

# Isle of Arran Community Council

## MINUTES OF MEETING

Held at Ormidale Pavilion on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2015

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

Also present were Gus MacLeod, Sergeant Allen Dodds, Hugh Boag (The Arran Banner) and 3 members of the public.

**15/02/1 Apologies:** Daniel Bowes, Liz Evans and Colin MacKenzie

**15/02/2 Minutes of Meeting -**

15/02/2/1 Minutes from 30<sup>th</sup> November proposed by Jim Henderson, seconded by Bill Calderwood. No matters arising.

15/02/2/2 Minutes of 27.01.2015 – add Neil Arthur to attendees. 5c Barbara McNeice had been unable to attend the meeting. With the noted changes - Proposed Barbara McNeice, seconded by Neil Arthur.

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

**15/02/3 Matters Arising:**

15/02/3/1 Roads – 20 Zone End signs fixed.

15/02/3/2 Hazel Gardiner has sent Sharon Pilot the minutes

15/02/3/3 Brodick Beach: A meeting has been arranged with NAC.

15/02/3/4 Buses: NAC has had a meeting with a representative of SPT, it was not clear that it may be possible to flag down buses. Cllr Bruce said that operators were amicable to flagging down buses, but if SPT policy is that only stops can be used, the SPT policy will have to be followed. A formal decision is awaited. Neil Arthur said that it was recognised the danger of making it black and white, but there is the need to clarify the position. Cllr Bruce will obtain clarification.

**15/02/4 Police Report:** Sergeant Dodds

A quiet month. Nothing to report.

**15/02/5 Reports from Sub Committees:**

15/02/5/1 Planning –

a) Bill Calderwood advised that the Royal Hotel in Whiting Bay had been approved with conditions.

b) Application to replace caravan with permanent residence had been granted approval on Appeal.

15/02/5/2 Ferry Committee –

Jim Henderson submitted a written report. Neil Arthur asserted that the MV Isle of Arran coming late was due to the mis-purchase of Loch Seaforth for £42m. R McMaster does not understand why vessel cannot go to Gourock. Neil Arthur felt that there would be concerns if vessel went to Fairlie, and does not have an infrastructure. R McMaster noted that a vote 20-30 years ago voted to stay with Ardrossan. Cllr Bruce said that for May/June there will be re-consultation on redrawing of boundaries within NAC. West Kilbride/Fairlie and Arran were proposed as part of this proposed boundary revision. J Henderson confirmed that the final

design of the vessel has not been concluded. The proposed new boat will have a deeper draft. N Arthur advised that the vessel – Caledonian Isles is not designed to do a sharp right hander at this time.

15/02/5/2 Health – In her absence Liz Evans had submitted a written report regarding a meeting held in connection with the proposed closure of the dental practice at the Douglas Centre. Customers will be accommodated at either the Lamash centre or the other Brodick practice. Concerns voiced re transport to Lamash. A report has also been requested from the Impact Assessment and Equality Impact Forum session held on the 16<sup>th</sup>.

15/02/5/2 Elderly Forum – B Calderwood attended – nothing to report.

15/02/5/2 Housing – No further meetings held.

15/02/5/2 Forestry – N Arthur, B McNeice and L Evans attended with other local residents a drop-in consultation which had been held. Although 3 people had spoken in favour, N Arthur feels from the view of a number of people that they are more against it than for. N Arthur had been to see operation at Sannox and cannot see how it will work at Machrie. He suggests the CC should meet with the Forestry Commission. R McMaster will invite Andy Walker to next meeting, N Arthur requested any correspondence to Forestry Commission should come to this meeting. J Henderson noted that no Planning Permission had yet been sought. N Arthur advised that Machrie residents intend to hold a meeting. B Calderwood suggested that a list of questions should be compiled and submitted to the Forestry Commission before the next CC meeting. N Arthur believes there are alternatives to the proposals. R McMaster proposed 3 CC's involved – Shiskine, Machrie and Pirmill meet and come up with a list. Agreed. Cllr Bruce advised that NAC Officers had met with Forestry Commission yesterday. Detailed designs are being drawn up for consultation prior to going to detailed planning.

15/02/5/3 Community Engagement Network: next meeting 03.03.2015 – B Calderwood attending.

## **15/02/6 Correspondence**

15/02/6/1 Planning Democracy Conference: Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2015 Glasgow - £10 charge for Community Groups. H Gardiner requested a decision be taken at next meeting.

