (Argyll & Bute Council) Angus Campbell (Cumbrae Ferry Committee)</p>

1	Minute of Meeting held on 12 December 2023	<p>The Minute of Meeting of 12th December 2023 was approved.</p> <p>The Chair paid tribute to the late Cllr Robin Currie, former Leader of Argyll and Bute Council and long serving member the Group and Islay Councillor.</p> <p>The chair requested that all organisations provide information relating to their items well in advance of the meeting to ensure that members have adequate time to review the meeting agenda and papers.</p>
2	Matters Arising – Action Tracker	<p>Neil MacRae introduced the completed action tracker enclosed with the meeting papers.</p> <p>Gordon Ross highlighted Action 2 which related to issues arising from the introduction of the new ticketing system on the CHFS network, stating that there was evidence that passengers on the Dunoon to Gourock service were not being</p>

		<p>asked for a ticket and therefore not having to pay. He requested an explanation of how long this practice had been occurring and how much revenue had been lost as a result. Mr Ross highlighted that this was of particular concern given that he is operating a competing commercial service.</p> <p>Finlay MacRae acknowledged that they had experienced a number of problems since the introduction of the new ticketing system but did not have the revenue figures to hand and so would therefore take it away as an action. He also thanks Mr Ross for assisting with the recent service outage.</p> <p>Action 1 – CalMac to confirm status of ticketing on Gourock to Dunoon service and to provide information on the revenue collection since the new ticketing system was introduced.</p> <p>SPT requested an update on passenger numbers so the concessionary fair scheme can be properly administered.</p> <p>Action 2 – CalMac to provide SPT with information on passenger numbers so SPTs concessionary scheme can be calculated accurately</p>
3	Caledonian MacBrayne Operational, Commercial and Performance Update covering (CFL)	<p>CalMac submitted a report which addressed the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Marketing 2. Timetable Integration and Consultation Update 3. Route Updates <p>Finlay MacRae introduced the report which included updates on the new Customer Experience Measurement platform (RADAR) is now live, analytics on customer behaviour and route by route updates</p> <p>Jean Moffat expressed concern regarding the ticketing operation on the Rothesay to Wemyss Bay route and noted that the process was not quick enough. As the port is very busy with passengers she felt operators did not allow enough time for tickets to be scanned.</p> <p>Action 3 – Finlay MacRae to check with team concerns over the management of ticket collection on the Wemyss Bay-Rothesay route and respond directly to Jean Moffat</p> <p>Jim Porteous requested an update on the closure of Port Askaig from 19th June - 30th July and how ferry traffic will be redirected during this time.</p> <p>Action 4– Finlay MacRae /ABC to provide an update on the closure of Port Askaig in June and July and confirm how ferry traffic will be redirected during this time</p> <p>The Chair thanked Finlay MacRae for the update</p>

4	Western Ferries Update	Gordon Ross invited questions on the update which on Western Ferries which was enclosed with the meeting papers. Members noted the Western Ferries update.
5	CMAL Update	<p>Chris Fisher introduced the CMAL update which was enclosed within the meeting papers. The report covered updates on infrastructure improvements relevant to ports within the area of the group and, vessel replacements and progress on the small vessel replacement plan. These included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Islay vessels 1 & 2 in Cemre are progressing well. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The next milestone regarding MV Isle of Islay will be the delivery of the vessel in Oct 2024. The launch successfully took place on 16th March 2024 (first of 4 launches). ○ Preparation for the launch of MV Loch Indaal is ongoing and the launch date has been set at 8th June 2024. ○ MV Isle of Islay delivery is on track for October 2024. ○ MV Loch Indaal delivery is on track for February 2025. • Works are ongoing for the Islay Vessel Enabling Work at Kennacraig, Colonsay & Port Askaig. • MV Glen Sannox has carried out further builder's trials in April and May 2024 and has been to drydock for its pre-delivery inspection and cleaning so that speed and consumption trials can take place. • Small Vessel Replacement Programme (SVRP) concept design is completed, and the safety cases have been approved in principle by MCA. Completion of the concept design has concluded. The Outline Business Case for the Small Vessel Replacement Project (7 vessels) is currently being considered by Ministers and includes the potential approach to procurement. An update on this will be provided in the coming weeks • For the Cumbrae Slipway Rebuild, the design work is ongoing (which now includes building, etc). The revised programme (submitted via our consultant) is being reviewed internally. • The Gourock/Dunoon/Kilcreggan vessel replacement project is still ongoing and is highly complex. A passenger only catamaran solution is being worked on – we are trying to find an all-electric solution to keep up the momentum regarding decarbonisation. They have also recently been introduced to Artemis Technologies and a visit in Belfast was carried out in January 2024. Their vessels are all electric Hydrofoils and may be a solution for GDK. <p>Mr Ross enquired as to what aspects of the Gourock/Dunoon/Kilcreggan vessel replacement were 'highly complex' and what speed was expected for the vessels given the speed restriction in the waters. Chris Fisher said that he was unable to provide an answer for the question but that he would take this to colleagues who would respond.</p> <p>Cllr Billings enquired about the repairs to the MV Caley Isles. Finlay MacRae said he was confident that they would be completed on time and would be able to provide an update to the Arran Ferry committee next week.</p> <p>The Chair thanked Chris Fisher for the update.</p>
6	Transport Scotland Updates	<p>Transport Scotland (TS) submitted a report updating members on the following Initiatives:</p> <p>Island Connectivity Plan:</p> <p>The Report gave details of two consultations that would shortly be published:</p>

a) **Public Engagement**

Callum Donnelly advised ICP consultation 1st draft completed end of May and draft analysis of this had been received. 2nd draft should hopefully be available next week and finalised by the end of July with updates provided to the Stakeholder Group.

b) **Community Needs Assessments**

Gordon Ross raised concerns the Community Needs Assessment for Gourock to Dunoon had now been with Transport Scotland for over 9 months but had not yet been published. Transport Scotland confirmed that it contains sensitive information and is currently being considered by Ministers but that it would be published soon.

