

Isle of Arran Community Council

Minute of Meeting held on Tuesday, 30th June 2009
Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick

Those present were:

Campbell Laing Chair, Alison Prince , Secretary, Harry Davidson , Treasurer, Charles Currie, John Inglis , Gillean Langley , Jenny Meade , Brenda Stewart , Cllr Margie Currie , Sgt R. MacKay Strathclyde Police

Also in attendance Jim Nichols (ACVS)

Apologies for absence

Howard Driver , Willie Kelso , Richard McMaster , Ian Small ,

Declaration of Interest

Nil

Minutes of Meeting held Tuesday 26th May 2009, were approved

Matters arising

1. Scottish Government/Arran Community Council (ACC) Pilot Scheme

It was noted that the situation remains as reported last month. Discussions had taken place between Arran Sports Association and SCVO, to explore the potential to match fund the Scottish Government £15000 with money from the Scottish Rural Development Programme.

Developments were awaited

2.2 Web Site

Progress on the web site was noted. A draft of content is expected shortly. Refinements will be made to the script, and a copy sent to CC members.

2.3 Housing

(Forestry Commission Land - Affordable Homes Feasibility Study)

John Inglis reported the meeting of the Steering Group he and Jim Nichols had attended yesterday. The consultants had presented an interim report indicating the findings of 19 sites they had considered. Discussions will now take place with NAC Planning, to confirm the most probable 6 sites to be evaluated in greater detail.

It was expected that a number of public consultation events will be held mid-August 2009.

3. Police matters

Sgt MacKay reported that action had been taken concerning the parking of trade vehicles on the brow of a hill in Blackwaterfoot, as raised at the CC Meeting last month. It was believed the problem had now been resolved.

The condition of Arran Roads was discussed under this item.

The Chair commended NAC for the improvements carried out recently to a number of roads on the Island.

Sgt MacKay advised that the work is not yet finished, as unfortunately heavy rain had washed away much of the 'adhesive' used to keep the surface layer in place. It was expected the contractors will return to make this work good. Jenny Meade welcomed this, particularly in regard to the Brodick – Lamlash section, which has been left uneven as a result. It was AGREED a letter would be sent to NAC, noting the efforts made.

Concern was expressed over the advisory road signs that had been erected around the Island. These did not appear to emphasise the responsibility of cyclists to act safely. Sgt MacKay advised that there were now banners on the boat, and cyclists and all road users have a responsibility. The advisory signs are now in use throughout Scotland.

Sgt MacKay advised of a recent survey he had conducted of 200 Arran residents, from which he had developed an Isle of Arran Policy Plan.

Local priorities were seen as:

Driver behaviour

Youth disorder and underage drinking

Bogus workmen approaching vulnerable residents.

He outlined recent efforts that had been made against each of these issues, and future initiatives that he planned.

4. Correspondence

Correspondence was reported as under:

4.1. A letter received from Cabinet Minister John Swinney, concerning the future role of Community Council's under the Community Empowerment agenda.

4.2. A letter from Mr Angus Smith of Arran Wood Fuels, concerning the development of a proposal to compost waste on the Island. This might allow all garden and wood waste to be used by residents on Arran.

It was AGREED that a letter would be sent to NAC supporting the principles behind the business as proposed.

4.3. Concern expressed regarding the proposal to introduce bollards in Middle Road Whiting Bay. This road is not a Public Road, but has been used by local residents for over 20 years.

It was AGREED Alison Prince will write to Mr Crawford Forsyth (Traffic Management, NAC) and Mr Ronnie Small (NAC) objecting to the proposed bollards

5. Housing

John Inglis reported the progression of the feasibility study that will shortly commence on Arran to explore the potential use of Forestry Commission land for Affordable Housing.

A public presentation from a representative of an ongoing project on Mull relating to development in forestry land on Mull had taken place on 13th May 2009.

6. Arran Development Plan

Following a round-the-Island survey, a draft paper had been circulated prior to the meeting.

The draft paper was considered in detail, and the document was accepted by the meeting.

The Chair thanked Alison Prince and John Inglis for the production of the document and plan.

7. Planning

In the absence of Howard Driver, the following planning submissions were noted:

- Upper floor, Bay News, Whiting Bay
- Site west of "Goatfell"
- Site North of North Dunfion Farm
- Kelvinhaugh Farm
- West of Ardmore House, Whiting Bay

AOCB

- John Inglis reported that the Forestry Service had increased their charge for firewood collection from £15 per annum, to £400 per annum. It was AGREED to discuss Forestry matters at the next meeting.

- Gillean Langley reported that there is no bus connection to the 8.20 boat from Machrie or Pirnmill. The Chair AGREED to raise this with Steven Kirk of Stagecoach.
- It was reported that road furniture is not being collected at the completion of the works. The Chair will raise with Mr Ronnie Small, NAC.
- Cllr Currie AGREED to investigate the removal of children's swings, on safety grounds, from 2 locations
- The Regional meeting of the Scottish Association of Community Councils will take place in Paisley on 22nd August 2009.

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 28th July 2009, at 7.30 pm in Ormidale Sports Pavilion, Brodick.