

Mull and Iona Chamber of Commerce**Minutes of the meeting held at The Isle of Mull Hotel at 8 pm on 3rd March 2008**

Present: Sandy Brunton, Brendan Walsh, Derek Crook, Michael Ackerley, Georgia O'Neil.

Apologies: Jane Chauvet

Amendments to the minutes of the last meeting: In all cases Norman Quinn should read Norman Quirk; prop GO, sec MA. Passed nem con.

Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting and not forming part of the current agenda:

Affiliation to the Glasgow CoC would cost about £25.00 per member. This expense would have to be balanced against the anticipated benefits. Contact with Mr Vickers re fast ferry to Craignure: James Hilder of MICT was establishing verbal contact with Mr Vickers and CoC will await outcome.

Review of Business to Business Networking Meeting held at the Isle of Mull Hotel on 20th of February:

This was very successful on the day with over 80 people attending. Attendees were very enthusiastic but to date there was little effect on recruitment figures. (2 only new members and 1 renewal, 10 to be followed up). There appeared to be a demand for a repetition of the event next year but a reluctance on the part of many who thought it was a valuable service to become members and contribute to the expenses. Agreed that if the Chamber organises a similar event in future consideration should be given to charging non-members to attend. Sponsorship will also be considered next time. Mid Feb 09 would seem to be a suitable time. Oban FM had attended and the Chamber had secured valuable publicity.

The President thanked all members of the Board for their help and those present thought particular thanks should go to the Secretary for the slick and efficient administration of the day which had reflected favourably on the reputation of the Chamber.

Food Producers: the event had provided food producers on the islands with a remarkable opportunity to promote their good but they seemed unable to take effective action themselves to promote their sector. This repeated the experience of The Mull and Iona Community Trust who had organised the Mull and Iona Food Festival for a number of years but who had now decided that the sector had shown so little effort to support jointly the effort and expense of marketing Mull and Iona food that it had decided to discontinue organising the event. **AP** Georgia to contact Susie Chalupa of MICT re the costs of the Food Festival with a view to the Board inviting producers in this sector to take appropriate action. **AP** Secretary to circulate to all members a list of those who attended the B2B Networking event.

AGM and Annual Dinner: to be at the Glenforsa Hotel on the 29th March. Brendan was thanked for the offer of providing accommodation for £25.00 per room and dinner for £20.00 with a complimentary bottle of wine per table.

AP Georgia to email all members with details for booking the dinner and a link to the hotel for those wishing to book a room. Assemble at the bar at 7.30 for the dinner at 8.00 **AP** Norman Quirk to be contacted by SB as main **speaker and guest**. A list of retirals from the Board would be ready for the AGM and Brendan, at present a co-opted member of the Board, agreed to be nominated as an elected Board member.

Travel Expo 08. No report. **AP** Brendan to contact John MaClean

Royal Mail: Reorganisation of Mail Services on the islands. Sandy had spoken again to Alan Reid MP. There was confusion over the recent petition (Who organised it?. Where was it sent? How were the forms collected? etc.). **AP** Sandy to re-contact Alan Reid MP about the advisability of contacting Postcom

Ferry Services Enquiry: Scottish Parliament Enquiry to be held at Oban: **AP** Sandy to attend. Replies in line with previously set policy by the Chamber were prepared to the preset questions set by the Enquiry .

Correspondence: Letter received from Councillor Mary Jean Devon regarding a pan island co-ordinating group for the island. Resolved: no action

Letter from Mull Mod asking for financial support for the next Mod. Agreed to inform Mod that CoC were unable constitutionally to provide financial support for non-commercial organisations but that it could offer non-financial support such as publicity on its website.

President's Report: The Scottish Chamber of Commerce were proposing the formation of a Highlands and Islands Chamber of Commerce Group. Agreed that we recommend Oban or Fort William for the investigatory meeting on 4th April.

Treasurer's report: the draft annual accounts had been sent to the R H Clements who had confirmed there would be no charge. The Treasurer reported a current balance of £4325.81.

Secretary's report: Work was still progressing on the cartoon on how to drive on Mull roads.

AOCB. Concern was expressed at the continuing chaos at Oban airport with members expressing some doubt as to the accuracy of recent reports in The Oban Times.

Michael reported that the Area Transport Guide could not be completed to date since neither City Link or Scotrail had prepared final timetables.

It was noted that Argyll and Bute had "de-listed" the improvements on the Salen to Tobermory road. **AP** Michael to draft email protesting at the further delay to this long-planned improvement to Mull roads.

Next Meeting: 7th April 08 at Glenforsa Hotel 8PM