

Isle of Arran Community Council

MINUTES OF MEETING

Held at Ormidale Pavilion on 31st March 2015

Those present: Ricky McMaster (Chair), Bill Calderwood (Vice Chair), Hazel Gardiner (Secretary), Jim Henderson (Treasurer), John Lamont, Daniel Bowles, Liz Evans and Colin MacKenzie, Neil Arthur, Peter McMullen, Jim Nicholls, Cllr John Bruce and Peter Randell.

Also present were Gus MacLeod, Sergeant Allen Dodds, Hugh Boag (The Arran Banner) and 5 members of the public.

15/03/1 Welcome / Apologies: Barbara McNeice.

15/03/2 Forestry Presentation: Presentation from Forestry Commission postponed due to weather – they will be invited over for April meeting date. N. Arthur concerned about leaving it too long. D. Price has had responses from Forestry Commission and K. Gibson saying other options are being considered.

N. Arthur had attended a meeting at Machrie Hall and following this a letter with a series of questions was sent to the forestry commission by Dr Price. A copy of the response to Dr Price's questions was circulated but the view was that they still had not addressed the core concerns. R. McMaster asked what alternatives have they looked at elsewhere? This question was not answered in the response. N. Arthur queried why they had not looked at Glaister. W. Calderwood suggested that they indicated Glaister had been considered, and proposes that Community Council comprise a letter with a set of specific questions to be covered at the next meeting. N. Arthur said Jackson Carlow list MSP for West of Scotland has indicated that he would be interested and might be invited to comment. J. Lamont asked, has exploration of sites on the secured sites been considered. Could Community Council identify any possible sites and other alternatives? N. Arthur considered that if the Timber Fund ceases, there would be no investment in the String Road maintenance. R. McMaster said we need to know what other options the Forestry Commission is looking at. H. Gardiner supported the view "in taking it forward there needs to be 3 or 4 structured questions". **Action:** CC to write with specific points to be included in presentation.

15/03/3 Minutes of 24th February Meeting -

Minutes of meeting proposed by John Lamont, seconded by Jim Henderson.

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

15/03/4 Co-option of new members:

15/03/4/1 H. Gardiner indicated she is standing back as Secretary to Community Council with immediate effect, but is continuing as a Community Council member for Lochranza. This is due to her commitment to her professional responsibilities. Nominations for Secretary were invited. Bill Calderwood was proposed by J. Henderson, seconded H. Gardiner. No other nominations were proposed. Bill accepted role until next AGM.

15/03/4/2 A nomination application was received from Peter Randell of Whiting Bay to fill the vacancy which exists. No other applications were recorded and Peter's Co-option was proposed by Ricky McMaster and seconded by Bill Calderwood. Peter was invited to join the other members.

15/03/5 Matters Arising:

15/03/5/1 Taxi Ranks: North Ayrshire Council Licensing have agreed to a review and it is expected to take place mid-May. The general view from Brodick residents and general feedback was that the places at the side of the wee Co-op should be removed and with regards the spaces at the ferry terminal the suggestion is that one of the Taxi Bays might be changed to a Disabled Bay, which would be enforceable. There are 2 disabled bays in front of the petrol station which are being abused and we have waited for 12 months for CMAL to erect signage. This should once again be questioned at the Ferry Committee meeting.

N. Arthur queried what happened in respect of the new pier. This would need to be clarified as previous questions had indicated that the police would have no jurisdiction. It was again suggested that it was felt that if Statutory Notices are correct, they would be legally enforceable.

Private Hire Cars are prohibited from parking in Taxi spaces. J Lamont felt that Private Hire is the most viable option in the future for economic reasons. R. McMaster proposed that the Secretary drafts a response for the Community Council in line with the local views. **Action agreed.**

The question as to how Private Hire vehicles would be accommodated should be discussed with local staff as part of the service the island should be delivering to visitors.

15/03/5/2a Procedure for Buses: Cllr Bruce had forwarded a response from SPT which advised "having spoken with Stagecoach – is that the drivers and passengers will tend to come to an understanding, so, at this stage, I would suggest that it might be more useful to rely on existing relationships and see what happens, rather than force a formal decree which may not necessarily achieve what you're aiming for". N. Arthur has received a letter from SPT saying that the Policy will not change (re: Hail & Ride). It was agreed by Community Council that no further action required. R. McMaster said the situation appears that buses are still stopping anywhere. It was also agreed to monitor and advise the local manager of any issues if they arise.

