

Isle of Arran Community Council
Minutes
Meeting held 27th September 2016

Those present: Ricky McMaster (Chair), Bill Calderwood (Vice Chair), Jim Henderson, Marilyn Woods, Neil Arthur, Colin McKenzie, Peter McMullen, Daniel Bowles, John Lamont, Liz Evans, Barry Mochan, Hazel Gardiner, Gus McLeod, and Cllr Bruce.

In attendance: Andy Walker, Hugh Boag and Sally Campbell

1. Welcome / Apologies

- Apologies: Sgt Dodds, Jim Nichols

2. Minutes from Previous Meeting

- Minutes of 30th August - proposed CMcK, seconded DB.

3. Matters Arising:

- Toilets

No further information on costs to have the premises refurbished to a standard and no commitment from NAC to carry out this work in advance of any planned handover to the community.

Several village reps indicated that there was still an interest in taking them over but until costs of items such as insurance, lighting, heating and consumable supplies it was a difficult decision to make. The subject of the Septic tank maintenance was also mentioned as a potential significant cost depending on the frequency of carrying out this maintenance and adding facilities for chemical toilets with the increased volumes of motor homes visiting the island.

- **Action:** Secretary to request info from NAC.

- Expenses

The treasurer reported that several cheques had not been presented which could restrict getting the accounts completed and audited. **Action:** Three members to confirm status.

4. Presentation from Andy Walker. Forestry Commission Manager for Arran: Glenashdale proposals for harvesting and path upgrades.

- Andy circulated maps of the area showing the area impacted. Glenashdale was planted circa 1960 and the area to be felled presents difficulty due to terrain and the special machinery required. This will mean closure of the route to the Giant Graves. It is proposed that this work would be carried out next summer. (Easter / October). The forestry are looking at how they can schedule work to allow the road to be open at the weekends over the period. It was confirmed that the timber will be extracted via Dyemill. Forestry propose to have a community meeting sometime in November to advise locals.
- **Action:** JL will liaise and suggested use of the Whiting Bay improvements meeting. Andy Walker to advise CC of date of meeting

5. Police Report: No updates available due to officers attending incident.

- An earlier message confirmed that road monitoring is continuing. MW raised matter of organisations not removing notices after the event. G McLeod will contact Sgt.

6. Correspondence:

- Message circulated covering Participatory budgeting process. Applications to be submitted by noon 4th Oct. community meeting to review and vote for allocation of funds. Brodick Hall 22nd Oct 11noon until 4pm. All applications short listed required to make 3 minute presentation to meeting.
- Note from Marine Scotland to confirm the application by NAC to repair the Cloy burn is being considered.
- Note from Forestry Commission seeking views on EIA for proposal to prepare for construction of internal road at Machrie. No objections noted from the limited response received. It was agreed we will respond indicating no major concerns for the work.

7. Community Council Election Process:

- CC election notice circulated. Please see amended application form which is consistent with the guidelines. MW had highlighted the omission of occupation on initial version. Form was amended for the NAC meetings arranged in Whiting Bay, Brodick and Lochranza. Attendance was low.

October meeting will be held with new elected members unless villages require to hold a local election in which case current incumbents will represent those particular villages. We will not be able to hold an AGM or appoint officers etc until the full membership has completed the election process.

8. Sub Group Reports:

Ferries:

- a) Feedback provided from recent CFUG meeting including CalMac executive summary info.
- b) Winter timetable released with early Sunday depart from Brodick confirmed.
- c) No further info on Ardrossan Harbour Task force were available.
- d) Meeting with Islands Minister will seek updates on vessel build plans, Ardrossan progress, revised process for user representation, integrated ticketing and demand management systems.
- e) Working group presented Aug info for availability and reliability.
- f) CalMac management have been asked to respond on several points from the experiences of the Islay incident.
- g) Pilot process for folks requiring access to lifts is working well and will continue through winter schedule.
- h) New terminal is progressing on or ahead of plan. Traffic flow to change this week with vehicles entering staging area nearest to the bus stances. They will then load via a new route going round the back of the new building. This flow will be in place for a few weeks until completion of the new access route when the flow will change again..
- i) NA highlighted potential booking problems in the shoulder period of October with only 1 vessel operating.
- j) Next ferry meeting 14th Nov.

