

# Isle of Arran Community Council

## MINUTES OF MEETING

Held at Ormidale Pavilion on 23rd February 2016

**Those present:** Bill Calderwood (Secretary), Hazel Gardiner, John Lamont, Neil Arthur, Marilyn Woods, Barry Mochan and Cllr John Bruce, Sgt Dodds (Police), Gus MacLeod (NAC Local officer).

Also present were, Nikki Harris, Arran Banner

**16/02/1 Welcome / Apologies:** Daniel Bowles, Colin Mackenzie, Liz Evans, Ricky McMaster, Jim Henderson, Peter McMullen, Jim Nichols.

Nikki Harris was welcomed to the meeting as a potential representative for the vacant Whiting Bay position.

**16/02/2 Minutes of 26<sup>th</sup> January Meeting –**

Draft minutes were amended to reflect chairs statement related to forestry. Amended minutes were proposed by John Lamont, seconded Barry Mochan.

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

**16/02/3 Matters Arising:**

**16/02/3/1 Roads:**

Updates circulated for partial closure on A841 starting on 1st Feb and extended until 19<sup>th</sup> Feb due to weather impact. Local Officer confirmed that work was 19 days behind schedule and would continue into first week of March under local controls but no closure would be required.

The next years' work schedule has not yet been finalised and the plans will be discussed with the community and business groups prior to publication. The condition of several sections was highlighted including the top section of the string road. It was confirmed these will be considered when the future plans are discussed. With the increased traffic from RET it was suggested additional funding should be sought to repair the critical sections in advance of this year's visitors volumes. **Action:** NAC to inform CC when plans are prepared.

**16/02/3/2 CC restructure:**

Response sent to NAC confirming ACC support for the restructure proposal and we have no further points to add.

Communications had been received from NAC on day of meeting advising that 3<sup>rd</sup> round of consultation was to be carried out to address two outstanding issues:

- (i) the proposal to change the number of community council service the wider Irvine area from four at present (Irvine, Dreghorn, Girdle Toll and Springside) to three (Irvine East, Irvine West and Irvine South): **Note:** It was agreed this was not relevant to ACC and we would respond accordingly.

and

- (ii) The option of allowing postal and/or electronic voting.

**Note:** Our discussion agreed that this was not a priority and given NAC's restricted budget not the best use of limited funds. It was considered that it was better to retain existing "hustings" type format and any funding should be directed to engage more candidates and facilitate the election meetings. This view was confirmed from experience from our recent election which was understood to be a unique event in NAC due to limited interest from candidates. Any election would only be required if we were fortunate enough to have more candidates than openings which had not been a regular situation recently.

It was also noted that in the event of this being adopted, candidates would require funding to produce 'election' material and communicate with residents.

Our members are still very split in terms of the proposed extension of service to 4 years but accept the majority views.

Consultation will end 25<sup>th</sup> March for presentation to council on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Action: Secretary to respond as above.**

16/02/3/3 **Public toilets:**

Information as provided regards the removal of the mechanical systems at various locations. The permanent buildings at Brodick and North Sannox will remain as public toilets. See also Cllr's report for further updated information.

16/02/4 **Police Report:**

- No major items to report.
  - ArranMan organiser will visit the island and tour the route with representatives from all appropriate parties involved.
  - JL asked if there were any statistics from the first year of RET to show impact of increased cyclists and general traffic. No significant change was noted.
  - Sgt Dodds was asked about parking at Lamlash Co-op and the perceived dangers from the narrow road. Request was that contractors vans use the car park near by unless required to load or unload material. He has discussions ongoing with contractors and will raise the question.

16/02/5 **Correspondence:**

Notes circulated covering:

- CAB bus study timetable
- Village SOS encouraging local village actions etc.
- COAST event at the Outdoor centre.

Messages received via "Contactus"

- Request for housing for young person with local work  
And
- Request for housing from family. Both messages direct to NAC housing department.
- Concern raised from local residents regarding possible initiative by Co-op manager to welcome mobile homes to overnight in the carpark and use toilet facilities, baby changing etc. Discussions expressed concern at this approach. Impact to customers, neighbouring residents and restriction to parking. The meeting appreciated the need for more space but this was not considered to be the best solution. It was also recognised that the store manager is very community conscious and would strictly monitor behaviours etc. Issue to be highlighted to other groups for their views.

