

# Isle of Arran Community Council

## MINUTES

of meeting held at the Ormidale Sports Pavilion, 28<sup>th</sup> February 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 Gary Robertson - MD Calmac, Robbie Brown – Calmac, 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

### 12/2/1 Minutes of last meeting – 31<sup>st</sup> January 2012:

The Minutes of the meeting held 31<sup>st</sup> January were adopted and can be viewed at <http://www.arrancommunitycouncil.org.uk/records.php>

Proposed Harry Davidson      Seconded Willie Kelso

### 12/2/2 Matters Arising

#### 12/2/2/1 Invasive Species

Brenda Stewart reported that Stewart Brabbs was making an application to the newly announced Coastal Communities Fund (CCF) in respect of the eradication of Japanese Knotweed on Arran. Brenda undertook to get Stewart to contact the United Reform Church, who have requested information.

#### 12/2/2/2 Waste disposal

Brenda reported that Stewart Brabbs had made a similar recommendation in respect of potentially applying to the CCF for funding for this initiative.

#### 12/2/2/3 Community Council Insurance

Two quotations have been received from “Zurich” and “Keegan & Pennykidd” both within a few pounds of each other (£53 and £60). Zurich is our existing provider and due to the fact that we will not need to pay for ASCC membership is cheaper than last year. The other company it transpires is the same as the Brodick Improvements Committee use and they have not experienced any problems and can confirm that the fees have been relatively stable. Levels of cover are comparable and both companies offer special events cover if required on a per event basis.

It was agreed to continue with the existing provider.

#### 12/2/2/4 School Council

The Secretary had contacted the school, and a meeting has been arranged for 16<sup>th</sup> March 2012. It was agreed that Bill Calderwood, Liz Evans and Brenda Stewart would represent the CC, together with Morag Campbell of Arran CVS.

#### 12/2/2/5 Health Public Meeting

Brenda Stewart reported that the Public Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> February had been attended by over 40 people.

This meeting, (jointly presented by NHS and NAC), had received proposals relating to the delivery of future health services on Arran, and the new Montrose House Care Home.

**12/2/2/6 My Bus**

Bill Calderwood advised that he had, in company with Arran Elderly Forum and Cllr Currie, attended a meeting with SPT and Red Cross on 7<sup>th</sup> February where a range of issues relating to the My Bus service were discussed.

**12/2/3 Ferry Matters and RET**

**12/2/3/1 Gary Robertson – MD Caledonian MacBrayne**

Mr Gary Robertson had accepted the invitation from Arran CC to attend the meeting. He spoke of how Calmac try to work through local communities through a primary interface, and in the case of Arran, this is the Ferry Committee (FC), on which the CC is represented. He asked that generally queries and issues be fed through the FC.

He spoke in some detail relating to the recent incident at Ardrossan, which had resulted in the Caledonian Isles having to be taken out of service for a period, and the need to bring Isle of Arran onto the route from lay-up in Campbeltown.

He gave considerable detail in terms of the logistics of getting a relief crew to Campbeltown, and the subsequent decision to run a 'freight only' service on the evening the I o Arran arrived at Ardrossan. This included an explanation as to why it was not possible to sail with passengers that evening.

He said it was felt essential to shift freight traffic out of the way, as otherwise it would have been even more disruptive to car traffic. At the time, there were not enough crew available to sail with passengers.

He reported that he was looking at short, medium and long term issues relating to Ardrossan. Short term included decisions relating to wind speeds at the harbour. Medium term included fendering at the port, whilst long term aspects included the infrastructure such as breakwaters.

Sailings to Wemyss Bay and Gourock were not popular with customers. The community has been involved in the past in discussions regarding other ports.

Turning to all-year-sailings at Lochranza and changes to the Sunday sailings on the Brodick route, he explained how Calmac need to go back to the Scottish Government if there are no compensating benefits.

Currently the figures for Lochranza are similar to Tarbert/Portavadie, but over the last few years the Lochranza figures have been dropping off, whilst other routes are growing. He asked if community users could demonstrate how the service might grow.

The route provides passage for hazardous cargoes, and seems to be relatively high volume, but he would need to have insight into who would use the route.

Bill Calderwood spoke of the support from both Argyll and Islay, both who feel the route is important particularly in terms of whisky tourism. Mr Robertson spoke also of the importance of the Hopscotch tickets.

Steph Hill spoke of the desire of the Lochranza community to see a daily return to Claonog/Tarbert in winter.

In general terms, there has been a gradual decline in numbers over the last few years on Brodick – Ardrossan. There has been a 3 times faster decline on Lochranza to Claonog. Mr Robertson felt there was the need to put a decent case to the Ferry Review in this regard. In terms of Sunday Sailings, he was open to suggestions. He was aware that there was a perception locally that the midday sailing could be replaced by an 8.20am sailing, but the data did not support this view. Most sailings are 2/3 full.

Any timetable changes would have to come into effect with the new Contract of Service in 2013.

There was discussion around the notification of cancelled sailings, and the timing of decisions to cancel.

Cllr Currie felt it better to have decisions relating to cancellations taken at the last minute.

Richard McMaster felt about ½ an hour before sailing was right.

Steph Hill enquired about contingency plans for crewing. Mr Robertson stated that, whilst crews swop over between boats, there are no spare crew waiting to man the relief vessel. The crew of the Caledonian Isles were needed to take the vessel to Garvel dry dock.

