

Isle of Arran Community Council
Minutes
Meeting held 29th November 2016

- Those present: Bill Calderwood (Chair), Ricky McMaster (Vice Chair), Jim Henderson, Neil Arthur, Marilyn Woods, Liz Evans, Peter McMullen, Chris Atkins, Peter Randell, Julie Graham, Gus McLeod, Jim Nichols and Cllr Bruce.
In attendance: Hugh Boag

1. Welcome / Apologies

- Apologies: Barry Mochan, John Lamont, Hazel Gardiner

2. Minutes from Previous Meeting

- Minutes 25th October - proposed R McM, seconded P. McM.

3. Matters Arising:

- Holy Isles Planning:
Minutes from meeting with NAC had been circulated with the sub-groups recommendation to take no further action. This was supported unanimously. Civic Trust had requested copy of minutes and it was agreed they be made available to Civic Trust Chair.
NAC's offer for further training related to planning conditions was appreciated and it was agreed we would accept their offer. We also agreed to follow up NAC's agreement to review the process for "call in" of applications as detailed in the summary.
- Toilets:
Feedback from meeting with NAC regards budget cuts being enforced which will close public toilets at end of March.
The decision was considered disastrous for a holiday location who was promoting "world Class" destination. Further meeting to be held with Village representatives from locations who currently have facilities. Contact names to be provided ASAP to chair.
- Montrose House:
Attention was drawn to petition currently circulating. The previous agreement not to be involved in a legal process related to employees was again confirmed. It was noted that the recent inspection at the home and reported an improvement in key areas and residents care was not at risk.
- Roads update:
Several members had attended a meeting to discuss further upgrades on the String and work on the A841 between Cladach and Castle gates. These are planned for January 3rd – 9th weather permitting and confirmation of dates will be advised by NAC.
Other points raised were related to areas where White lines were missing and the locations considered dangerous. This is also being addressed this week. School speed notices were also discussed for Lochranza and Brodick and repairs are being expedited.

4. Police Report: No Representative available from Police.

5. Correspondence:

- Messages received via "Contact-us" –

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- i. Copy of letter from Arran Civic Trust regarding proposed development at Douglas Hotel.
- ii. Note received from Lochranza resident related to recent election process.
- iii. Message received regards revised "Dog Fouling" Pamphlet. Response returned to VisitArran.
- iv. EcoSavvy note: Seeking support for grant application to develop micro cells in other villages. It was agreed we respond supporting their efforts but without specifics we could not be more explicit.

6. Sub Group Reports:

a) Ferries:

- i. Minutes from September AFC meeting approved and published.

- ii. Oct. Meeting was attended by Peel Ports director who provided overview of their approach to developments for Ardrossan. They will invest in the Marine infrastructure but don't believe they need to spend the £20 £30m speculated in the pres. The investment needs to be commercially sustainable and they are looking for a contract with the Scottish gov't for approx. 25+ years.
- iii. An analysis of the cancellations was presented which we have summarised in the document circulated earlier.
- iv. New Vessel will be accommodated but upgrades to port are proposed to help.
- v. Meeting was also attended by Stagecoach manager who highlighted impact to onwards travellers of late sailings. This topic needs to be continued with CalMac. Budget limitations restrict introduction of digital signage around the island. Request was made to consider revised budget allocation to ensure second boat had an island connection. This will be monitored.
- vi. Question regards non-residents use of concession tickets etc was raised and SPT have responded with full explanation.
- vii. Detailed analysis of bookings were circulated and discussions on going with Operator. Need to get operator and TS together to agree options to alternative approach.
- viii. Situation regards "emergency" capacity for medical related travel. Further meeting to be arranged.
- ix. Port manager report new terminal work still progressing well. Move to Phase 5 with revised vehicle entry schedule and now introduced.
- x. New Linkspan floated into position.
- xi. Problems with check in etc suggested as link to passengers indicating they have tickets but on check in then have to purchase them. This practice could impact continuation of 6 journey car tickets! Also suggested that check in time may be extended to 45 minutes. This has been rejected when previously suggested and this needs to be further discussed.
- xii. Next mtg scheduled for 19th Dec.

The ferry committee had asked for each group represented to confirm their position regards Ardrossan / Troon. All members were asked to indicate their localities view and it was unanimously agreed that with the current information available and conditional on the indicated upgrades to the infrastructure that Ardrossan was the preferred route. The majority view was in favour of a public meeting to update everyone with the facts.

b) Forestry / Environment:

- i. Meeting scheduled for 15th Dec to update regards Machrie.

c) Elderly Forum:

- i. Daniel attended. Main topic was once again Montrose House. Mention of petition but forum agreed to wait for responses to their letter. Latest inspection of facilities indicates significant improvement in areas of residents care previously highlighted for attention.
- ii. Booking procedures for MyBus questioned by an attendee. Stagecoach will be contacted to confirm if pamphlet is available.
- iii. No meeting in December.

d) Arran Economic Group:

- i. Next meeting scheduled for 14th December.

e) ConnectArran:

- (i) Meeting held 26th Oct
- (ii) Broadway partners have started invoicing users.
- (iii) Roll-out continues. Spares etc are now in place.
- (iv) Some customer issues to be addressed.
- (v) Concerns highlighted regards Govt voucher scheme.
- (vi) 4G work progressing slowly for Kilmory. Mast design etc provided and awaiting final sign up of operator before submitting planning application.
- (vii) Lamlash still pending operator interest.

f) Locality Planning Budget event:

- a. This meeting was arranged to give an overview of the NAC budget “challenges”.
- b. Early indications are that savings of £53m will be required over next 3 years.
- c. Breakdown of spend in 2016/17 period were as follows.
 - i. Education and Youth Employment £107m.
 - ii. Social Services and health £82m
 - iii. Place (Road and streetscene, cleansing, facilities management) £59m
 - iv. Economy and Communities (economic developmentand regeneration, community facilities, libraries etc) £20m
 - v. Finance and Corporate Support (Council tax and benefits, customer services, IT, Finance) £14m
 - vi. Democratic Services (Corporate policy, support to members) £4m
 - vii. Corporate Costs (Borrowing costs for capital projects, contributions to other bodies including SPT, concessionary travel) £28m

7. Cllr Bruce’s Report

- o Cllr Bruce confirmed that meetings are ongoing to prepare for the 2017/18 budget. See above for outline.

8. A.O.C.B.

- Whiting Bay group had asked the CC to be aware of proposal to dispose of funds which had been held for many years as a result of the initial Border Bio-Fuels planning action. It was agreed that this was responsibility for the local association.

Next Meeting: 31st January at 6:00 pm in Local Council Offices Lamlash