

Isle of Arran Community Council

MINUTES OF MEETING

held at Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick on, 30th October 2012

Those present:

John Inglis Chair, Jim Henderson, Treasurer, William Calderwood Secretary, Brenda Stewart, Steph Hill, Chris Marriot, and Cllr John Bruce

Also present were: Howard Driver - Arran Banner, Gus Macleod – NAC, Jim Nichols, PC Bonar, Strathclyde Police and 2 members of the public.

Apologies for absence

Liz Evans, John Lamont,

12/10/1 Minutes of meeting – 25th September 2012:

The Minutes of the meeting held 25th September 2012 were adopted as a true record

The minutes can be viewed at <http://www.arrancommunitycouncil.org.uk/records.php> following the meeting.

Proposed Steph Hill Seconded Brenda Stewart

12/10/2 Matters arising

12/10/2/1 Accounts

Harry Davidson had been in touch with NAC regarding outstanding receipts etc

12/10/3 Police matters

PC Bonar reported that the police attend every ferry arrival to ensure vehicles get off the ferry safely. Also, they have on occasion, to check specific individuals. Tourists often have enquiries, and there are queries relating to lost property.

It was expected that the appointment of a full time sergeant for the Island will be made before the end of the year. ACC Secretary's confirmed a message had been sent to Sgt MacKay recognising his contribution and wishing him well. A response has been received, with thanks to the CC and wishing us well.

Contact details have been provided for the interim period until the new Sgt. Is announced.

Cllr Bruce expressed concern regarding the parking of car around the walkway outside the Calmac Terminal at Brodick. PC Bonar advised that this was within the jurisdiction of Calmac.

Bill Calderwood spoke of parking on Double Yellow lines. PC Bonar stated that, whilst there are no parking wardens on Arran, the Police monitor and issue tickets for double parking.

12/10/4 Correspondence and Communications Report

Secretary spoke to the Communications report previously circulated to members.

- The CC Website had been updated to reflect changes from AGM. There was the need for each member to review and update their profiles.
- A meeting had been arranged by NAC with Roads and Neil/Shirley regarding "Cycle safety" notices including CC and other interested parties.
- Sub committee for power project notes updated and published on website. No further meetings had been arranged at the moment. Discussions are on-going re Hydro options.

- Correspondence:
 - Contact us” notes:
 - 3 invitations had been received from Irvine Housing Association to an “event launch” for the Lamlash Housing Development.
 - Message received with a copy of response from Civic trust regarding the LDP.
 - (Craigforth) Arran Housing Needs and Demand Study. A reminder had been posted to website encouraging participation in study.
- Cllr Bruce has confirmed the status of concession rail tickets holders etc. Rail travel is covered when purchased by ferry concession card holder.
- K Clark MP has confirmed her support for the improvements for mobile phone coverage across the island. Cllr Bruce had heard nothing further.
- K Gibson MSP advises of an agreement to include Arran in the HIE plans to roll out High Speed Broadband to remote communities the aim is a “2015 target of providing 85-90% of premises in Scotland with 40-80Mbps broadband and the rest with 2Mbps or better”
- K Gibson MSP is also involved with the “Whitebeam Homes” charity and their plans to have several island bodies (including CC) involved in establishing the criteria to decide who should be allocated the affordable housing which they provide. John Inglis advised that he had provided them with information relating to 15 properties on the Island.
- Copies of the governments “Community Council Short-life Working Group’s” recommendations have been circulated.
- A message had been sent to the High School regarding attendance at the School council meeting. A response is awaited
- The CPP Community Engagement Group October funding Newsletter had been distributed.
- NHS 24 cards and leaflets were available for distribution at village meetings etc. ACVS are ordering more cards.

12/10/5 Ferry Update

A paper prepared by the Secretary, relating to the Ferry Services, had been previously circulated.

Cllr Bruce spoke of assurances given to the Ferry Committee that the new linkspan would not be delayed, given the implementation of RET in 2014.

John Inglis felt that Calmac should be able to use the profit they make on the Arran route to allow specials (eg 9 Day savers). It was necessary for Arran engage and to get connected in a proactive way rather than to follow. In particular, he queried how other communities were chosen to have trials introduced rather than Arran.

Gus Macleod felt that any introduction of a ‘Dynamic Pricing’ system of fares may not be to Arran’s advantage.

In terms of frequency of sailing, Cllr Bruce spoke of the need for an early morning sailing and a late sailing back. Passenger numbers are falling, and the income from tourism to the Island is falling.

Brenda Stewart spoke of the additional weekend sailings that had been provided during the summer, but that had not been well used because they had not been advertised. Most people were unaware of the sailings.

A view was expressed that freight traffic should travel off peak, but it was appreciated that there would be objections to this. A freight boat would resolve this. It was noted that RET for freight traffic had been withdrawn from those routes where it had been introduced.

Cllr Bruce felt that this should be open for discussion in regards to Arran. If a 2 boat service is provided, a freight boat should not be necessary. A 2 boat service might obviate the need for bookings on Ardrossan to Arran.

In regard to the Lochranza service, Steph Hill queried why Claonaig could not be used during the winter, and Cllr Bruce felt the option of sailing to Carradale might be explored.

It was agreed that the paper be submitted to the Ferry Committee through Jim Henderson.

12/10/6 Presentation – The Arran Trust

Sheila Gilmore gave a detailed presentation relating to the Arran Trust.

The Trust is concerned with conservation and tourism on Arran, and provides a mechanism for visitors to give something back to the Island.

A Visitor Gifting Scheme is in operation, and a pilot scheme is being delivered through 6 Arran businesses. Some businesses use an opt in approach, some a opt out.

The Arran Trust is complimentary to other fundraising activities (eg MRT).

To date, the Trust has contributed to a number of Arran projects, including Eason Mor, Sannox Path, the Reintroduction of Black Grouse, Sharing Arran roads Safely, Roots of Arran Community Woodland and the Old Clachan Church restoration. Future projects include Machrie Stones car park, Wildlife interpretation, and a Beekeeping Group on the Island.

The Chair of the Trust is Mr Ken Bone.

12/10/7 AOCB

12/10/7/1 Rail times

It was reported that some of the train departures from Ardrossan Harbour are being retimed. One departure will mean a wait of 50 minutes from the ferry arrival time.

12/10/7/2 Licensing applications

The CC had no objections to 2 Licensing applications.

Date of Next Meeting
Tuesday 27th November 2012.
Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick