

Isle of Arran Community Council

MINUTES OF MEETING

held at Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick on, 25th June 2013

Those present:

John Inglis, Chair, William Calderwood, Secretary, Jim Henderson, John Lamont, Brenda Stewart, Barbara McNeice, Colin Mackenzie, Liz Evans and Richard McMaster.

Also present were: Mo MacDougall – SSE Community Liaison Manager, Shona-SSE, Jenny Lyon - Arran Banner, PC Allan Dodds, Hazel Gardiner, Alan Stout, Ian Small and Jim Nichols (minutes).

Apologies: Cllr. John Bruce and Gus Macleod – NAC (arrived later).

13/06/1 Minutes of meeting – 5th June 2013

The Minutes of the meeting held 5th June 2013 were adopted as a true record.

Proposed: John Lamont

Seconded: Liz Evans

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

13/06/2 Update on Pothole Repairs

Ian Small explained that he felt the Community Council had not been discussing the roads on Arran. He has been taking photos of the potholes every day for the last 3 weeks and has taken over 400 photos so far. Ian shared 18 photos he had taken all over Arran showing the extensive road problems and asked the Community Council if they wished to be brought into the loop as a matter of course regarding the daily email he sends to NAC. The chair enquired if he had received any replies to his emails and Ian explained he had heard nothing aside from the initial acknowledgement up until today when he received a reply saying that the photos had been sent to the relevant department. He feels that NAC are treating this with contempt. John Lamont asked if the Police should also be kept in the loop regarding the accident potential caused by the road problems. Ian explained that he had also put the photos he had taken on Facebook.

13/06/3 Community Resilience Planning SSE

Mo MacDougal, Community Liaison Manager for SSE, spoke of the meetings held 3 weeks ago and gave a presentation to the group. She reported that a number of mainland communities had put together a Community Emergency Plan and SSE had offered to help facilitate developing plans on Arran.

There was discussion around Vulnerable Customers. SSE distributed a copy of the emergency plan. The Community Council agreed to get a group together to look at Village Community Resilience Plans. Bill Calderwood has a copy of the plan electronically. Discussion moved to the burger vans that were brought to the island. Richard McMaster felt that SSE did very well but that local shops and tearooms could have been utilised. SSE agreed that the local businesses should be the ones to get the business. SSE also reported that a backup generator is on the island. Barbara McNeice raised her concern that groups of houses did not appear on the plan of the Island that SSE had. The Chair thanked SSE for the presentation.

13/06/4 Matters Arising**13/06/4/1 MyBus Booking System**

Colin Mackenzie reported that the booking system for the service was difficult to use and that there was issues with the service at the sheltered housing. Booking staff don't seem to know the geography and locations on the island very well and that there are issues with availability. The main problems highlighted were the problems with bookings, availability and funding issues. This is being covered by other groups and also discussed at the PRG.

13/06/4/2 Youth Travel

Bill Calderwood been advised by Cllr Bruce that the item was discussed at the recent SPT meeting and that further discussions would be held following the summer recess.

13/06/4/3 Roads

Bill Calderwood reported on a meeting that Cllr Bruce had had with NAC officials. It was mentioned at the Area Committee and Roads Council Meeting that the proposal would be finalised and it was expected to go to the Scottish Government through Kenneth Gibson. The chair enquired if he could go attend the meeting. Bill explained that the original idea was that the Community Council and NAC would do a joint presentation.

With regards to the proposed road works at Pirnmill, Liz Evans explained that there would be objections to the road closure from local businesses. Liz also asked about the possibility of MyBus being used for people who were unable to use buses. John Lamont felt that any new buses needed to be fit for purpose size wise.

13/06/6 Police matters

Sgt Allan Dodds reported that there had been 2 accidents on bikes in the last 7 days, although none involving motor bikes.

There are now 10 Police officers on the Island and 1 Sgt. Sgt Dodds explained that they are taking a high-vis approach with foot patrols in every village.

John Inglis asked if the Police knew what/who was up every track. Sgt. Dodds took that on board.

It was also reported that there a 4 part-time Police Officers on the island and that they have a partner in the summer.

13/06/7 Correspondence and Communications Report

13/06/7/1 There was discussion surrounding the Community Council Restructuring Proposals. A 6-8 week consultation will take place in July/August time.

13/06/7/2 Correspondence:

- Correspondence had been received from the Forestry Commission regarding Glen Rickard. The Chair will speak to this at next meeting.
- Gus McLeod reported that the road works at Kilpatrick had been reopened early to minimise inconvenience for local residents. The work had then continued under controlled traffic management. Still some final work to be completed.

13/06/8 Project Updates**13/06/8/1 WW1 Memorial**

Barbara spoke of various memorials on Arran and suggested that AWMH as this was dedicated to the war.

Hazel spoke of her own grandfather who was a survivor of the Somme, and expressed that there was still strong feelings surrounding the war and the subject was much talked about between schoolchildren in her school.

Liz reported that Pirnmill Village Association have put up a plaque in the village to commemorate people from the First World War.

It was agreed that Barbara, Hazel and Liz would be the sub group to cost the project. Jenny Lyon has a list of all people from Arran who were killed or injured in the war, she will progress this.

13/06/8/2 Knotweed

Brenda reported that she has been speaking to Ayrshire Rivers Trust who wished to try another grant application specifically for Arran. The first stage of this would be a training course for GPS & Mapping. Volunteers from Arran would do the GPS work, and volunteers need to be identified urgently.

The grant application would be for 5 years funding and would include a project officer on the island. John Lamont stated he had phoned to enquire about becoming a Licenced Sprayer. This would cost £250. John reported that an area in Whiting Bay had been treated and it appeared to have killed it. Brenda explained that she would be calling a meeting for this issue which would probably be held in Brodick Hall. She asked for the group to let the Improvements groups know.

13/06/8/3 Energy Project

Bill Calderwood reported that he is awaiting a new contact within CE Scotland. CES will continue their support to projects but will not administer the Grants.

Any new application is being held back at the moment while a feasibility study is done. There is a meeting coming up with NAC where ACC will submit a proposal for a review of the Islands potential.

SSE will be contacted regarding the grid structure of mini schemes are introduced.

13/06/09 A.O.B.

13/06/9/1 Whiting Bay Nursery

Audrey Sutton is to be contacted for guidance in options with travel costs for families impacted by the closure of the Whiting Bay nursery.

13/06/9/2 Rural Housing Group - Arran

It was reported that a valuation for the shared equity properties in Benlister had now been done, and the valuation report was expected this week. The price is expected to be between £110-£125,000.

On the 1st of September 8 properties should be available – 4 Rental and 4 shared Equity, with the remaining 56 properties being completed next summer.

Irvine Housing Association is solely responsible for the project including all allocation, the moving process, tenancy support, maintenance and the full range of services. The allocation policy has been done by North Ayrshire Housing with bespoke needs included.

To be eligible, prospective tenants/purchasers need to be on the NAC housing waiting list.

A draft Allocation policy has been sent to the Rural Housing Group and the Community Council. It shows that 140 households are in current need, 70% of this demand is in private rented households.

Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 30th July 2013.

Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick.