

# Isle of Arran Community Council

## MINUTES OF MEETING

Held at Ormidale Pavilion on 27<sup>th</sup> May 2014

### Those present:

John Inglis (Chair), William Calderwood (Vice Chair), (Secretary), Jim Henderson (Treasurer), Barbara McNeice, Alan Stout, John Lamont, Colin McKenzie and Cllr John Bruce.

Also present were: Jim Nichols (minutes) and PC Amanda Heaney

**14/05/1 Apologies:** Brenda Stewart, Liz Evans, Gus McLeod, and Sgt Allan Dodds.

### **14/05/2 Minutes of meeting – 27<sup>th</sup> April 2014**

The minutes of the previous meeting were adopted as a true record.

Proposed: Hazel Gardiner    Seconded: Colin McKenzie

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

### **14/05/3 Matters Arising**

14/05/3/1 Telephone boxes

BT policy is to leave boxes cut off once they have been disconnected. Repairs have been carried out to the box at Catacol.

14/05/3/2 Transport Survey

Response submitted and an acknowledgement has been received.

14/05/3/3 Brodick Improvements

William Calderwood advised that NAC expect the engineering consultants report at the end of July

14/05/3/4 Arran Resilience

Some Village meetings is still to be arranged.

### **14/05/4 Police Report**

Parking at Brodick Pier.

It was noted that the Police will be keeping a watch at Brodick Pier re cars parking on double yellow lines etc.

William Calderwood asked that attention be given to parking in disabled bays. Colin McKenzie spoke of the need to park on Double Yellows to escort blind people to the ferry.

### **14/05/5 Correspondence and Communications**

A communications note had been circulated by William Calderwood. Key items were:

- The Secretary has had discussions regards youth participation in CC meetings.
- An update received from the Police inspector was circulated.
- Elderly Forum: WC had attended the May meeting and provided a CC update. No actions arising. The Elderly Forum were planning a day out to transport museum on 4th June.
- A message was received from John Sillars regards
  1. Corrie archaeological items and
  2. Condition of Brodick war memorial.

John Inglis has responded to item 1 and WC to item 2. Local NAC staff will attend to this in the next few weeks. John Sillars has been updated.

- Road signage at exit from terminal will be updated to reflect Corrie, Sannox etc. as requested.
- Message received and circulated for the (Mainland) Ayrshire Leader event on 24th June at Ayr Race course: Getting your priorities right.

- Message sent to NAC regards proposed restructure of CC to ask for clarification of process in August as term is extended. Legal are preparing reply.
- Community Engagement mtg. scheduled for 17th June at Dregghorn.
- A letter had been received from Dillon Curren re Town Centre Car Parking Strategy
- An update from NAC/ VistArran project group re Signage in Villages.

#### **14/05/6 Arran Ferry Committee**

A meeting had taken place on Monday the 12<sup>th</sup> of May, to which William Calderwood was also invited. A wide ranging note prepared by Jim Henderson had been previously circulated to CC members. The following extract relates to the response to the 11 points raised by the CC:

- Q1 Service interruptions-Cal Mac are required to complete the published schedule with due regard to safety of crew and passengers. It is not a requirement that they seek to resolve delivery limitations for mail or newspapers or other materials specifically.  
All customers are advised of interruptions to the schedule and the responsibility to arrange alternative routes to ensure delivery of services such as mail or papers is with the distributors e.g. Royal Mail and Menzies. They were the organisations that instigated the change from the private fishing boat. Cal Mac reps voiced that the option of the Claonaig route was not utilised as an alternative, subject to weather conditions. They also stated that confirmation of interruption of the scheduled service would be notified to the distribution.  
ACC took an action to highlight to local businesses that they could explore an alternative delivery process with the distributors.
- Q2 Lifeline service-It was agreed that this was an ambiguous term and that Transport Scotland may not consistently apply it to ferry routes. However SR provided a statement of Cal Mac policy.  
It is agreed that this term is open to interpretation but that the ultimate arbiter of which ferry routes are designated as 'Lifeline' or 'essential' lies with Transport Scotland who dictate the terms of the Clyde and Hebrides ferry services contract. All routes within the current CHFS contract are considered to be 'lifeline'  
[Cal Mac's approach is that, as stated above, they will endeavour to run as close to schedule as safe to do so but monitor every interruption and in conjunction with local staff, ensure essential supplies are supported as soon as safe to do so. This may require out of schedule sailings but these are undertaken only where considered appropriate. 'Lifeline' does not infer a minimum level of service but is the justification for public subsidy under EU state aid rules.]
- Q3 Port of refuge- Gourock is our designated port of refuge but this does not define it as an all-weather destination. It is accepted that whilst there may be other craft using Gourock in inclement weather this does not always guarantee that the Arran vessels can dock. There are some weather conditions which may affect particularly the Caledonian Isles which do not apply to other vessels. This winter has been described as having "extreme weather conditions". At any time the decision whether to sail to Gourock or not is taken purely on safety and operation decisions. If the Arran boat sails to Gourock any interruption to the other services scheduled for this port will be managed by CalMac and these do not influence or limit the ability to use the port if required
- Q4 New vessels- When the final designs are available this will become clearer.
- Q5 Clydeport and safety issues- SR response- the terms and conditions are commercially sensitive.
- Q6 Have any restrictions been imposed since 2012- No. Item closed
- Q7 Berthing conditions- Current practice and training procedures do not favour a different approach than that used. Clydeport to answer specific questions about dredging and maintenance. In same category as Q5.
- Q8 Troon as an alternative- Closed

- Q9 Service advice- It was accepted that notification of this type of additional service would be reviewed and that it would be considered if the information in the texts could be clearer. However it was acknowledged that not everyone has a smart phone so the information given on the Cal Mac website needs to be clearer with additional info as appropriate.

