

Isle of Arran Community Council

MINUTES OF MEETING Held at Ormidale Pavilion on 28th April 2015

Those present: Ricky McMaster (Chair), Bill Calderwood (Secretary), Jim Henderson (Treasurer), Hazel Gardiner, Daniel Bowles, Liz Evans, Colin Mackenzie, Neil Arthur, Peter McMullen, Peter Randell and Jim Nichols.

Also present were Gus MacLeod, Representative from local Police, Hugh Boag (The Arran Banner) and 7 members of the public.

15/04/1 Welcome / Apologies: Barbara McNeice, John Lamont, Cllr John Bruce

15/04/2 Forestry Presentation:

Presentation from Andy Walker and Jim Lauder, Forestry Commission.

Jim Lauder spoke of history of movement of timber.

Main points were: Strategy is to reduce volumes carried on public road and mileage, reduce time and cost and encourage private growers to come to market. Reduce accident risk in Port area.

1st stage of strategy, Sannox – 48k tons wk.

2nd stage West Coast – looked at West Coast option: Had opportunity of leasing a site at Dougarie.

3rd Phase site on east side of Island (south east corner to stop going, through Lamlash Brodick.) Showed a map of forested areas.

Meeting held before Christmas with some residents and subsequent 9th Feb drop-in at Tearoom which threw up concerns and issues of locals.

Some of these were again raised at the meeting:

- Point: Communications poor or patchy. Response: Still in feasibility stage, nothing to tell at that stage.
- Point: Meeting should have been more conventional. Response: We thought better to be there for people to chat to.
- Point: Machrie Moor Road Safety. Response: Forestry Commission and North Ayrshire Council aware of figure nature and Forestry Commission would propose a link road.
- Point: Concern re String Road Improvement would come. Response: Forestry Commission never paid money towards String but FC is a source for NAC to claim.
- Point: Impact on scenery of area. Response: Would try to minimise impact on scenery.
- Point: Loading facility impact on traffic. Response: Traffic on road has right of way – loader would have to wait. NAC don't encourage traffic lights.

JL then started to respond to points contained in the ACC Letter to Forestry Commission following their response to Dr Price from the residents meetings.

- What other routes considered? JL Referred to maps. Very few points on beach on west coast available had by default to possibly lease site.

- NA – What has changed now? Private estate owner, commercial interest in the private land owner who will want to use it. FC have breached all of own protocols. No other business would be allowed to cross the road for the shipping. No other evidence of alternative surveys on sites being done.
- JL – You're wrong. But there are other routes that can be explored (eg Glaister Farm).
- RMcM – You have presented your favoured option – We believe you have leased the ground. JL – We have a conditional preliminary lease, but will be ceased of permissions not granted.
- NA – At meeting you said Plan B was the String. JL – If opinion is against – it would go over String to Brodick.
- NA – Over string and turn left (say to Merkland Beach). AW – No survey has been done.
- JL – We have been looking at opportunities around the Island for many years.
- NA – 500-600 cars a day on that side of the shore. Can see the convenience to the FC but not to the community.
- JL – 186000 miles will be saved in a 10 year period.
- NA – Will you come back with Glaister and Merkland costed?
- JL – Would be happy to be part of a group focus on this. A group to come up with a long term strategy to look at Forestry plans for the island. We are also looking at a site in south east corner of the island.
- NA – Regardless of what you do there will be minor road-works. Have extent of roadwork's been costed (especially Machrie Moor Road).
- JL – Not in my control – its NAC.
- NA – Need to define working groups remit at initial meeting.

Action: ACC to arrange for initial work group to be established incorporating interested parties. Initial proposal was to have A MacLeod from NAC, N Arthur, L Evans and R McMaster from ACC with Dr. D Price and L Mansfield from residents meet with A Walker and J lauder from Forestry Commission.

15/04/3 Minutes of 31st March Meeting -

Minutes of meeting proposed by Liz Evans, seconded by Jim Henderson.

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

15/04/4 Matters Arising:

15/04/4/1 Buses

Bill spoke to his previously circulated note, referring to the consultation carried out several years ago detailing requirements from community

NA - The new buses are on the road, but the drivers cannot see into the nearside mirror. Agreed WC to write to Guy Bodie. NA – If they retrofit luggage racks, they will have to go away for inspection, as stability will be affected. WC – Had been informed that the luggage racks would be fitted on the island. Will ask G Bodie re: where work on buses to be carried out. HG – Have buses been running to the new timetable? Yes new timetable operating.