N. Arthur noted the operators of the buses are not the owners of the buses. What is critical is the contract between the SPT and the operator.

15/03/5/2b Cllr Bruce has also had a response regards the provision of buses for the second ferry which is as previous years. "I'm afraid we have no plans to do anything for the additional ferries. You'll recall that the cost of doing so two years ago was very substantial and, in the event, the buses were lightly used. Even leaving the cost considerations to one side, we're already providing a service level which satisfies the social necessity test we work to. We simply can't justify further expenditure, coming as it would on top of the capital investment of £1.6m in buses, £1m for bus stances in the new ferry terminal, over £300,000 in making the roads suitable for low-floor bus operations, plans for real-time passenger information and planned expansion of the MyBus service on the island. Even with us having provided the buses for the contracts, the ongoing annual cost of subsidising the entire bus network will still be of the order of £710,000".

15/03/5/2c Sunday service: N. Arthur said there is no bus service on a Sunday after 1.30pm to inland villages (Shiskine etc). There is no service from 3.15 & 6.00pm. He had received a letter from SPT saying there are no plans to change this. Neil has circulated his correspondence which indicates a similar position to that of the second ferry. i.e. the utilisation versus costs are unsustainable.

D. Bowles felt that CalMac should advertise clearly on the vessel which buses meet the ferries. C. Mackenzie mentioned that there might be a problem with late (or lowtide) ferry arrivals.

After some discussion it was suggested that the secretary write to Stagecoach and SPT to ask if they could explain what the Criteria used was for these services to be considered and if there was

a record of previous utilisation of the service. Also was it possible that if the service was considered critical that the costs to provide it could be offset by reducing the services on another route to maintain the same annual costs.

15/03/5/2d Regards luggage space on the new buses: The current vehicles have been speedily delivered with the standard specification from the production line and it is planned to fit a rack-style arrangement on the nearside, just behind the entrance door and these will be fitted to the buses when they are received from the manufacturer.

15/03/5/2e It was also noted that new bus shelters had been installed around the island and several complaints had been received regards size of pads and the direction of the shelters. It was claimed the bus shelters should be on a pad 2 metres deep but they're fitting them on 1.8 metre. This is also being reviewed by SPT and a planned visit will review the sites and locations and provide a report to the relevant management.

Action: Secretary to write to SPT asking for results of the review and any actions arising.

15/03/5/3 Planning Democracy Meeting: H. Gardiner said the meeting is taking place in Glasgow (£10 per head). Agreed not one wished to attend therefore close.

15/03/5/4 Neighbourhood planning approach Straight Talking session: The event was well attend by ACC (Jim H, Barbara McN and Bill C) and unfortunately coincided with the Cold Water Island conference and the public meeting at Machrie connected to the forestry's extraction plans for the area. The meeting was an initial introduction to NAC's Neighbourhood approach and we were provided with some examples of other locations where this had been successfully introduced. (Cardiff, Bristol). There was also some Arran specific information covering demographics after which the meeting split into three groups to consider -

- Will a neighbourhood approach help to make decision making, more local and widen community participation
- What do you consider are the advantages and disadvantages of a neighbourhood approach?
- What do you consider are the advantages and disadvantages of our current community Council system?

All three discussion groups were facilitated and views recorded. NAC are expecting to provide feedback in 6 – 8 weeks' time at a further event to be organised on Arran.

15/03/5/5 Request to have covert speed monitor deployed to other locations:

A request was sent to NAC to have the system deployed to other areas on Arran at some time this year. NAC have responded to confirm they will include several Arran sites on their schedule. It is however not anticipated that they will be able to deploy them in the short term due to the demand from other locations.

15/03/6 Police Report: Sergeant Dodds

Unmarked Traffic Car had been over and reported 15 motorists for speeding.

The Rugby Sevens are this weekend.

P. Randell asked - what is the legal position of carrying a firearm in a public place. Sgt. Dodds said guns should be in slips unloaded. P. Randell was concerned of Police response to a report that had been made by Policeman – Sgt Dodds agreed to deal with it.

J. Lamont brought up that there should be cyclist warnings on the Ferry. Sgt. Dodds to talk with CalMac. John feels there should be an App that alerts to the dangers of speed build ups on the

String and the Boguille. It was felt there may be the need to rewrite the leaflets on the ferry. Sgt Dodds to follow up.