Q10 & 11 refer to the proposed new vessel- Cal Mac have requested that this area is deferred until the new vessel design has been made available. This is really for CMAL to answer.

John Inglis raised Q10 and 11, as he believed discussion should take place prior to the detailed design.

A response had been received from Clydeport to the CC's letter informing that as they could not respond to our questions due to "commercial sensitivity". Colin McKenzie queried why Clydeport and Safety Issues were commercially sensitive.

It was also noted that the Ferry Committee had requested Arran CC not to contact Clydeport. It was questioned why and pointed out that Arran CC are a Statutory body.

Alan Stout questioned the role and standing of the Ferry Committee.

After discussion it was reaffirmed that the CC would write to whom they felt appropriate in terms of issues relating to Ferries. It was further noted that there was potential for delay if all correspondence were routed through the FC, and this might compromise Arran CC business.

It was agreed to notify the Ferry Committee of this decision.

It was further noted that the FC AGM is 23<sup>rd</sup> June, and that members would get together with Jim Henderson prior to this to agree questions to be asked at the AGM

#### **14/05/7 Cllr John Bruce's Report**

##### **14/05/7/1 Transport**

SPT officials had visited Arran last week. A new 'Euro compliant' bus fleet would arrive later in the year. John Inglis again requested the Arran transport survey which we had responded to should be considered and the CC made aware of any recommendations it contained.

##### **14/05/7/2 High School**

It was expected that an announcement of the appointment of a new head was imminent.

##### **14/05/7/3 Arran Homes**

Cllr John Bruce reported that NAC had written to the Trust CEO requesting an urgent meeting. This would take place 4<sup>th</sup> June 2014

##### **14/05/7/4 Area Committee**

The Area Committee meets on Arran on 19<sup>th</sup> June. William Calderwood will be presenting an update on Arran Community Energy Company

##### **14/05/8 Arran Community Energy**

William Calderwood circulated an update report (attached)

Deadline for completion of the audit is end November 2014.

It was agreed to progress the proposal.

Proposer Alan Stout Seconder Colin McKenzie. (Unanimous agreement)

With regard to the visit of the CEO Samsø Energy Academy, the suggestion was welcomed.

However, it was felt more appropriate for an invitation to be extended in November.

##### **14/05/9 Review of Recent Roadworks**

Barbara McNeice reported that Sheila Gilmore (Visit Arran) had been contacted by Craig Hatton. It was reported that a number of residents had commented, mainly around the issue of communications. It was agreed there should be direct communication to and from the CC.

The general view of the CC was that a good quality job had been carried out, and the road had opened early but disappointment at the communications.  
Barbara McNeice was asked to draft a note to the Secretary for this to go to NAC from the CC.

**14/05/09/2 Start time for the meetings.**

It was proposed by the secretary we adopt permanently the recent 6pm start time which allowed the members working better access.

This was agreed unanimously by the members attending

**14/05/10 Date of next meeting**

The date of the next meeting will be on the **24<sup>th</sup> June at the Ormidale Pavilion.**

Start time will continue at **6pm.**

## **ACE update for May Meeting.**

Several developments have recently taken place which we want to update you on.

As you know we are linked with the Scottish Islands Federation and have signed up to participate in the SmileGov programme.

As we progress with this programme we will generate an Energy Audit for Arran which will be carried out in conjunction with the Students and staff at the High School.

I will attend an initial training meeting on Friday and then work with the school staff to carry out the audit which will include the following:

a) The audit will investigate and report the current overall energy consumption (or best estimates thereof) for the island area of Arran on the basis of at least one year's demand, including breakdowns by month.

b) The final report will present details of total energy demand for domestic, business and transport purposes on the island (or specified island areas as agreed).

c) The audit will also report a breakdown of energy usage by type (electricity, oil, petrol, gas coal, wood etc.) including details of energy consumption from renewable and non-renewable sources.

Involvement in this process is expected to promote local awareness and knowledge of energy use, demand and constraints, to help shape practical plans for improved energy efficiency and development of appropriate renewable energy projects on islands, to enhance the sustainability and resilience of island communities.

An island audit to report current usage and demand for energy is recognised as a key aspect of effective energy planning.

With your agreement I will sign the contract for this project on your behalf. There will be a grant payment allocated for this work and it is expected that the majority of this fund will be payable to the school for their contribution.

Also

As a result of the dialogue with SIF representatives we have been proposed to host a visit from the CEO of the Samsø Academy in Denmark who is visiting Scotland in June as part of a European programme.

At this time we have considered that this is too soon for us to host such a visit but we have offered to arrange a meeting later this year when we will have a draft of the audit prepared.

Our plans and links to the school and university appear to be an interesting approach which Community Energy Scotland have an interest in supporting so we look to be well placed for our future plans.

We anticipate that our application for SCIO registration will be considered sometime in July.

We can expand on any of the above if required at our meeting but this should provide the background and save some time going over everything.

Any questions in advance of the meeting please feel free to let me know.