

Minutes for Mull & Iona Ferry Committee 21 September 2022

Attendees

Minister For Transport - Jenny Gilruth MSP (JG)
MSP for Aryll & Bute – Jenny Minto MSP (JM)
Mull & Iona Ferry Committee (Chair) - Joe Reade (JR)
Mull & Iona Ferry Committee (Deputy Chair) - Finlay MacDonald (FMacD)
Mull & Iona Ferry Committee – REDACTED
Transport Scotland, Head of Ferries Unit – REDACTED
Transport Scotland, Operational Ferries Policy – REDACTED
CalMac Ferries Ltd – Robbie Drummond (RD)
CalMac Ferries Ltd – REDACTED
CalMac Ferries Ltd – REDACTED

Agenda

1. Welcome
 2. Timetables discussion
 3. Other business
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1. Welcome extended to all attendees from Minister For Transport
2. Points discussed:
 - REDACTED provided a high level overview of the issues that had been raised by MIFC and the issues affecting CFL when trying to pull all of the various strands together and putting a timetable in place. This includes departure and arrival times and length of time on the mainland.
 - REDACTED outlined what CalMac (CFL) can and have been doing to try and mitigate the concerns set out by MIFC.
 - JR highlighted frustrations at the process and explained that FMacD had some further suggestions to put to CFL and was of the view that the timetable was now better than what had originally been offered. REDACTED advised CFL happy to look at these further suggestions. FMacD gave some additional views on the use of the vessel for the route but his reception was poor and some of it was inaudible.
 - JG offered thanks to CFL for being willing to look at these suggestions at short notice and both parties for a willingness to work together to achieve better outcomes. JM reiterated.
 - The issues facing school children were raised. Following discussion CFL committed to taking these issues away and look at what could be done to offer further mitigation in terms of timings.
 - Following a comment about the staff on the vessel, RD reiterated that CFL take passenger safety extremely seriously, whatever their needs. Schoolchildren are safe on the vessel and safety of all passengers is paramount.
 - JG commented on the more positive and collaborative note of these discussions and added that there were lessons to learn, these discussions

could have taken place much earlier and given all parties more time for consideration.

- JR raised issues with connection times of less than 15 mins not 'counting' as 'connections'. JG advised she would speak to TS about this.
- JG advised that there was a role of TS, CFL and other in terms of engagement and how we do that and we should consider how we engage, part of Neptune will be to look at this in further detail.

5. Other Business:

- Minister for Transport thanked all attendees for their openness and acknowledged the usefulness of the meeting & commented that future governance will be in consultation with the community groups.

Action Note

- CFL to engage further with MIFC over the following days.

UPDATE: As of 28 September CFL have reached a consensus with MIFC on the 2 vessel timetable and the majority of the single vessel timetable. There are discussions ongoing internally within CFL regarding the early morning sailings 0400/0515 sailings. CFL hope to have a final decision on whether they are able to operate these sailings asap.

POST MEETING NOTE: Following the meeting officials discussed the matter with CalMac who confirmed that neither the ferry committee or Argyll & Bute Council had raised any concerns about pupil welfare on the Craignure-Oban service and that appropriate channels were in place should there be any concerns.

-----End Of Meeting Note-----