15/03/7 Reports from Sub Committees:

Planning: Several items were noted for discussion in private session.

Ferry Committee: Jim Henderson had provided a report:

Several points were highlighted as requiring further attention:

- Lack of capacity to allow residents to book cars at short notice due to sailings being booked well in advance.
- Despite attempts by the committee and K.Gibson there is no 2nd boat available for the beginning of April due to the Cal Mac network refits schedule. But Arran has been promised a 2nd boat as soon as one becomes available.
- Bill Calderwood's graph of capacity problems being experienced recently was presented by KG. The problems relating to fully booked services were discussed and C.McCort advised that there was no other suitable vessel available.
- David Cameron made a suggestion that the capacity issues could be relieved by introducing additional sailings at both ends of the day at the weekends. Although debated no decision was made at this time
- John Lamont asked why we could not get an answer and who was responsible for a decision. It was also questioned why the FC let this sit unanswered. Jim to raise as urgent at next FC meeting. It was also stated that the 2nd boat was needed in October, however the issue of the Cal Mac network refit programme starts at the end of September. Jim to ask if this can be reviewed again in light of the issues highlighted in April.
- M. Dorchester had attended a meeting with Clydeport; the outcome was news of a 7-figure investment of the shore facilities, in return for a long-term contract. But there will be no budget for improving the accessibility of Ardrossan Harbour. Clydeport's view was that with a 93% accessibility the upgrade of the harbour was not viable. Port of refuge-Troon is only being considered as a potential additional port of refuge. Jim was asked for details of the on shore developments planned.
- Ferry Committee constitution-meeting on Wednesday evening. Question was asked what this would involve but Jim replied no details were available other than the "independent rep" would be appointed at the FC AGM.
- Parking at Brodick pier. S. Richmond requested that the ACC take charge of this problem. Jim is carrying out early discussions.
- Request that a date be requested for the installation of the disabled signage which was indicated last year. Also to ask what CalMac were planning to do regards the misuse of the "short term" parking area. More information was required to allow the CC to consider possible options to address the issues during the construction stage.
- A question was asked regarding the points prepared by the CC for Transport Scotland and when they would be answered.

Elderly Forum: Daniel Bowles had attended and reported no new actions for the CC.

15/03/8 Correspondence

- Our Insurance premium is due and the renewal note confirms cover and costs are as per last year. Renewal agreed.

- Invitation received to attend the Arran Economic forum: 16th April from 2pm until 4pm, Auchrannie Hotel, Glencloy Suite. NB and BC to attend.
- Invite 2 or 3 representatives from your community council to an event at the University of Strathclyde on 6th May 2015 at 5pm. The purpose of this event is to present the findings of the Youth and criminal Justice community survey, and to encourage discussion, debate and sharing of good practice about engaging young people in their communities. Due to timing of meeting we cannot attend.
- Residents' complaint regarding bins at Sheean Drive. This has been resolved by the NAC local officers.
- Invitation to attend a training session on the local development planning. Bill C and John L attended and have brought hard copy of current plan for our reference. Also available on NAC's website. Session organised by Planning Aid Scotland a voluntary organisation who work with local authorities to encourage community engagement in the initial stages of the generation of the Local Development Plans. Attendance included reps from 9 other NAC CC's. Further meetings to be scheduled and should include Peter McM.
- CPP terms of reference have been updated and can be viewed at <http://www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/council/community-planning-partnership/north-ayrshire-community-planning-partnership.aspx>
- Notice of hearing aid clinics to be held at Arran Memorial Hospital 28th April, 26th May and 23rd June from 11am -1pm. Notice will be posted to ACC website.

15/03/09 Blackwaterfoot Street Lighting

A concern had been highlighted from the Shiskine Village association regarding the proposed new development at Cairnhouse. This situation dated back to 2010 / 2012 regulations which may have changed. Neil A. to attend the next village association meeting to understand what the local residents would request.

15/03/10 Cllr Bruce's Report

- Corrie Brodick multiuser pathway is progressing.
- New group established to promote Economic development for the region and Arran would have a specific focus.
- Brodick Harbour development group was being rolled down and the work will continue within the new structure.
- Council was going into spring recess and other announcements would be limited due to the general election Purdah.

15/03/11 A.O.C.B

Delays in repairs to BT covers was highlighted and the NAC local officer will follow up. The initial date for the work to be completed was cancelled due to weather.

Date of the next meeting: 28th April 2015.