Elderly forum:

MW provided report: AGM preceded the general mtg.

- Office Bearers were appointed. There remains a vacancy for secretary – present secretary agreed to remain in post until next committee meeting. Treasurer's report accepted.

General Meeting

- Ormidale Pavilion has been approached with a view to installing a loop system for people with hearing aids – not feasible because of cost.
- Montrose House – Concerns have been raised regarding recent staff related issues and the subsequent handling of the procedures. Rev A Adamson had written to the authorities in July and has not yet received a response. The Elderly Forum asked that we be made aware of the problem and the delay in concluding the process. Cllr Bruce gave a summary of problem, which had followed an inspection report. It was agreed no action could be undertaken by the CC at this time and the Cllr would follow up with relevant managers.

Connect Arran:

- 4G rollout still awaiting confirmation of service provider signing up. This is now expected shortly. A third party is looking at a mast in Whiting Bay.
- Broadband progressing slowly with ongoing issues being reported.
- Machrie alternative system is also being rolled out and the company are looking at expanding the scope of their work to other areas. It was agreed that they should be encouraged to connect all the Shiskine Valley residents who had registered interest before spreading their resources thinner.

Arran Economic Group:

- Strategic review meeting held with steering group in advance of meeting with the Islands Minister. Confirmation of strategic direction and priorities. Review of participating groups and

resources is proposed to ensure focus and coverage. CC currently has several members attending.

9. Cllr Bruce's Report

- **Cemeteries:**

Ongoing discussions related to Sannox.

Brodick currently has no identified issues

Lamlash extension to area was approved by planners at the end August.

NA asked about a possible alternative for the future with the provision of a small crematorium.

Cllr Bruce agreed to follow up.

- **Report Submitted to CPP** from recent Locality planning forum.

Vice chair appointed from community representatives.

Discussions also took place on:

- the priorities for the Arran Locality Plan;

- around key local issues for the forthcoming consultation on the LDP;

- an outline of the process for grant applications and awards;

Received an update of the details of Participatory Budgeting (PB);

Note Arran's date for the PB pilot event is 22 Oct from 12.00 - 4.00pm. Publicity is organised. (details as correspondence above)

A working group has been established to progress Place Standard issues and others between the quarterly LP meeting dates;

A priority is to seek out an early engagement with the local Youth Forum;

Next meeting of the Arran LP is scheduled for Dec 8th at the Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick. Time to be confirmed.

- **SPT funding** (£150k) will be used to extend resurfacing from the recent work at Cladach towards the castle gates.

- **NAC** have published their winter plans for road maintenance which cover gritting etc. and are available on line

10. A.O.C.B.

- P McM introduced the proposal for a junior Triathlon event scheduled for the 3rd and 4th June 2017. Being organised by C.Wood who was liaising with S.Gilmore and has the support of the emergency services. Event to be based at the Outdoor Centre. It was considered that this should be encouraged if the necessary licences and procedures were in place.

- Holy Isles planning decision: Due to public interest and response on this topic this was discussed in the public section of our meeting. Recent decision by NAC planning to approve the planning application had been received with several groups voicing disappointment and concern that the process had allowed the council to process the application by delegated powers rather than bring it to the planning meeting which would have allowed both sides of the argument to make representation.

The Community Councils response to the planners had specifically requested this and we received no communication to say that this would not be allowed until the handling report was published.

Cllr Bruce explained that to have an application "called in" needed someone or a group to approach an elected officer and specifically ask them to have it brought to the planners attention.

This process was negatively received by the CC and it was agreed we would write to the NAC Chief Exec copying all the elected members responsible for the ward and highlight the disappointment in the way NAC have handled this application and seek a mtg to discuss.

At a time where decision making is being promoted at the local level this process was viewed very negatively by all members of the CC.

A sub group was established to review the handling report and identify any inconsistencies in the report and explore options to have the decision called in. It was also agreed we should seek to have the NAC scheme for delegated powers amended to give more cognisance to the CC responses as is in operation in other LA's.

Date of next meeting Tuesday 25th October 2016.