In relation to the Kilcreggan to Dunoon route John Auld has asked if community feedback can be taken into consideration and relayed back to local community.

Action - Callum Donnelly to come back to members with further information on the status of the Community Needs Assessments for Gourock to Dunoon and Kilchreggan

c) **Ferry Fares Policy**

John Auld asked if under 22 island residents fares will be included on all routes.

Paul Flynn advised no final decision has been taken at this stage as this is still being worked on but it is expected the final proposal will be an extension to existing schemes.

Jean Moffat and Bill Calderwood raised points in relation to proposals for fares policy in relation to over 60's and under 22's. Paul Flynn stated that over 60s rates are also still being considered.

The Chair highlighted the impact on Kintyre from the loss of the Campbeltown to Ardrossan service. He highlighted that while he understood the needs of islands the community had found the manner in which found out that the service had been cancelled for the season via STV news disrespectful and wanted to ensure that these points were taken on board by the respective organisations.

Finlay MacRae apologised for the communication of the cancellation and advised that an internal review had been conducted in light of the comms around the impact on loss of the Campbeltown – Ardrossan service.

d) **Onward & Connecting Travel**

John Auld expressed his concerns regarding the cancelled Campbeltown to Ardrossan route and how this information wasn't relayed to member and instead found out via media outlets.

Kirstie Reid advised the new ferry timetable from Gourock to Dunoon has resulted in longer waits for the train to Glasgow.

		<p>Des Bradley of Scotrail advised that the timetable was being reviewed following a large volume of responses and that Scotrail and Cal Mac were working closely with the aim of improving ferry connections where possible but highlighted that there was a trade off between improvements for one direction impacting journeys in the opposite. Aim was to get more trains to use platform 1 where possible. Kirstie Raid highlighted that the bus connections at Cowal were also a challenge.</p> <p>Action 5 – Finlay MacRae to provide update on review of Gourock to Dunoon timetable where current timetable has increased waiting times from connecting trains to and from Glasgow</p> <p>The Transport Scotland report also provided further updates in relation to Low Carbon and Impact Assessments</p> <p>CHFS 3</p> <p>Neil MacRae highlighted that there had been suggestions at previous FSG meeting that it might be useful to have CHFS 3 engagement sessions with FSGs and Community Board as this is an important topic and more time was required to discuss in detail.</p>
7	Communities Board Update	<p>Bill Calderwood introduced the Ferry Communities Board update report which had been submitted within the papers for the meeting. He highlighted a number of issues that the board had been focussing on in particular those relating to the new Ar Turas ticketing system and that the most recent meeting had been the first with the new CEO of Cal Mac, Duncan Mackinson.</p> <p>The Chair thanked Mr Calderwood for his update.</p>
8	Argyll and Bute Council Infrastructure Update	<p>Argyll & Bute submitted a report updating members on ongoing projects which the Council is involved with or leading including:</p> <p>Ongoing projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oban - Harbour Revision Order; • Craginure – New Ferry Terminal (including Passenger Access System renewal); • Fionnphort overnight berthing facility; • Iona breakwater – protection of ferry berthing slip; • Port Askaig – Marshalling area development for new CalMac vessels; • Feolin – Jura passenger only service access; • Campbeltown Harbour; • Rothesay Harbour; • Dunoon Harbour; <p>Longer term pipeline</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gigha / Tayinloan • Shore side electrical power upgrades for vessel charging capabilities; • Port Marine Safety Code - Marine Safety Management Plan; and • Argyll & Bute Council Ferry Services <p>Jim Porteous highlighted concerns in relation to works at Port Askaig. Scott Reid confirmed that he would be able to share more detailed drawings with the ferry committee in the near future but that talks were still underway with the contractor and CMAL.</p>

		<p>Kirstie Reid enquired about an update on the TTRO relating to where the ferry berths at Dunoon. Scott Reid confirmed that the TTRO was in place for the public bus service with red and markings for pedestrians. Kirstie Reid highlighted that it would appear that it was an enforcement issue.</p> <p>Gordon Ross asked if it was the Council's position to remove the linkspan? Scott Reid said that this would be determined by the new vessels operating on the route.</p> <p>Scott Reid was also asked if the Council had funding to put in place the potoon and passenger facilities outlined in the report. Scott Reid that funding was dependant on ferry dues citing the example of the breakwater at Iona.</p> <p>The Chair thanked Mr Reid for the update.</p>
9	HITRANS RTS Strategy Consultation	<p>Neil MacRae introduced a report to members which provided a summary on the draft Regional Transport Strategy that was currently out for public consultation until 14th June.</p> <p>Mr MacRae stated that the strategy set the vision and policy for the transport policy in the region for the next 20 years and encouraged members to go online and review the documents and provide feedback so this can be considered when finalising the Strategy before it is submitted to Ministers for approval in the autumn.</p>
10	Confirm Pre-agreed Date of Next Meeting	<p>It was agreed that the next meeting of the Clyde, Kintyre and Islands Isles Ferry Stakeholder Group would take place on Friday 6th December at 10am and will be MS Teams only.</p>