Wemyss Bay had been chosen rather than Gourock because the vessel could be turned round faster. The vessel had sailed at every opportunity.

In terms of prioritisation, on the Arran service, cancelled vehicles knock on to the next sailing.

For other Calmac services, vehicles are asked to rebook.

The CC restated the need for a breakwater at Ardrossan.

### **12/2/3/2 Ferries Review**

Bill Calderwood reminded the CC of the current review process, Copies of the Review documentation were still 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. The event organised by Arran CVS, jointly supported and facilitated by Arran CC and the Ferry Committee had over 90 attendees, and the draft notes from the meeting produced by Arran CVS were thought to be excellent.

Brenda Stewart suggested that the CC response should be circulated to the CC via the web, and that the CC could sign it off through this process.

It was agreed that Bill Calderwood would prepare a response and circulate on the web. The next CC meeting was still within time to sign of the final agreed response from the CC. The CC reaffirmed the urgent need to see alterations made to the entry into Ardrossan Harbour. It was agreed that Calmac be approached to look at short term solutions (eg dredging the sandbar on the approach)

### **12/2/4 Police matters**

Sgt Mackay reported that there were no issues currently. 16 tickets had been issued to speeding motorists, and a few drunk drivers had been apprehended.

### **12/2/5 Correspondence**

- Health board: Arran CC have been added to the distribution list for the NHS Ayrshire and Arran newspaper. Unfortunately this is not yet available on-line but two copies of the sixth edition have been provided and will be available for the meeting. They would welcome any comments or feedback we may have on the paper. It was agreed to obtain one copy for each village.
- Communications from Kintyre CC group introducing a proposal for a foot and cycle ferry from Carradale to Pirnmill. The Arran CC agreed that our first priority was to ensure the retention of the Lochranza vehicle crossing but we could see a benefit for tourists wanting an alternative. It was also mentioned that golfers may be interested, as the Carradale course is popular. They updated the message to possibly consider Machrie again as a golf link. This is part of the ferry review data. Islay CC have also informed us that approx 20 Islay residents use the Lochranza crossing regularly and they would support the retention of the route. The Secretary had encouraged them to ensure that the information was included in any response they submitted.
- Dunoon CC have asked if Arran CC would like to join a forum on Scottish ferry services. The Arran CC decided to keep an interest in this initiative, but to continue with our own ferry group .
- Scottish government consultation paper: Affordable Rented Housing: Creating flexibility for landlords and better outcomes for communities. Response request by end April
- Martin McKeown NAC has announced that the new CC Liaison officer to replace Paul Shiach will be Angela Little, Committee Services Officer.
- ASCC annual conference. Final meeting is to be held at Dunblane Hydro on Wednesday 18th April. 10:30 until 3:30. Theme for the meeting will be "Learning from the Past – Preparing for the Future".
- 3 New articles had been posted on the nationalnetworkcc.com.
- Phone call to inform us that Alex Johnstone MSP (shadow minister for communities and housing) will attend Bilslands on Friday afternoon from 2pm to receive local views regarding RET. The CC agreed that this visit was political, and should not be further discussed by the CC, as the CC is a non-political organisation.
- Message received yesterday from Cancer Awareness Roadshow organisers who are considering visiting the island. Arran CVS will take this up on behalf of the island and liaise with the Health Reference Groups and NHS Ayrshire and Arran and advise the CC of any further information received.

### **12/2/6 Treasurers Report**

The Treasurer presented the audited ACC accounts for the year ended 30th September, 2011. The ACC had received the full administration grant from NAC of £410 for the population size of Arran and £500 for additional expenses.

As there was a deficit on the administration account of £1,553.53 and a surplus on the project account of £1,910.25, the NAC internal audit recommended the way to reduce the deficit is to transfer part of the balance from the project account to the administration account. As the full grant for the ACC is £910 we should aim to spend no more than that on administration expenditure in the current year.

However, the ACC is asked to agree at this meeting the plan to reduce the deficit on the administration balance, and record this decision in the minutes, thus allowing the auditors to see evidence of this decision when auditing the 2012 accounts. This was CARRIED.

The accounts for the year ended 30th September, 2011, were CARRIED.

The Treasurer asked members to submit their expense claims up to the end of September at the August meeting in order that their cheques can be cashed before the end of September, 2012.

An account for the website £63.45 was agreed for payment.

### **12/2/7 Housing**

John Inglis reported that he would be circulating a proposed draft response relating to Affordable Housing within the next week

### **12/2/8 Health**

Brenda Stewart reported on the forthcoming Public meeting to be held 8<sup>th</sup> February 2012 in Brodick hall.

### **12/2/9 AOCB**

#### **12/2/9/1 Roads**

Ian Small requested that Roads be reinstated as a standing agenda item each month. This was agreed following a vote. (5-2 in favour). Ian requested that an e-mail he had received be an agenda item also at the next meeting.

Gus Macleod requested that the next meeting be held at 5.30 pm to allow the mainland Roads representative to return to the mainland on the last ferry. The retiming of the meeting was felt to be unacceptable.

#### **12/2/9/2 Alcohol Forum**

Richard McMaster reported that the alcohol forum believed that a number of young persons were not claiming benefits to which they may be entitled because the Job Centre do not have a facility on the Island. He felt that the individuals may feel discouraged from claiming due to the short time frame for claims and the need to travel to the mainland.

### **Date of Next Meeting**

**Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2012.**