

Isle of Arran Community Council

MINUTES OF MEETING Held at Ormidale Pavilion on 26th May 2015

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

Also present were a representative from local Police, Hugh Boag (Arran Banner) and 1 member of the public.

15/05/1 Welcome / Apologies: Barbara McNeice, Jim Nichols, Colin Mackenzie, John Lamont and Gus MacLeod.

15/05/2 Minutes of 28th April Meeting -

Minutes of meeting proposed by Peter Randell, seconded by Neil Arthur.

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

15/05/3 Matters Arising:

15/05/3/1 Buses

An update on the status of the new buses had been provided by Cllr Bruce and circulated prior to the meeting. Key points included: Buses are procured by SPT under a tendering process. 3 main suppliers all have relatively similar designs and choice is based on the ability to meet EU regulations, low emissions, manual adjusting ramps and access for wheelchairs and buggies.

Bespoke busses for Arran were never justified given the required flexibility etc.

The Luggage rack issues were identified at the launch and a contract had been agreed with Stagecoach as the operator for retrofit.

“Bike on Buses” again was previously discussed at both pre-tender and post-tender stages and designs prevented external not to say expensive add-ons. Stagecoach had also confirmed the long standing policy against carrying non-folding bicycles still prevailed. This was notified to all island groups in January 2015.

The meeting accepted the information and appreciated the statement.

15/05/3/2 Lamlash Parking

NAC had responded to our letter requesting advice and response to the proposal to add road markings and several junctions in Lamlash. Suggested “Keep Clear” markings be installed at the corner opposite the Lamlash Bay Hotel. Meeting agreed to leave the resolution with NAC roads safety officers.

15/05/3/3 Resilience event.

ACCT had agreed to rearrange the training event for village groups related to the establishment and operation of “Rest Centres”. The proposed dates were not convenient and action to request alternative dates possibly later in August.

15/05/3/4 Speed signage at Whiting Bay

Clarification was sought on the status of the erection of the remaining speed restriction signage on entry to Whiting Bay and it was reported that NAC were still waiting for a land owner to trim back roadside hedging to allow the signs to be installed. NAC were following up with all parties.

15/05/3/5 Taxi rank facilities at Invercloy

Notification had been received from NAC licencing to confirm that the positions previously reserved for Taxi's were to be rescinded with immediate effect. Police and operators had been notified.

15/05/3/6 Bus stops and Shelters

Update had been received from SPT to advise they had completed their review of the island in conjunction with NAC and further works were being planned to address the issues. This includes 20 sites where ground works will be accrued out including wheelchair ramps where possible and 8 existing shelters where the configuration will be altered to improve weather protection and 9 additional shelters to be installed.

15/05/4 **Police Report:**

- Parking was raised and the officers explained that they had to adopt a consistent approach across the island.
- Volume of cyclists on the roads and their practices of running in block were questioned. This is an ongoing matter for the local resources.

15/05/5 **Correspondence:**

- Copies of the NAC plan for 2015 – 2020 were distributed to all members.
- New Facebook group set up by a member from Couper Angus and Bendochy CC to allow groups to share information, ideas and challenges.
- Message received from NAC Chief Executive regards Boundaries Commission review. The CC had submitted a response to the boundaries commission's initial discussion. Letter advised that NAC had reviewed their position and recognised that this was still at odds with the CC's position. The letter outlined that NAC still proposed to move Arran into a ward with West Kilbride and Fairlie. Following discussion it was agreed we would discuss this further at the next meeting and also accept the positive offer from the NAC CE to meet with her to discuss NAC's position.

15/05/6 Reports from Sub Committees:

15/05/6/1 **Ferry Committee:** Jim Henderson had circulated a written report:

- FC request to have 08:20 sailing on Sunday in winter has been held until CalMac regional manager can be consulted.
- Port Manger reported a fenced off area being organised to marshal cyclists leaving and boarding ferry.
- Work group being established to look at booking and capacity solutions.
- Capacity for short notice bookings once again discussed and no locations have this arrangement and CalMac will continue with first come first served.
- Questions were again asked regards the proposed smart ticketing system and when we could get some details of what will be implemented. It was again suggested that a "user trial" of the system prior to release should be carried out. Many questions were voiced regards the capability of the system to handle items such as concession tickets on line changes to bookings etc.
- A response had been received from Transport Scotland to confirm their agreement that the ACC should initiate discussions with Clyde Ferry Users Group to establish representation for CC's at the meeting. This would not be a guaranteed Arran representative but it was agreed we should develop a process to allow CC's to have a voice at this level. Initial discussions have been held and the general process is being revised as the system established in 2007 has fallen down in several areas. Our initial exchanges have resulted in an outline being agreed which would propose 2 CC's represent the various destinations ports and act as communication hubs. It was agreed we still wished to pursue this route to have the communities voice

registered at the next level of consultation and we would approach Bute CC to discuss and collect their views. No meeting of the CFUG is imminent.

- The draft letter proposed to be sent to Transport Scotland regarding safe guards for the New Vessel long term access to Ardrossan and an Alternative port of refuge had been circulated prior to the CC meeting and with no amendments proposed it was agreed this would be sent with copies to the Islands Minister, K. Gibson MSP and Cllr Bruce. Action Secretary.

15/05/6/2 Elderly Forum: Daniel Bowles had attended recent meeting and reported the EF still held concerns re the bus facilities and it was suggested that the EF take this up separately.

15/05/6/3 Forestry extraction plans:

- First meeting of work group had been held with R. McMaster chairing plus 2 further representatives from the CC. 2 residents and 2 from the forestry.
- The FC strategy was to effectively deliver the timber resources on the island to market in a manner that causes least disruption to residents and visitors alike.
- Full minutes were recorded and will be circulated to the group when approved.
- It was agreed the remit of the groups was “To critically review and advise the Forestry Commission on its strategic objectives for timber extraction on Arran and evaluate all proposed options”.
- It was also noted that the meeting had still not received “comparative data” for alternative options. In the absence of this data it was viewed that the FC had focussed on Machrie as the only viable option and the meeting sought to have alternatives developed further and new options explored.
- A meeting of the forestry panel was scheduled on the 28th May at which the topic would be discussed (NA and LE to attend) and the work group would meet again with the 18th June a possible date.

15/05/7 Cllr Bruce’s Report

- In addition to the reports on the Buses the Cllr also reported on matters from the recent cabinet meeting.
 - The following items were approved:
 - NA Violence Against Women strategy
 - NA Road Maintenance programme 2015/16.
 - Draft local Transport Strategy 2015/20.
 - SPT grant funding 2015/16
 - Grant offers for outdoor access projects 2015/16
 - Coastal Erosion – Brodick Beach project 2015/16.

All now available on the NAC website. <http://north-ayrshire.cmis.uk.com/North-Ayrshire/-ayrshire.cmis.uk.com/North-Ayrshire/-ayrshire.cmis.uk.com/north-ayrshire/CommitteesMeetings/MeetingsCalendar/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/2641/Committee/5/Default.aspx>

15/05/8 A.O.C.B

A note of interest from a Corrie resident to join the CC was recognised and the secretary was actioned to forward a nomination paper.

Date of the next meeting: 30th June 2015.