

Isle of Arran Community Council

MINUTES

of meeting held at the Ormidale Sports Pavilion, August 30th 2011

Those present:

John Inglis, Chair, Harry Davidson, Treasurer, Alison Prince, Secretary, Charles Currie, Ian Small, Willie Kelso, Brenda Stewart, Liz Evans, Steph Hill, William Calderwood, Richard McMaster

Also present were Kenneth Gibson MSP, Angus Bodie - NAC, Gus Macleod - NAC, Cllr Margie Currie, Howard Driver - Arran Banner, and 12 members of the public.

Apologies

Jim Nichols - Arran CVS.

A presentation was made to Alison Prince who is retiring from the Community Council after 15 years. The chairman thanked her for her commitment and contribution.

Items 2 and 3 of the published agenda were held over until the September meeting to facilitate the visit from Mr Bodie and the other items scheduled.

Minutes of last meeting - July 26th 2011:

In relation to 11/7/4/1 (Letter from Aran Sports Association), Brenda Stewart clarified that the funding was actually Scottish Government funding which was co-ordinated by the ACC.

With these amendments, the Minutes were adopted.

Proposed Harry Davidson Seconded Brenda Stewart

11/8/5 Roads- Mr Bodie NAC Head of Infrastructure

Mr Bodie gave a brief outline of his responsibilities and the scope of his role. With specific regards the roads responsibility and in response to an initial question he confirmed that NAC are preparing an Asset Management Plan which should be complete by Christmas. Nationally there is a £2b backlog of road maintenance and NAC are part of the National review of road conditions and funding requirements. The Asset Management Plan will form the basis of the requested "Arran plan" for roads submitted by the community council recently. The NAC forecast for road spend this year on Arran is approx £1m which is 25% of the total NAC roads budget. The ACC secretary had forwarded some specific points which had previously been raised and Mr Bodie started to address these in turn.

a. The reported £95 costs of pot hole repairs was inaccurate and the real cost is closer to £10.

b. A suggested "Find and Fix" methodology had relevance in some instances however the staff that would carry out this procedure needed additional training and committed resources. Mr Bodie will discuss this matter further with his staff from NAC.

c. "Sand Traps" at Corrie and Shiskine" had resulted as a consequence of using too much material. This was the first time such a process had been completed using local grit and future repairs of this type would use less grit. The cost for these repairs was quoted as £65k and Mr Bodie agreed the white lines still had to be painted.

At this time several ACC representatives highlighted the need for better community notification for repairs of this type which would also help understanding of what work was being undertaken.

Also highlighted road works signage still left on road side. These will be removed. The situation regarding trenching was also raised at this time and the quality of clearing questioned. Trenching in many parts of the island was an ongoing work in progress.

d. Did change of class from A to C for North end have any budget saving impact? Roads classification had no impact on budgets or standards or repair. Conditions for both were the same. It was suggested by a community council member that the classification may be more relevant to rural street lighting requirements than road standards of repair.

e. Faulty 20MPH safety lighting at Brodick School. Problem was fixed 9th Sept. Charles highlighted that they were coming on 1 hr early and this was promised to be fixed.

f. Condition of verges was raised and assurances given that regular inspections are ongoing. Lack of funding will prevent strengthening work unless essential.

g. Mr Bodie also answered a question regarding the repairs to Brodick beach. He felt the repair's had generally been successful but further work was required related to planting of grass which will require closures and temporary fencing and that NAC were still learning about the sand movements on the beach.

A question was asked with regards to Lamlash beach area in relation to Scottish Water related applications which had used Rock Armour on Lamlash shore. It has been washed away onto the beach and thus the grass shore is being totally eroded and disappearing fast. Mr Bodie indicated that there was no money at present for these repairs but it would be added to the list for the future.

h. Mr Bodie indicated that the roads condition survey results indicate that percentage of repair needed on Arran was highest in Scotland and therefore our roads could be seen as the worst in Scotland and there was no quick fix.

The question of general repair quality was discussed and who was responsible for signing off repairs. It was noted repairs don't last.

The situation with recent repairs was due to a "bad load" of material and had been fixed at contractors cost.

Many other aspects of our road conditions were highlighted including

Glen Rosa Road End Bridge significant pot holes.

Effectiveness of the Jet Patcher/ road sweepers

String road kerbing

Water discharging onto roads on recently upgraded sections of string. – The local land owners have a responsibility in this area and apparently NAC have served notice on approx 6 cases so far this year for improvements.

