

Isle of Arran Community Council

MINUTES OF MEETING

held at Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick on, 29th January 2013

Those present:

John Inglis Chair, Jim Henderson, Treasurer, William Calderwood Secretary, Brenda Stewart, Steph Hill, Richard McMaster

Also present were: Howard Driver - Arran Banner, Gus Macleod – NAC, Sgt Allen Dodds, Strathclyde Police and 2 members of the public.

Apologies for absence

Liz Evans, John Lamont, Cllr John Bruce, Jim Nichols, Joe Smith NAC.

13/01/2 Minutes of meeting – 27th November 2012:

The Minutes of the meeting held 27th November 2012 were adopted as a true record.

Proposed Brenda Stewart Seconded Steph Hill

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

13/01/3 Matters arising

12/11/3/1 Ferry related items. Our rep circulated his summary from the recent Arran Ferry Committee and highlighted the following:

- CMAL have been revising the proposals for the new facilities at Brodick and plan a further public meeting to consult with residents further.
- Fares were planned to increase from 29th March by 2.8%
- The proposed all year two boat service could be introduced along with RET in 2014.
- Schedules for this year were still to be confirmed.

The need for consultation with regards the patient transfer and accommodation on any new vessels being proposed was highlighted by our representative for the PRG.

13/01/3/2 Straight Talking event was attended by several members and it was felt that future events should be open to a wider participation.

13/01/4 Police matters

Sgt Dodds reported no major issues arising.

13/01/5 Correspondence and Communications Report

13/01/5/1 Correspondence items:

- Confirmation of response to NUTS consultation from NAC and Scot Gov't.
- Katy Clark MP communication confirming her continued interest in island fuel pricing. She has requested a review of subsidies and is attending meeting with other MP's with island responsibilities.

13/01/5/1 Secretary spoke to the Communications report previously circulated to members including:

- “Contact us” notes: covering,
 - Biomass planning proposal
 - Ferry issues
- Cllr Bruce had provided “My Bus” utilisation numbers which had been circulated.
- Consultation regarding “Reshaping care for Older People” brochures distributed and event details mentioned.
- Consultation on proposals for revised “Scottish Police Authority” circulated.

13/01/6 Presentation on Youth Activities and Resources

Nikki Harris from the NAC Community Learning – YOUTH Services (Arran) provided a very detailed and interesting presentation covering various aspects of the services available to the islands youth.

Train to Gain, Arran Youth Forum, Youth Achievements Awards, Saltire awards etc. among the items mentioned.

Contrary to some perceptions Arran does need to consider the areas of alcohol and substance abuse, Depression and homelessness which can sometimes be exacerbated by the rural isolation and confidentiality issues related to our location.

Also covered were some areas which limited the development opportunities for younger residents and these included:

- The cost of transport for 16+. example return to Glasgow for under 15 at £11.66 which increases to £21.15 for 16+
- The lack of transport on the island to allow participation in evening events.
- The cost of “one of transport” to ensure a safe journey home after special events (£300/ bus per gig).
- Restriction of ferry scheme (2 journeys/year) for young people which significantly limits the ability for island residents to participate in mainland events.
- Lack of apprenticeship opportunities
- Availability of affordable accommodation for young people/families.

Nikki also highlighted the need for older members of the community to assist and pass on life skills to the younger members which may also help to promote self-employed opportunities.

Following the presentation it was agreed the CC would welcome regular dialogue with the Youth groups and if possible we would be willing to attend one of their forums to help identify areas where we may be able to assist each other.

Nikki also indicated they would be happy to return again in the future.

We thanked Nikki for a very enlightening presentation.

13/01/7 Project updates

13/01/7/1 **Knotweed controls:** Brenda updated the meeting with the status of the mapping and funding applications to start the control process.

Ayrshire River Trust have been unsuccessful in the recent funding application and are re applying for the next round of funds. They are awaiting new software which will help with the mapping and tracking of the infected areas. Currently it is projected that the treatment may not start until 2015.

13/01/07/2 **Roads:** NAC roads department had provided an update of the plans for improvements currently funded.

SPT funding has been secured for Re-Profiling of crests and troughs to the Lochranza – Pirnmill carriageway to allow the introduction of “Low level” buses. Proposed to take place Sept/Oct 2013

Timber Transport funding has been allocated to improvements on the String road spread over this year and next. NAC have also contributed 60% to the costs. A further funding investment for 2014/15 will be used to extend the previous constructed section of the string road in 2010/11.

Discussions as also on-going with SPT for annual investments over the next four years to improve the A841 Brodick to Lochranza. Yet to be confirmed.

13/01/07/3 **Energy:** The CC agreed to submit a summary of points notified following the recent consultation event related to the proposed CHP plant.

The sub-committee are also continuing to evaluate potential alternative opportunities and it was agreed to register for Stage 1 of Community Energy scheme.

13/01/08 **A.O.B.**

The availability of “Meals on Wheels” service on the island was raised and clarification of the services requested.

Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 26th February 2013.
Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick.