

Isle of Arran Community Council

MINUTES

of meeting held at the Ormidale Sports Pavilion, 31st January 2012

Those present:

John Inglis, Chair, Harry Davidson, Treasurer, William Calderwood, Secretary, Liz Evans, John Lamont, Ian Small, Willie Kelso, Brenda Stewart, Steph Hill, Jim Henderson and Richard McMaster

Also present were Gus Macleod - NAC, Cllr Margie Currie, Sgt R Mackay, Jenny Lyon - Arran Banner, Jim Nichols - Arran CVS. and 8 members of the public.

Apologies for absence

Alan Macbeth

12/1/1 Minutes of last meeting – 29th November 2011:

The Minutes of the meeting held 29th November 2011 were adopted and can be viewed at <http://www.arrancommunitycouncil.org.uk/records.php>

Proposed Harry Davidson Seconded Willie Kelso

12/1/2 Matters Arising

12/1/2/1 Waste Disposal

A reminder was issued to keep this issue live on the local improvement committees.

12/1/2/2 Lighting - Blackwaterfoot

Nothing further to report.

12/1/2/3 Community Council Insurance

Zurich Insurance are contacting the Secretary with a quotation.

12/1/2/4 Scottish Islands Federation Representative

The £20 annual subscription has been paid.

12/1/2/5 Craigielea Nursing Home

Harry Davidson reported that everything was satisfactory relating to the transfer of former residents to new accommodation.

12/1/2/6 My Bus

Bill Calderwood advised that he was attending a meeting with SPT and Red Cross on 7th February to discuss the My Bus service on Arran. Brenda Stewart, Cllr Currie and members of the Elderly Forum were also attending the meeting.

12/1/3 Ferry Matters and RET

12/1/3/1 Concessionary Fares

It was noted that Cllr Reid had attended the recent CTJC meeting in January. Minutes were not yet published but it had been indicated that there would be no increase to the current fare of £2.40. It was also mentioned that there was to be a change in the times related to rail travel which would not apply for journeys to / from hospital or for journeys connecting with ferries. A valid ferry pass would need to be presented.

12/1/3/2 Ferries Review

Bill Calderwood spoke of the current review process, Copies of the Review documentation were available at various locations on the Island, including ACVS Office Lamlash and Brodick Library.

Responses to the document were to be encouraged from individuals, groups and collectives of groups.

It was noted that this was in the context of the proposed introduction of RET from 2014 for Passengers, Cars, Lt Commercials (up to 6mtrs) and coaches.

Cllr Currie spoke of the withdrawal of RET for Commercials, and the re-introduction of discounting for Commercial vehicles on the current trial routes

Concern was expressed over the proposed 2 year delay (to 2014). It was reported that the Ferry Committee had taken this up, and had been informed that the decision was relating was related to the new harbour infrastructure at Brodick.

John Inglis reported an e-mail he had received relating to the high cost of the harbour infrastructure.

Cllr Currie confirmed the proposed new linkspan was needed. She advised that she would be raising at the forthcoming Ferry Committee meeting the constraints that had been faced with Ardrossan this year. However, she urged that people think of the implications before suggesting a move from Ardrossan.

There was no further information relating to any interest by Western Ferries in terms of Brodick to Ardrossan.

12/1/4 Police matters

Sgt Mackay reported that there were no issues currently.

Brenda Stewart felt that there were still problems with fast cars in the villages. Sgt Mackay indicated that the police are regularly out on patrol with the speed gun.

12/1/5 Correspondence

(See reference to e-mail in 12/1/3/2)

As this was the first meeting a summary page was distributed to the meeting. Main points included:

- ACC attended the Network Engagement meeting in Irvine - Minutes posted on line.
- Confirmation that our submission to the Rural Education consultation had been submitted following discussion with Mr Auld and a Primary Head.
- We received the results of the Sunday sailing Survey. **Approximately 500 responses.**
 - 49% were in favour of keeping the current timetable.
 - 17% were in favour of having a 07:00 sailing with the 09:45 sailing being removed.
 - 34% were in favour of having a 07:00 sailing with the 12:30 sailing being removed.
- Meeting with SPT Assist Chief Exec. regarding Concessionary Fares scheme had been held in December. The SPT co-operation was noted and appreciated. ACC and Cllr Currie attended. Notes issued.
- Scottish Govt work group has been established to discuss future structures for CC's

12/1/6 Treasurers Report

Harry Davidson reported on-going dialogue with NAC relating to the accounting methodology used by the CC (Project account and Administration Account). NAC are now requesting further information relating to the difference between the 2 accounts.