Condition of cundies and their maintenance.

NAC were encouraged to look at the cause of the problems rather than simply apply temporary fixes.

Technical survey's were carried out across Scotland roads to monitor any deterioration and Mr Bodie agreed that he would forward the results of the Arran roads for our information.

High level of costs for repairs to private cars and the complexity of the NAC claims form.

Increased volumes when RET is introduced.

Comparisons were given in relation to the condition of Skye roads and the approach used in that area.

All the above was noted by Mr Bodie and he stated he will be happy to return in approx six months to discuss these and any other factor's after completion of the Strategic plan, and to discuss the implications for Arran.

Future road improvement plans were mentioned as follows. A note will be published in the "Banner" in advance of the work.

Sannox – 2.5 km stretch to be resurfaced starting 20th Sept. This will require road restrictions.

Lochranza – Near Distillery. Starting In October.

Catacol – starting 21st Oct.

Blackwaterfoot – Front of Kinloch hotel. Resurface and white lining of car park area scheduled for Oct/Nov.

All dates above are weather dependent.

The cost of these in estimated to be around £575k with work already completed costing £340k.

11/8/6 Matters arising

- 11/7/2/1 Still no response received in respect of the specific planning issue related to a small site in Brodick.
- 11/7/9 Lamlash public toilets. Repairs started 17th Aug still not complete.
- 11/7/11/3 Sannox cemetery. NAC are investing in more land. Will update ACC when confirmed.
- 11/7/11/1 Proposed Closure of Craigielea Care Home. Following discussions with NAC and owners the closure notice has been rescinded and all parties are working to resolve outstanding issues. It was also confirmed that an increase of 10 places has been included in a revision for to the plans for the proposed new Montrose house. Plans will included nursing care facilities.
- 11/7/11/2 Arran Health Delivery Model / Arran Out-of-hours cover/service. At a recent partnership meeting it was agreed that there would be a further 3 months for consultation with all parties and that public input was encouraged. Jim Nichols (ACVS Mgr.) will consolidate our concerns.

11/8/7 Police matters

No police representation at this months meeting.

The situation regarding an incident involving timber transport lorries at Whiting Bay was discussed briefly but at this stage all facts were not available. We were advised that no police action was planned as no personal injury had occurred.

11/8/8 Correspondence

Nothing to report.

11/8/9 Waste disposal.

The subject of moving "green waste" to the mainland was discussed and what alternatives could be considered to recycle locally. Mr. MacLeod advised that the controls required were very specific and needed to be carefully managed. Food waste contamination was high risk.

NAC have no current plans to provide local recycle facilities but will consider any village plans for potential funding.

Recycling of unwanted items which cannot be handled thru ARCAS was also discussed and a member of the public mentioned a "swap shop" website which is in operation in the Lake District and he will forward details to Alison.

Various other examples were highlighted including wormeries and also schemes in other areas which will need to be followed up.

11/8/10 RET and Ferry Comm.

No further information was available with respect to RET.

The ferry committee have advised that they have discussed our concerns and will be in touch when they have agreed a proposal. It was advised that they have a standard agenda and any points to be raised should be submitted thru our representative.

The Cal-Mac discounted winter fare offers will not be repeated this year due to adverse feedback from the island businesses.

11/8/11 Local Development Plan

An initial response from NAC to the additional points raised has recently been received and circulated for comment.

11/8/12 Pirnmill bridge.

Road bridge repairs have now been completed.

Still require to find funding to allow replacement footbridge.

Mr Bodie confirmed NAC is currently preparing a bid for Council's Capital Funding for next financial year as there is no approved funding for this current year and he suggested a cost of a minimum of £20,000.

The Local ACC member again voiced the community's concerns over safety at this area.

11/8/13 AOCB

Charles again raised the subject of the siting of the dog bins in Shiskine and Gus confirmed the current site was the most suitable for safety etc.

The situation regarding the demolition of a home in Lochranza without planning permission was raised and Mr MacLeod confirmed that this was not strictly required unless the building was "Listed" or had specific conditions attached to it. It was also mentioned that asbestos contamination may have been a risk but this was confirmed as inaccurate. Item to be carried forward to next month for further discussion.

It was proposed that John Lamont be co-opted to the Community council to fill the vacancy open for Whiting Bay. This was agreed and John will attend future meetings.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 27th September 2011.