Others:

- BM advised of proposal for a Music festival at North Sannox picnic area. All approvals are currently being requested.
- Message received and circulated from Machrie village improvements to inform CC members of their views regards Forestry plans. CC will continue to support the work group to develop the best solutions for the island.
- Note received advising that the Scottish Community Councils website ([www.communitycouncils.scot](http://www.communitycouncils.scot)) has been redesigned and relaunched.
- Invitation received from Arran ECO Savvy to the public meeting scheduled for 27<sup>th</sup> Feb.

16/02/6 **Reports from Sub Committees.**

- Ferries:** Full report from Jim H circulated to group No questions.  
**Report provided from IPP tender meeting.** CFUG meeting was attended by two members representing Arran. Report being prepared for FC. All members were asked to advise the secretary before the 5<sup>th</sup> March of items they wanted to have included in the Ardrossan harbour project group. These will be consolidated via the FC and presented to the team by our MSP. **Action:** all CC members
- Forestry:** Next meeting scheduled for Thursday 25<sup>th</sup>. Minutes will be available on the CC website when approved.
- ConnectArran:** Public meeting at High school on the 18<sup>th</sup> had disappointing attendance from residents. Encouraging news from commercial group looking to develop an option at Machrie / Blackwaterfoot which could be pilot to extend to other rural locations on the island. Proposed 4G pilot scheme for Lamlash and Kilmory is progressing and awaiting confirmation of second service provider before site visits and meetings with communities to explain "Roles and Responsibilities". Anticipate availability in Qrt2.

d) **Resilience:** Jim N and BC had attended a meeting with other members from the island multi-agency group. Explained what the communities could do to assist them and also dispelled some reservations of our participation. It was agreed we will be more involved and ACVS will make resource available to help reduce the admin type load for other members. Further discussions to be arranged. Note received from SSE after meeting to confirm they will follow up installation of notice boards. Problems have delayed planning permissions etc in Argyll. Arran has permissions from all property owners to install units.

Gus highlighted that the batteries for the road sign have expired and funds need to be found to replace the units. **Action:** Gus to confirm costs of batteries and ACC to look for potential funding sources.

#### 16/02/7 **Dog Fouling:**

Letters from residents had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Marilyn and John L had also started to investigate what was available and what legislation applied.

Dog waste management and control is required under government legislation. (Public toilets are not a statutory requirement for local authorities to provide).

Health risks etc. were all recognised and it was also agreed that the problem is the responsibility of all dog owners. It is not only a visitor issue.

Discussion indicated that each village had a different approach. It was agreed that Marilyn, John and Hazel would work together to bring some options and proposals to our March meeting.

Gus confirmed that NAC will provide material for signage and if requests were received for new bins they would be provided by the council. He also confirmed that NAC's dog warden visits the island and agreed to arrange for the team to meet with him on his next visit.

#### 16/02/8 **Cllr Bruce's Report**

Councillor provided updates on the following items:

- Toilets. The decision to close all but two premises on the island has been delayed for 1 year. Meeting was advised that the facilities would be available for the minimal cost of £1 to village groups. Community groups interested in taking over the other facilities around the island should contact NAC. Whiting Bay community have expressed an interest but no decision has been made by them. There are no grants available for this and it will be the responsibility of the communities to ensure compliance with health and safety and insurance requirements. A request for information of last year's cost was made to help groups understand what they were undertaking. It was agreed that it may be possible to provide this at village level.

**Action: NAC**

- NAC budget has now been approved and despite a £13.8m savings imposed versus last year education has been protected. Roads budget has to be understood and no plans are confirmed for the 16/17 period but when drafted the communities will be consulted. A separate meeting will take place with SPT to discuss their budgets for roads which would apply to N'Ayrshire and Arran. Library opening hours will be reduced for some locations but Arrans hours will remain unchanged.
- Provosts Awards. The individual proposed last month had declined the nomination. Arran groups will be represented by nominees for Arts groups and young residents' awards.
- CWIT conference will be held on Arran from 14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> March.
- Confirmation of no increase in Council Tax for this year.

#### 16/02/9 **AOB:**

No new items

16/02/10 **Date of the next meeting:** 29<sup>th</sup> March 2016 @ 6.30pm.