12/1/7 Reshaping Care for Elderly People

Jim Nichols spoke of the involvement of Arran CVS, as part of the 3rd Sector Interface in North Ayrshire, in establishing a project to increase socialisation activities for elderly people. Funding for this is predominantly from NHS Ayrshire and Arran and NAC Social Services. On Arran, this would include the recruitment of a person with responsibility for establishing and supporting the development of a number of lunch clubs, and the provision of information and advice on the range of services available to them and how to access them.

The CC supported the initiative, and noted the project.

12/1/8 Invasive Species

Brenda Stewart spoke of the actions taken relating to the proposed eradication of Japanese Knotweed etc. An e-mail had been received from Stewart Brabbs offering to approach other organisations. This might include NAC, NFU, Fisheries and National Trust.

The Community Council were requested to motivate volunteers. Stewart could provide survey equipment (GPS) and maps.

Brenda has contacted the village improvement committees, and will now be contacting golf clubs, local businesses and major private landowners.

A view was expressed that the survey information could be checked retrospectively with the use of Google Earth.

It was noted that training would be given in how to deal with the Knotweed.

Ian Small felt that the initiative should be taken forward by other local committees, in conjunction with NAC and SEPA, and spoke of the necessity to follow the relevant rules and regulations.

Gus Macleod stated that most of the Knotweed is moved around naturally, with little moved by contractors.

Cllr Currie spoke of the need for a licence in respect of the chemicals to be used. Gus confirmed that a licence was required in public areas, but not in private areas.

It was reported that knotweed is encroaching onto private properties, which is believed to be an offence. It was suspected that it was an offence for a landowner to allow such encroachment. It was stated that such a site in Lamlash is encroaching on 50+ houses.

John Lamont enquired if winter spraying helped alleviate the problem.

John Inglis suggested the way forward be for Stewart Braggs to be invited to speak at a public meeting, and, if possible, for a training session the same day. It was AGREED that Brenda Stewart would contact Stewart and make the necessary arrangements.

12/1/9 Housing

John Inglis reported that, at the recent Rural Housing Group meeting, it had been announced that the development of 56 houses in Lamlash would now be through Irvine Housing Association rather than Trust Housing. Dialogue is currently on-going between Irvine Housing Association and Trust regarding the property management aspects.

John paid tribute to NAC Housing Services for the efforts they had made to ensure this project could still go ahead.

12/1/10 Health

Brenda Stewart reported on the forthcoming Public meeting to be held 8th February 2012 in Brodick hall. This meeting (jointly presented by NHS and NAC) would receive proposals relating to the delivery of future health services on Arran, and the new Montrose House.

12/1/11 Roads

Cllr Currie outlined the NAC investment plan in relation to roads.

A bid will be submitted to the Timber Transport Fund.

It was AGREED to invite Angus Bodie to the March meeting of the CC.

Willie Kelso spoke of problems at Machrie caused by burn encroachment. Gus Macleod advised that NAC have requested 2 contractor quotations for this work. Willie also raised problems regarding the String Road and enquired if the patching vehicle could return.

Gus advised that he has requested the planing vehicle, but currently there was no money available for this work.

Richard McMaster commented on the condition of the edges of the roads generally at present, and felt that these are currently the most important issue on the Island.

12/1/12 AOCB

12/1/12/1 Involvement of Young Person on Community Council

Bill Calderwood felt that feedback is required from younger people. Cllr Currie suggested that going to the High School would be more effective. Bill Calderwood to contact Mr Auld to follow up possibility to meet with school council.

Harry Davidson felt that the CC should also encourage the under 30 age group to become interested in CC.

Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 28th February 2012.