

Isle of Arran Community Council
Minutes
Meeting held Tuesday 27th January, 2015

Those present : Ricky McMaster (Chair) , Bill Calderwood (Vice Chair) , Hazel Gardiner (Secretary) , Jim Henderson (Treasurer), Barbara McNeice, Colin MacKenzie, Liz Evans, John Lamont, Neil Arthur, Peter McMullen, Cllr John Bruce

Also present were Gus McLeod (NAC Island Officer), Sergeant Alan Dodds, Jennifer Lyon (The Arran Banner) and 11 members of the public.

1. Apologies: Daniel Bowles , Jim Nicol
2. Minutes of the meeting held 18th November were requested to be altered and approved at the next meeting.
3. Matters arising
 - a) Brodick-Corrie multi user pathway - see Item 8
 - b) Vacancies within the Community Council - Note of interest received from Neil Arthur for Shiskine Valley vacancy. Mr Arthur provided his nomination paper at the meeting. With no other notification of interest was confirmed as the second representative for Shiskine Valley to the Arran Community Council. Positions are still open for Whiting Bay and Corrie/Sannox.
4. Police report : Sergeant Dodds
 - a) A series of frauds have been reported on the island - a woman with a Scottish accent phoning to extract bank information from recipients. Police advice: don't confirm bank details over the phone. This message to be published in the local paper, and all are asked to raise awareness to the public. A handout had been prepared and was circulated to the meeting. [Action: BC to forward circular to Elderly Forum]
 - b) concern raised about cyclists and pedestrians not wearing effective clothing. Sgt Dodds confirmed that there is nothing in the law to enforce this but urged that people protect themselves.
 - c) speed will be monitored from Kirkend Nursery to Whiting Bay village following requests for speed monitoring. Gus McLeod informed the meeting that a passive radar system will be set up for 7 days to record vehicle speed and direction in relation to time of day. Questions were asked if this system could be available to monitor other locations as identified last year at Shiskine, Brodick and Corrie. NAC confirmed each request will be considered on its merits.

Liz Evans raised a concern about large trucks going through Pirnmill. John Lamont confirmed that the 20 zone end sign in Whiting Bay needed refreshed.

5. Reports from Sub Committees
 - a) Planning - deferred.
 - b) Ferries - The Ferry Committee report has been circulated. John Lamont asked why Gourock was the Port of Refuge when it suffers the same weather conditions as Arran/Ardrossan. It was confirmed that the Master's decision was based on safety. A resident asked why the 6 journey ticket is only related to the car? This point was raised at the last Ferry Committee meeting.

A summary of the meeting between the FC and the ACC held on the 26th Jan, 2015 was provided and will be discussed at the next FC meeting.

c) Health - Barbara McNeice was unable to attend the Health Partnership meeting. Proposals outlined for joining up Health and Social Care. Draft plan available end of February. The newly appointed Heads will visit Friday 30th January, 2015.

d) Elderly Forum - no action required.

e) Housing - nothing to report.

f) Forestry - no further meetings had taken place.

g) Scottish Islands Federation - AGM while BC on holiday. The new Minister for Transport and the Islands, Derek McKay is being approached to help promote island voices. New Scottish Islands Federation website launched which will have updated information as available. EV charging points on electrical vehicles. Arran currently has two points, at the pier and The Kinloch Hotel,

h) Community Engagement Network - No recent updates. (Meetings held quarterly.)

6. Correspondence

Ayrshire Litter Volunteer Group
Road survey

7. Roads

Gus McLeod answered a concern re - Silver Sands verge - icy roads with sheer drop. The matter is with the structural engineers. A contract is ready to go out to tender and it is hoped this will be sorted before icy conditions prevail.

Extensive discussion took place in relation to the proposed Machrie development. The Residents highlighted concerns of safety, volume of traffic, impact to local environment, impact to breeding areas for local birds, impact to local tourist business and safety for road users on an already cautioned road.

Concern was also voiced that the Forestry were alleged to have already taken out a lease on some of the land required and therefore the "consultation" process was possibly being compromised by this and the substantial work already undertaken. It was also confirmed that SNH had been consulted on the plans.

It was confirmed that at this time no formal planning application has been submitted and further discussions would be undertaken. A meeting was noted to take place on the 18th February in Machrie Hall.

Gus McLeod replied that NAC has a statutory responsibility to keep the roads safe. Last year's work on The String cost £750,000 to repair 800m.

Discussion took place about the reporting of pot holes. It was suggested that a full repair of road sections rather than pot hole repair might be more cost effective in the long run. Gus McLeod replied that NAC has a statutory responsibility to keep the roads safe. Last year's work on The String cost £75,000 to repair 800m.

Discussion took place about the reporting of pot holes. The Roads Inspector carries out an inspection monthly round the island. There are three categories of time span for response 4-90 days, 3-30 days, 2 days. A pot hole must be reported and inspected before it is considered 'in the system'. Anyone can make a claim. The Chair reasoned that the more claims, the less money to fix the roads.

8. NAC report from Cllr John Bruce

- a) The bus builder for the new fleet will be Right Bus Ltd. from Northern Ireland. They are pioneers of the low floor buses, These will be compatible with the new build bus stops, and comprise 4 Optari low carbon models with room for two wheelchairs at a cost of £457,732, plus 8 others. Stagecoach are following up to confirm the ability to take bikes where possible.
- b) Approval has been given, and funding is in place, for the Brodick-Corrie multi user pathway from Cladach to Merkland to ensure walkers and cyclists are off the road. It will comprise a 2-metre pathway and will be well signposted.
- c) Derek McKay, Cabinet Minister for Transport and Islands, was scheduled to visit the island in the near future to meet with business and community representatives to receive an update on the progress with the Brodick Harbour redevelopment and to emphasise the need for investment in Ardrrossan Harbour. Cllr Bruce asked for any questions for the Minister and was asked "When the boat leaves the shiny new (Brodick) pier where will it call to?"

9. A.O.C.B.

Brodick Beach: An update was provided of progress to date. Key focus was

- a) Protection of shoreline, ii) erosion at Fisherman's Walk, iii) evidence of erosion from The Cloy. Brodick Improvements also concerned about impact on Golf Course. Range of questions regarding actions. Small working committee meeting in 3 weeks time with NAC - alternative proposals and drawings have been sent to NAC to form part of this discussion.
- b) Problem of protecting current route and Fisherman's Walk or re-route? Pictures have been sent but a longer term solution might concern the footbridge.
- c) Protective measure. Discussion has taken place and although all parties heading in the same direction, there is a question of funding.

Arran Community Council Website in need of facelift. License fees are due at the end of March. We receive approx. 300+ hits per month. Community Councillors reminded to update Bill Calderwood with dates of events. [Action CCs to inform BC of events. All to consider viability of website for next meeting.]

CMcK gave apologies for the next meeting.

Planning meeting closed at 8.35pm.

Date of the next meeting - Tuesday, 31st March, 2015