15/04/4/2 Roads

NA reported of a meeting held at Lamlash and referred to a map of work to be carried out in 2015. Include 2016 and 2017 sites for review. Communications via secretary.

15/04/4/3 Arran Economic Forum

WC reported on the Arran Economic Forum that he and NA had attended. Positive approach and we wait for further details.

15/04/5 **Police Report:**

- Four additional Officers start next week for summer period.
- PC Highlighted an issue regarding cold calling. Have seen an increase in calls on the island. Also highlighted examples with phone call scams but these are now dealt with by Central Unit in London.
- A question was asked regarding cycle traffic coming off the ferry and if leaflets could be circulated on the boat. PC responded to confirm that Police cyclists are trained to cycle 2 abreast. PC Agreed to talk to Sgt Dodds re: leaflets to go in ferry.

15/04/6 **Correspondence:**

- Message received from resident complaining about lack of short term capacity to leave and return for family emergency business. Jim H raised this at the FC and see his report for further details.
- Message received 27th April asking why we do not publish personal emails on the website and why we have no correspondence address. Agreed we will not publish personal info and all communication should be directed to CC email account.
- Message received from Corrie resident regards speeding traffic and inappropriate overnight parking from RV's. This will situation will be monitored following further examples in other areas.
- **Resilience:** Message received from **Ayrshire Civil Contingency Team** regards "rest centre training"
Proposed dates were not convenient. WC to arrange alternative dates. JN. Also proposed to link event to coincide with initiative to restart a village hall association. Venue suggested as Whiting Bay hall.

15/04/7 Reports from Sub Committees:

15/04/7/1 **Ferry Committee:** Jim Henderson had circulated a written report:

- JH tabled a written report. NA wants to stop design of new ferry until Ardrossan is sorted. CM – concern on basis of 93% serviceability. WC had figures from CalMac which showed distribution. HG – Issue is the Number of days ferry is on amber – not the number of days ferry doesn't sail. When boat is on amber you have to make contingency plans. Last year 160 cancelled sailings. This year 130 cancelled sailings to date. CM gave example when Caledonian Isles could not go to Gourock – but Rothesay service was docking. NA – In Bute and other ferry committees the meetings are open to the public.
- It was reported that the post of Independent Traveller would be advertised in the paper prior to the AGM for nominations 2 weeks.
- WC pointed out Clyde Ferry Tier 1 Group was only one where Community Council are not present. R McM – In relation to the CalMac served Islands – should be talking to each other to go to CalMac with a common voice. WC /JH had raised this at meeting with TS and were following up.
- NA – proposes CC express serious concern boat is out for design now whilst the major ports Ardrossan and Gourock are not being addressed – Transport Scotland, Mackay Transport Minister. It was agreed that WC and JH will draft a letter. JH to raise with FC to report similar.
- In advance of the FC AGM groups are asked to confirm their appointed rep. JH happy to continue as FC representative with WC deputy. Agreed.

- 15/04/7/2 Elderly Forum:** Daniel Bowles had attended recent meeting and reported the EF were very concerned about the lack of luggage racks eg. Nowhere to put rucksacks
NA requests EF secretary to write separately re: design and safety of new buses.
- 15/04/7/3 Blackwaterfoot Street Lighting**
NA had attended local improvements association meeting and reported that a huge majority do not want street lighting in new developments. Favouring low level pillar type lights rather than street lights on the new developments.
- 15/04/8 Road side parking on A841 (Lamlash)**
DB spoke of issues related to traffic. Increasing traffic is causing major problems in the village with roadside parking. Daniel circulated a drawing with several options to be discussed for junction at front of Co-op and a suggestion for double yellow lines from Drift /Clock tower to Pier junction.
Action: Agreed secretary to write to propose 2 box junctions.
- 15/04/9 Cllr Bruce's Report**
- Due to the general election Purdah. No report available.
- 15/04/10 A.O.C.B**
15/04/10/1 Hustings meeting arranged for Brodick Hall at 7:30pm
- 15/04/10/2 CM raised concerns for the front of Brodick with empty business premises and the condition of the former McLaren Hotel and the failure of the planned Tesco store.

Date of the next meeting: 26th May 2015.