15/02/6/2 Earth Hours (From CPP): 28.03.2015 to show unity for climate change.

15/02/6/3 Neighbourhood Planning Approach: Note from NAC circulated re Straight Talking event and request for names to be confirmed to NAC.

15/02/6/4 Hard to Hear: Message received regarding proposed closing the 'Hard to Hear' (hearing repairs) service People will have to go to mainland. Cllr Bruce will look into it.

15/02/6/5 Care Opinion: Website being piloted in Scotland for people using Social Work Services.

15/02/6/6 Taxi Ranks: Cllr Bruce provided his written report below:

"I am prompted to request a general review of current council policy on taxi rank provision on the Isle of Arran. Specifically, however, constituent concerns have been raised recently regarding the 2 designated taxi stances adjacent to the small Co-op in the centre of Brodick. For a number of years these stances have been 'adopted' as additional general parking in the obvious absence of any taxi(s) using the spaces. There is also anecdotal evidence that visitors, waiting expectantly for a taxi to pull up, have waited in vain. I have never witnessed in recent years a taxi at these stances. At the last Arran Amenities meeting (27/10/2014), I expressed the view that these specifically designated spaces were effectively dormant and could be un-designated. The view received general support. I was contacted by one taxi owner who challenged my view. I took no immediate action to progress any proposal. So the status quo prevailed, as it usually does on Arran. No taxi ever appeared to use the designated spaces and other drivers continued to park at their convenience. However, the issue has now been brought to the fore this past week when local police began to caution drivers parking in the stances. A news story has appeared in the latest edition of the Arran Banner. What or who prompted this sudden police response, remains unknown at this time. These are the background details to my request for a review

of the current taxi stance policy on the island. Happy to have further conversation on the matter.”

### **15/02/7 Roads**

15/02/7/1 G McLeod commented on the operating times of ‘20 Plenty’ signs at schools. He provided a list of times for Arran and confirmed NAC could not look at individual timers. Activation of signs during school break times was also not possible.

15/02/7/2 Count meter at Machrie on Main Road – average daily count is 150-200 per day in Oct/Nov and roughly double that on a summer per day.

15/02/7/3 Whiting Bay – Gus spoke of a report confirming a 7 day review of speeds at Fen place. 9676 vehicles recorded in the period (9145 cars and 531 HGV’s buses etc).

Average speed showed approx. 85% were travelling at or less than 35mph. 16.5% were above 41mph.

The view of NAC traffic was that this indicated the 30 mph should have been placed closer to the village however the information has now been passed to the local police for further monitoring. G McLeod advised that 30mpg count-down signs are to be installed at this location. A question was asked if the monitoring equipment could be provided at other locations where concern had been raised re speeding. The local officer advised the CC to submit a request to Joe Smith as head of roads. John Lamont asked if a concealed entrance sign could also be installed but it was confirmed that one is already in place.

### **15/02/8 Cllr Bruce’s Report**

15/02/8/1 Meeting had taken place with Derek Mackay MSP, Minister for Transport and Islands, W. Gibson NAC council Leader and Cllr Bruce to discuss issues within the minister remit including the good progress on Brodick Harbour redevelopment, Ardrossan Harbour, and to emphasise the need for investment in Ardrossan Harbour.

Actions to be pursued by the Minister include a meeting with Clydeport.

The tender process for the Clyde and Hebrides Ferry Services has been announced. The contract will be from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2016 and run for 8 years to 2024.

15/02/8/2 £100k has been added to SPT capital budget for 2015/16 in respect of Arran Category I project on a Bridge Variable Messaging System in the south end

SPT are also investing £700k a year for 3 years for improvements to Brodick to Lochranza and updating of bus service.

Year 1 – new bus layby’s and development of the multi user pathway from Brodick to Corrie.

Year 2&3 Strategy to focus on Pinchpoints.

Cllr Bruce will check status regarding bus service for 2<sup>nd</sup> ferry.

### **15/02/9 A.O.C.B**

15/02/9/1 Brodick fun-fair. Message had been received asking for the CC’s view on providing a funfair for a period in July. Brodick Improvements had proposed a limited presence and the CC agreed to support the BIC position. Reply to be sent to owners.

15/02/9/2 Message received from SSE to offer resilience funding for local community groups. Members to notify their respective community groups.

Date of the next meeting confirmed as 31<sup>st</sup> March at 6pm