

Isle of Arran Community Council

MINUTES

of meeting held at the Ormidale Sports Centre, February 22nd 2011

Those present:

John Inglis, Chair, Harry Davidson, Treasurer, Alison Prince, Secretary, Ian Small, Ian McCallum, Charles Currie, Richard McMaster, Jim Henderson, Willie Kelso, Brenda Stewart, Steph Hill, Liz Evans, Bill Calderwood, Cllr Margie Currie. Also present were Sgt Bob Mackay, Brodie Pearcey, NAC and Jennifer Lyon of the Arran Banner, plus three members of the public.

Apologies:

Ealána Swinton Boyle , Jim Nichols

11/2/1 Minutes of last meeting:

'Attendance' – B. Pierce should read B. Pearcey

11/1/3/6 – 'Lochranza' should read 'Lamlash'

With the exception of these two amendments, the minutes were agreed to be a true record of the meeting.

11/2/2 Matters arising

- 11/2/2/1 The Sports Association application for matched funding has been turned down. The applicants intend to pursue further possibilities to access funding. Anna Gilbert of the Scottish Government department concerned has been notified.
- 11/2/2/2 Harry Davidson reported that shore-defence bags are now in place on Brodick beach. Brodie Pearcey said 'only a few' of these were now visible, as the tide was covering them with sand and shingle, and grass would grow over them.
- 11/2/2/3 Ferry Committee: MV Saturn is not at present guaranteed to be the additional vessel for summer use on the Brodick-Ardrossan run. There is hope for a 7.20pm crossing from Brodick and back on Saturday nights and a Sunday morning sailing at 8.20 am.
- 11/2/2/4 Steph Hill pointed out that dog bins are still needed in Lochranza. **Brodie Pearcey will investigate the possibilities.** Brenda Stewart thanked him for the provision of bins in Lamlash.
- 11/2/2/5 Community Theatre: The situation has largely been resolved, with the appointment of John Baraclough as approved technician, covered by official insurance. The status of other technical helpers or stand-ins is not yet quite clear.
- 11/2/2/6 Planning: Brenda Stewart said she was getting no plans affecting Lamlash. Charles Currie reported that he had received no relevant information, but **would ensure that the weekly list of Arran applications was e-mailed to all members.**

11/2/3 Housing

- Willie Kelso drew attention to £65,000 houses being built as a 'Retirement Park' in Burnhouse, about 8 miles from Irvine, and suggested that such a model might be very suitable for Arran.

11/2/4 Roads

- 11/2/4/1 Liz Evans raised the question of Pirnmill footbridge, washed away in recent storms. Margie Currie said the same thing might happen to a replacement bridge and suggested that it would be better to widen and strengthen the road bridge, which could incorporate a pedestrian footpath, though there was no firm proposal as yet. John Inglis felt this was a good idea, provided the footpath did not narrow the roadway. **Margie Currie to report back to NAC and include Liz Evans in any discussions.**

- 11/2/4/2 Ian Small had written to NAC prior to the bad weather on the breaking up of the new surface laid between Lamlash and Whiting Bay. Angus Bodie blamed CalMac for slowness in delivering road-mending materials but also said it was cheaper to lay the road in sections and repair the gaps between sections subsequently. Campbell Dempster had come to look at the state of Arran's roads but did not wish to contact Ian Small and has not to date reported back. Brodie Pearcey said 10-12 tonnes of road materials were coming in every week via CalMac for road patching. It was agreed that £300,000 had been wasted on a badly-done job. **The Secretary to write to NAC.**
- 11/2/4/3 Charles Currie pointed out that the drains on the new String road were inadequate for their purpose, but advice to this effect had been ignored.

11/2/5 Police matters:

- 11/2/5/1 Sgt Mackay answered questions about the provision of late buses, saying it cost £700 to put on 3 buses following a dance. He pointed out that there is the 10.10pm bus from Auchrannie, and suggested that young people could organise themselves better, arranging sleepovers with friends etc. Or a group of parents could organise a Dial-a-bus service.
- 11/2/5/2 Alcohol Forum: Harry Davidson and Ian Small had spoken to Brodick Improvements about making a financial donation to this. Corrie had given £50. Chris Atkins will be making a video on the problem, using young people as actors. Richard McMaster volunteered to be ACC's representative on the Forum.
- 11/2/5/3 Triathlon: Brenda Stewart and John Inglis agreed that the people running it seemed very professional, proposing to bring buses over to cut number of competitors' cars and discussing with CalMac which ferries to use. Sgt Mackay was not enthusiastic, pointing out that big issues were involved, and a massive planning job. Alison Prince cited objections raised by Bruno Baumgärtner in a letter to Margie Currie and to the press, and said it might have been better to start on a smaller scale. Sgt Mackay agreed.

11/2/6 Correspondence

- 11/2/6/1 The secretary read a letter from Justine Greener of the Westminster Government to Katy Clark, regretting that Arran was currently excluded from a plan to reduce fuel tax to most island localities. Margie Currie said Arran's high prices were due to the retailers charging more to compensate for low sales volume. **The secretary to write to Justine Greener, protesting at the omission of Arran from the fuel reduction scheme.**
- 11/2/6/2 Brodick Fair. Harry Davidson had received a letter about the annual fair, requesting its return to Arran this summer. He pointed out that last year they had stayed 4 weeks rather than the agreed 3 and had caused a lot of damage to the grass. There had been many complaints about the noise. Ian Small had initially agreed that a small fair could come for 3 weeks if it made a donation to Brodick Improvements (which never happened.) Much of the lower ground is now lost to an extended car park and the fair will take up almost all the remaining grass area. **The secretary to write to NAC Licensing, stating the area available to them, which must not exceed 50% of the available grass. The duration of the visit to be limited to 3 weeks, and a contribution to Brodick suggested.**
- 11/2/6/3 ASCC conference is calling for topics. Ian McCallum spoke of the Muirkirk example of good practice in community representation.

11/2/7 AOCB

- During the current inspection of the High School, HM Inspectors were keen to consult with the community. Most members thought this a good intention, but Charles Currie felt it was likely to be unproductive.

In the absence of Jim Nichols, minutes were taken by the secretary. Red type indicates agreed actions.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 29th March 2011.