

**Minutes of the R.A.G.S meeting held in the Salen Hotel at  
7.30pm on Monday the 8<sup>th</sup> October 2007.**

**Present:** Charlotte Mellis (Chair)  
Dave Jones (Vice-chair)  
Ruth Hawke (Secretary)  
Eve Eckstein (Committee)  
Finlay Christine (Police)  
Paul Forster (MCC)  
Councillor Mary-Jean Devon  
16 Members of R.A.G.S

Charlotte welcomed everyone and thanked them all for coming.

**Apologies;** James Hilder, Linda Devlin, John Coyle, Janet Nelson.

Thanks were given to Maureen Hilder for putting all the members into a database and to Jessie MacQuarie for her one woman membership drive which has netted another 200 members!

The current Membership Numbers are currently :

Members (Mull & Iona residents) 380

Associates : 340

This excludes 70 new local Members who have not yet been put on the database.

Charlotte then ran through what we've done since the last meeting, the minutes of which were made available, and reported on the meeting with Peter Ward with the minutes also available. Neil Sandberg, a supportive civil engineer was present at the meeting and spoke for the alternative to the causeway road. He said he thought it could be done but Peter Ward won't be moved. We must now try for a presentation at a Hearing with the Area Committee (not a presentation to an Area Committee as previously thought). The Councillors know about us already from the 130 Objections.

Neil Sandberg had proposed we try for a 20mph speed restriction through the village. Peter Ward had said there was no possibility but would look into it. Charlotte read the e-mail he sent after he'd looked into the procedures for getting the restriction but stated we don't have the criteria for trying. (We think the school, resource centre, hospital, Church and restaurant are reasons enough) If he is not willing to re-design the road for a 20mph limit, it will be the 60mph causeway. When asked, Mary-Jean said that if residents still wanted to pursue a 20mph zone then they could still lobby Councillors.

The bridge has its own natural order now. Finlay Christine from the Salen Police House raised concerns that the traffic light tailback would cause problems when the 2pm ferry traffic coincides with the school traffic and children crossing the road to get home. It was confirmed that there will only be traffic lights because there will be a causeway coming into the village under current proposals.

We need a 20mph limit from the Spar shop to beyond the present (southern) 30mph limit. Speed cameras probably wouldn't be an option. Finlay said that better road markings with rumble strips etc are the way forward. He also said the 20 people who use the resource centre and the 70 school children in the village should be reason enough for a "20's plenty". He will e-mail Charlotte with his support of this action from his personal viewpoint.

We have been given information that we can ask for a Hearing with the Area Committee so we need to get our Members to write a letter asking for 20mph restrictions in the village, and 600 metres of single lane road to remain. These must not be pro-forma letters but must express concerns for the safety of the village and also stress the beauty and the wildlife in the bay. It was confirmed that it was acceptable to send e-mails to Ken MacDonald, Clerk to the Area Committee and request that he distributes them to the other Councillors. The Councillors have to print off their e-mails and take them to the meetings so we can write to them also.

We must also ask RAGS Members for contributions towards hiring a civil engineer for a professional opinion on the alternative single lane road we want to keep, to strengthen our case. We need to lobby resident and associate members for a contribution. Charlotte asked if anyone knows of a civil engineer. Neil Sandberg can't do it as he is not a roads engineer and he has advised us not to go down that route. We need someone who is sympathetic to the island. Charlotte reported of contact with Rebecca Lush who put her in touch with a group called *Transform Scotland* which is a big pressure group who might be able to help. Maureen said that a lot of members haven't put e-mail addresses so we must send them mail shots instead. Copies of the letters should also be sent to Alan Reid the MSP. We will need letters of support for the 600 metre single road and the 20mph speed limit in the village from MCC and MICT.

Cliff said that there was a 6 month block set aside in the planning process for a public enquiry. Charlotte said we might be heading that way. Charlotte reported that the causeway would cost £140,000 quoted by Peter Ward seemed very little. The infill will be from the rest of the road works. Gus Stewart has received the two short films that Jamie Nelson made showing Doune Bridge and the Crianlarich underpass. We asked Gus if he could make a short of the Salen bridge and also the Dochart bridge in Killin which will clearly show that single lane roads work without the need for traffic lights. Another concern was expressed from the floor about ambulances being held up at the traffic lights.

Peter Ward stated that we need two lanes because of the volume of traffic using the road. Although our own survey showed up a count of nearly 800 cars on one busy Saturday, must we be forced to have traffic lights because it is busy on just 8 Saturdays a year?

We need to stress at the hearing our concerns over:

The danger of having 60mph traffic racing up to the village to be stopped by traffic lights.

Spoiling the beauty of the bay and the wildlife. The bay is the first place for stopping for wildlife spotting on the road from Craignure and we should not destroy it.

Finlay said that chicanes and priority arrows along with rumble strips work. In fact chicanes are being put into some areas. Charlotte said she had been in touch with the police in Tiree who felt that raised plateaux were more effective. We must challenge the 20mph decision. Loch Awe got their 40mph restriction lowered to 30 and we must find out how they did it. Also find out how Tobermory got their 20 limit. Peter Ward only uses rule books and guidelines set down.

Paul said there is a meeting of the MCC on Wednesday and he will report this meeting to them and will suggest a letter of support from them.

The advice received so far is that there could be a hearing possibly sometime in the New Year. We will need two people who will have 10 minutes each. We need to start thinking who would be able to do this important task. Finlay said that he can be quoted as an individual from his home address at the Salen Police House but cannot be quoted as a Strathclyde Policeman.

The meeting ended at 9pm.