

Isle of Arran Community Council

MINUTES OF MEETING

Held at Ormidale Pavilion on 29th July 2014

Those present:

John Inglis (Chair), William Calderwood (Vice Chair), Jim Henderson, Brenda Stewart, Liz Evans, John Lamont and Colin McKenzie.

Also present were: Angus McLeod (NAC local officer), Hugh Boag (Arran Banner)

14/07/1 Apologies: Hazel Gardiner, Barbara McNeice, Alan Stout, and Cllr John Bruce.

14/07/2 Minutes of meeting – 24th June 2014

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

Proposed: Liz Evans Seconded: Jim Henderson

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

14/07/3 Matters Arising

14/07/3/1 Roads

We continue to be updated with road maintenance and several groups have registered their appreciation at the improved availability of this information.

14/07/3/2 QBR celebrations

Several representatives were in the group of residents who attended the event and the general view was that NAC were to be congratulated for their organisation and facilitating so many locals being able to join in the celebrations. It was noted that there had been some last minute “challenges” for the team to work around timing due to the delays with the Baton’s route but the atmosphere at the event was very good. The weather had also played its part.

Action: Write to NAC registering the communities appreciation.

14/07/3/3 Arran Homes

Cllr Bruce’s report confirmed that talks are ongoing between NAC and Arran Homes with the next meeting scheduled for early August with a view to securing an Island base for client liaison. It is expected that the Brodick office will continue to be open on a Wednesday for personal contact with the association.

14/07/3/4 Maintenance of trees at Brodick war memorial: It was noted that the requested work had been completed by NAC local staff.

14/07/4 Police Scotland Report

No Police report received. It was recognised by the representatives that the volume of cyclists visiting was increasing and local police officers were helping to inform and control the size of groups leaving the terminal. This was appreciated. No other items highlighted by CC representatives.

14/07/5 Correspondence

14/07/5/1 Brodick beach: Message received from NAC regarding Brodick Beach report which was scheduled to be completed in July. The scope of the study has been extended to include the estuarial erosion impact and a further review is to take place early August. The delay in completion of the report was disappointing news but this was tempered by the news that the scope appeared to have been widened and the committee have agreed to write requesting dates for the next stages. Brodick Improvements had also requested that they be contacted when the engineers were carrying out their study. **Action:** CC to respond and ask for dates and meeting.

14/07/5/2 Flower Bed at Brodick walkway: NAC have advised that the flower bed was designed to allow a more visible message. The height and design was considered by all members to be inappropriate. It was reported that children had been observed climbing the structure and this was considered a safety risk. NAC had asked for suggestions for alternative designs and it was eventually agreed that if the bed had to remain that it should be reduced in height and be more consistent with the other beds which had been installed along the walkway. It was also proposed to include seating into the design. **Action:** Respond to NAC with suggestion.

14/07/5/3 Road signage at the triangle near the Machrie road end. A possible road safety issue had been reported by a local business owner that give way signs were no longer visible at the intersection. **Action:** NAC will investigate and ask the roads department for a report.

14/7/5/4 Report from Elderly Forum meeting highlighted two actions which have since been resolved related to parking on pavements (Sgt Dodds) and also clarification of road closure times. (NAC roads dept.) The EF chair has been advised of the situation on both items.

14/07/6 Ferry Committee Report

A report was received from the recent Ferry Committee meeting.

Main points as follows:

CalMac Mgr. Simon Richmond (SR) advised of the Health and Safety procedures being undertaken throughout the network in connection with plated commercial vehicles and weight limit of 3.5 tons.

For the winter period on the Lochranza service a larger vessel will be operating.

SR also advised that there would be clarification of the route price structure for all ferry users and that the winter ferry timetable would soon be available.

RW raised an issue concerning an elderly woman and patient transfer from Ayr hospital.

The chair introduced Richard Hadfield. (RH)

RH began by advising the meeting that CalMac and CMAL were considering every option to improve the network. They were now considering management of the entire network in relation to demand forecast, flexibility, fleet resilience and design. The network harbours were also under consideration with reliability in the long term for the next 30 to 40 years.

However he did state that the Arran route was priority in the list of future programmes

Different vessel design options were being considered, which include length of vessel, draught, depth of harbours, height of vessels and capability. Also efficiency and fuel costs.

The chair asked RH to ensure that as soon as a decision was made about the new vessel that the community be consulted as soon as possible. RH indicated that this message would be passed on.

Although no design or order had been placed to date the new vessel for the Arran run was still on schedule for late 2017 or early 2018.

