

Minutes of the R.A.G.S meeting held in the Salen Hotel 9th June 2009

Present;

Charlotte Mellis (Chair)
Cliff Moisey (Vice Chair)
Mike Hogan (Treasurer)
Ruth Hawke (Secretary)
Jessie MacQuarie
Lorna McIntyre
Eve Eckstein
Ted Dowling
Norma Dowling

Apologies;

Finlay Christine, James Hilder, Gwent Pinchbeck (who has moved to Mull at 3 Aros Mains)

Charlotte welcomed everyone.

Progress report;

Charlotte reported that she had emailed Mary-Jean Devon re lack of response from the Council on John Russell's report. According to Stewart Turner they were waiting for Peter Ward's comments but would respond shortly.

RAGS has received a donation for £25.

Action Points

The website needs to be re-vamped as there seems to be some concerns about it being hard to understand. It needs to be clearer. Mike will re-organise it. Changes need to be made to the welcome page with less rather than more information given. It should be about what RAGS wants.. A clear statement should be made that the first aim of RAGS is to guard the integrity of the bay and preserve the integrity of the village. The welcome page should send a positive message with links to other pages. Road safety affects every one and we need to make a positive statement on that, also the need to preserve wildlife and the need to protect people crossing the roads.

Cliff suggested a What, Why, How approach.

What...RAGS is about and it's aims.

Why...RAGS was formed and what we are fighting with links to the Councils plans. It should state that their proposals are not supported and stress the potential to save costs in our alternative proposals.

How...pick out relative points from J R's report with links to the report.

Cliff will write an article for the local papers every two months to keep the fact that we are still fighting to the forefront of people's attention.

Charlotte reported that Keep Mull Moving has been given the amounts spent on mending Mull roads. Linda Cameron keeps Charlotte informed on what is happening but we should try to attend meetings too. Cliff and Mike will do so in future.

Charlotte said that Martin Caldwell who is working with KMM has experience of working with councils and we need to contact him to see if he will advise us too. KMMM and RAGS should work together. KMM is not against the new road upgrade but objects to all the available money being spent on the new road upgrade instead of spreading it all over Mull where it's needed.

Suggestions were made to look into car stickers and posters. Cliff produced the booklet which Finlay had passed on to RAGS with prices and designs etc (car stickers on page 27, posters on page 31) Car stickers should be simple i.e. R.A.G.S with the website underneath. These could be sold at the Salen show and to our members.

Posters should be kept in reserve for maximum impact when we know the Council has re-submitted the planning application. We may need to think of fund raising too.

Mike suggested a RAGS Ceilidh where we ask people to come either as Tramps in RAGS or in their Glad RAGS – this idea was well received and needs further discussion.

There have been reports of changes to the planning procedures which could make it harder to oppose.

New objections will need to be submitted each time there is a change.

Any other business;

Minutes to be sent to MCC, MICT, KMM, M-J Devon and Gordon Chalmers. Maybe R&A and Am Muileach too.

Mike to look into and ask James Hilder for a copy of the membership list on disc. We would like to keep our members in touch and that is the best way of doing so. PO cost of sending rule this method out.

Mike quoted figures from hits on the website which were encouraging. Number of visits in May 186, pages viewed 419 .Hits 635. For June so far there have been 581 hits

The accounts have been approved by an accountant.

Next meeting will be held on Tuesday Sept 15th. Cliff will ask Catherine McIver what the charges are for the new church meeting rooms to see if they are cheaper than the hotel.

The meeting ended at 9pm.