

Isle of Arran Community Council

Minute of Meeting held on Tuesday, 25th August 2009
Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick

Those present were:

Campbell Laing Chair, Alison Prince , Secretary, Harry Davidson , Treasurer,
Charles Currie, John Inglis , Gillean Langley , Brenda Stewart , Richard McMaster , Ian
Small , Cllr Margie Currie , Kenneth Gibson MSP

Sgt R. MacKay Strathclyde Police

Also in attendance Jim Nichols (ACVS), Jennifer Lyon (Arran Banner)

Apologies for absence

Howard Driver , Willie Kelso, Jenny Meade

Declaration of Interest

Nil

1. **Minutes of Meeting held Tuesday 30th June 2009**, were approved

2. **Matters arising**

2.1 **Scottish Government/Arran Community Council (ACC) Pilot Scheme**

An application to match the Scottish Government £15000 with a similar amount of money from the Scottish Rural Development Programme is now under consideration.

2.2 **Roads**

Campbell Laing reported a letter of thanks had been sent to Mr R Small, NAC

In respect of the work carried out between Brodick and Lamlash, Sgt MacKay reported the machine would be on Arran again in about 3 weeks, to retexture the road. The timescale for replacing the white lines was not known.

Brenda Stewart enquired about the section at the top of Lamlash Hill. Cllr Margie Currie advised this was not part of the programme.

It was noted that there would be long detours when the work commences on the String Road.

2.3 **Licence Applications**

Cllr Currie advised that it was not possible for Licence Applications to be sent to the CC by paper copy. Campbell Laing felt that the CC should be able to receive paper copy, as not everyone has access to a computer.

2.4 **Middle Road – Whiting Bay**

It was confirmed the existing road could not be improved. NAC did not believe the road was fit-for-purpose for additional traffic from the new development.

2.5 **Police Issues**

Sergeant MacKay expressed his concern at the references in the minutes to 'heavy police presence' and 'aggressive policing'. Whilst he was not present at the last meeting, he felt that the minutes sounded like the policing arrangements at a G8 summit.

He stated that a high visibility policy is a key tool now, and that people are more comfortable as a result.

Campbell Laing said that the issue was more the attitude of the Police when individuals are stopped.

Sgt MacKay replied that he knew his personnel, and could not see them acting in that manner. If people had concerns, they should come and see him, in order to identify if they have a problem.

Charles Currie gave an example of one officer who always wore his hat in a straight down manner. He felt this was reminiscent of 'an SS Officer'. He added that, on a holiday island, people should be welcomed with a smile.

Sgt MacKay replied that, in the past people of Arran have been used to a certain style of policing. He held up an A4 picture of 'Dixon of Dock Green'. The culture now is modern policing, and if an officer chooses not to smile, that is his decision. He repeated that, if someone has a complaint, they should come to the office. He cannot force his officers to smile.

Cllr Currie advised of a recent discussion she had with Inspector Ness, in which he had stated he was very happy with the policing on Arran. She advised that the incidences referred to should be taken in context and balance.

John Inglis stated that, in his 9 years serving as a Community Councillor, it was only recently he had received complaints in the Corrie/Sannox area.

Campbell Laing observed that both the Tourist Office and the Post Office have to smile at people.

Sgt Mackay pointed out that the police were not just there to help tourists. At the pier, they were looking for people with warrants etc.

Campbell Laing added that the police do a good job, but it was their attitude to people that was of concern.

Sgt MacKay said they would have to agree to differ, adding that the only negative vibes were from the CC. He had received many letters complementing them on the work they do. He repeated that, if people have a bona-fide complaint they should go to see him.

Ian Small gave 2 recent examples, which the Chair advised should be taken up with Sgt MacKay by the individuals concerned.

3. Police matters

Local policing on Arran was discussed.

Sgt MacKay circulated copies of the Arran policing plan, which had been drawn up following a consultation with a cross-section of residents on the Island. He reported that there had been significant progress in terms of both speeding cars driven by youths and large groups of youths congregating in Brodick. In addition, action had been taken in respect to cold calling by workmen.

Sgt MacKay reported that the biggest issue remaining was that of speeding motorists. He advised that many motorists were still driving at speeds in excess of 40mph within the villages, despite education with the use of the speed gun. He mentioned also that there had been 5 cases of drink-driving within the previous 8 days.

An invitation had been extended for a representative from the CC to attend a meeting of the Arran Alcohol Forum on 21st October 2009 (venue High School)

4. Correspondence

Correspondence was reported as under:

- 4.1. A letter received from Joyce Beasley, concerning road safety on the Island.
- 4.2. A letter from David Hammond, North Ayrshire Council advising of a Community Council Toolkit that would be launched on 10th September in Ardrossan at a group meeting with other community councils. It was AGREED that Alison Prince and John Inglis would attend for Arran CC.
- 4.3. It was AGREED to join the Scottish Islands Federation at a cost of £20.
- 4.4. Correspondence from Arran CVS advising of a Community Conference to be held in Kilmarnock. Alison Prince advised she was attending the event.
- 4.5. A letter from Mr D Mackay regarding the Ferry infrastructure review. The Chair AGREED to reply to the letter. It was agreed that whatever the outcome of the review, in terms of RET, there should be the flexibility to decide locally what is best for the Island.

- 4.6 A consultation document relating to Single equalities re Health was distributed.
- 4.7 The Chair gave a précis of a letter received from the RSPB regarding the possible Multi Fuel Power Station at Hunterston. Kenneth Gibson MSP added information from his researches.

5. Housing

In respect of the proposed development at Corrie Quarry, it was reported that work is underway to establish the market valuation of the properties.

It was again noted that the initial list of possible sites within Phase of the feasibility study that explored the potential use of Forestry Commission land for Affordable Housing was not to be regarded as final 'recommendations'.

6. Arran Development Plan

Brenda Stewart requested confirmation that the intended consultation of the CC Development Plan was only for Village Improvement Committee members, or whether the meetings were open to the public.

Campbell Laing confirmed the meetings were not open to the public.

7. Planning

The Chair reported, based on information from Howard Driver relating to:

- Nursery Site Brodick
- Above Bay News, Whiting Bay
- Douglas Hotel
- Woodside Cattery, Kildonan
- Garden Centre, Dippen
- Ardmore, Whiting Bay

AOCB

- Jenny Meade had represented Arran CC at the Regional meeting of the Scottish Association of Community Councils, which took place in Paisley on 22nd August 2009. 45 CC's had turned up for the meeting.
- John Inglis reported that Jim Lees would make a further attempt to renew the lease for Corrie Harbour.
- Ian Small reported that work had commenced on the new walkway in Brodick.
- Kenneth Gibson MSP updated the CC on a range of matters of national significance.
- Discussion took place regarding the appropriateness of the annual fairground at Brodick. It was AGREED that the fair continues to be an appropriate feature for the future.

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 29th September 2009, at 7.30 pm in Ormidale Sports Pavilion, Brodick.