The Transport Scotland vision was a fleet of ships, which will be compatible with each other and be able to move around the network to cover periods of annual refit etc.

Although Ardrossan harbour was part of Clydeport, it is still and would remain the port of choice for Arran mainly due to the many beneficial factors.

The FC requested that T. Scotland advise the committee the best time to engage with Clydeport. RH intimated that he would do this and should they not agree to meet directly with the ferry committee that he would ensure our concern was raised and considered.

A.O.B.

J.H. on behalf of the ACC advised that the disabled parking at the pier was still being abused. SR advised that the signage had been ordered and agreed to follow this up.

Regret regarding the ACC letter had been expressed by several members with one in particular expressing that the letter was in poor taste and did the ACC no favours.

General ACC discussion on the above:

Disappointed that no acknowledgment of our letter had been received from either Transport Scotland or our MSP and it was agreed to allow a little more time before escalating it to the Transport Minister.

A recent newsletter which had been distributed to an undisclosed distribution from our visitor group was highlighted which had carried a disappointing report on the ACC letter and it was proposed that this should be clarified to confirm if it was the official business line or the personal view of the originator. **Action:** Note to chairman of group asking for comment and clarification of statements in newsletter and at Ferry Committee meeting.

14/07/7 Local Gov't Boundaries Commission and NAC Proposed Ward Changes

Cllr Bruce had provided links to NAC Report details which were circulated to ACC in advance of meeting. The Report was approved at full NAC Council meeting last Wednesday, 23/7/2014. There was a roll-call vote. Cllr Bruce abstained as he could not approve the specific NAC proposal to link Arran with West Kilbride and Fairlie without consultation with the resident groups. (although Cllr Bruce agreed generally with the principle of increased democratic representation – ie. more elected members).

The Community Council's discussions covered the outline of the Local Government Boundaries Commission consultation and several points were raised for clarification.

The number of neighbourhoods referred to in the NAC report shows 5 which is consistent with the NAC neighbourhood planning structure of 6 with Arran being considered as a separate group.

The inclusion of Arran with Fairlie and West Kilbride was not considered positively and the loss of any common approach in terms of leverage to improve ferry links with Ardrossan was a key area of concern with the proposed arrangements.

Action: CC to prepare a summary of the options we should consider and further discuss at August meeting.

14/07/8 Arran Community Energy

Bill Calderwood reported on the progress with the CARES funding. He also explained the need to revise the proposed constitution for ACE and updated the group on the SCIO application progress. The Community Council members unanimously agreed the revision to the proposed ACE constitution as circulated.

14/07/9 Cllr John Bruce's Report

Cllr Bruce submitted a written report with his apology for absence:

14/07/9/1 Major Property Projects

Montrose House – this new 30 bed care home and resource centre remains on programme for completion and delivery during Sept. 2014

14/07/9/2 Surplus Property

Cabinet approved disposal of Shiskine School House. Marketed and sold above market value.

14/07/9/3 Brodick - Corrie Multi User Path

Latest update provided to AASS committee in June. Public consultation has been deferred for months.

14/07/9/4 Tourist Signage (Brown)

Can confirm that only "The Byre" has had signs erected this year. Note they are requested and paid for by the individual business.

14/07/9/5 Brodick Harbour Redevelopment Group

As per updated statement from CMAL and the BHRG in The Banner last week the new pier and associated infrastructure will be developed in **one phase** now that guaranteed funding is in place. Contractor expected to be appointed early 2015 and construction commenced over 16 month period.

14/07/9/6 RET

Can confirm that Road Equivalent Tariff will be introduced to all Arran routes for the CalMac winter sailing schedule from 27 Oct.

6 journey book of tickets can continue to be purchased for convenience only but not discounted against RET fare.

NB - No compensation on tickets purchased **before** RET introduction date though can still be used **after** subject to usual terms and conditions.

14/07/9/7 Local Development Plan (LDP)

Published report copy passed to ACC and available on NAC website.
Action Plan forthcoming and will be passed to ACC.

14/07/10 AOCB.

14/07/10/1 CC future procedures:

NAC are currently considering a restructure of the CC networks across the region and various options are being considered. The Arran CC constitution currently calls for elections every two years which would require the current group to be re-elected after the August meeting. The NAC legal officer is considering the best way to approach this whilst official elections are suspended to allow the restructure to be concluded.

Action: Note to NAC to highlight the need for a decision and request a response before the August meeting.

14/07/11 Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting will be on the 26th of August at the Ormidale Pavilion at 6pm.