

Isle of Arran Community Council
Minutes
Meeting held 25th September 2018

Present: Bill Calderwood (Chair), Peter McMullen, John Lamont, Colin McKenzie, Neil Arthur, Julie Graham, Bob Haddow, Marilyn Woods, Ricky McMaster

Also present: Sgt Douglas Robertson, Cllr Timothy Billings, Gus McLeod, Jim Nichols - Minute Secretary

1. Welcome / Apologies

The Chair thanked everyone for attending.

Apologies: Liz Evans, Frances Westwood, Jim Henderson

2. Minutes from Previous Meeting

Minutes of 04.09.2018

Proposed NA, seconded CM.

3. Matters Arising:

Nil

4. Police Report

Sgt Robertson reported there had been no significant crimes.

10 reported – 50% of which were detected.

No events planned. Arran Man event did not go ahead due to weather forecast at time of cancellation.

5. Correspondence

Memorial benches. WC reminded CC members there is a process to obtain agreement for memorial benches.

Newsletters from Ferguson Marine have been distributed to CC's.

Multiple updates have been received from CalMac regarding ferry interruptions.

RMcM suggested CalMac keep their website updated more regularly to avoid confusion.

MW suggested Calmac bookings system alerts the public earlier when no bookings can be made.

WC advised a small group is working with Calmac to attempt to improve the booking process. He requested photos (with times) where space was on the ferry and bookings were "full".

A note re: Royal Mail scams has been circulated.

6. Reports from Sub-Committees

6.1 Ferry Committee

6.1.1 Process has been confirmed for a revised system to assist patients returning to Arran from Hospital requiring medical transport. This will include ambulance travel and is a major improvement for residents who need to have medical supervised transport home. This will commence in early October.

6.1.2 Some sailings this year had restricted high vehicle availability. Calmac Planning Manager had suggested a revised list for next year, but the Ferry Committee had requested his proposals not be implemented until a further analysis of the dates.

JL queried the induction training given to staff in Brodick Terminal regarding wait lists etc.

WC requested specific examples with dates, sailings etc. of problems.

6.1.3 Ardrossan Task Force is arranging public engagement meeting 23rd October on Arran to update community on proposals and gather views.

6.1.4 Next Ferry Committee meeting is 12th November.

6.2 CalMac Community Board feedback.

6.2.1 A range of items were discussed and the following press release had been issued.

Communities Board recommends steps to improve CalMac services – At the recent meeting of the Calmac Community Board in Mallaig disappointed and frustration was reported from all parts of the network at the continuing delays in the delivery of the overdue vessels under construction.

Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd (CMAL), and Transport Scotland both made presentations on how they function within the present system to plan and prioritise vessel and port improvements and renewals. This was followed by a detailed presentation from the Communities Boards Operational sub group set up to identify areas of improvement that would support delivery of a better service. This comprehensive piece of work recommends a number of action points including the following:

- Better communication of incidents while acknowledging some recent improvements.
- Review of the dry docking program and schedule.
- Improvements to ticketing and booking system to provide more relative data.
- Timetable discussions to be ongoing not just twice a year.
- Rationalisation of design of vessels and ports to maximise use of assets.
- Move to a new Ferries plan process that will include a 5, 10 and 15 year build program backed by financial commitment.

The Board has also set up a communications sub group to cooperate with the company to further improve the communication between the company and communities. This group will also work on broadband provision issues.

The Chairman of the Board, Angus Campbell said: ‘We also committed to work with Calmac on school transport pricing, facilities at remote ports and continue to improve local content and employment. The board recognises that all parties need to work together to bring the necessary improvements and are committed to inform and positively contribute to that process but stress the need for action now.’

Next Calmac Community Board (CCB) meeting will be held late November and it is anticipated will include a session to update the David MacBrayne Limited board on the work of the CCB.

6.2 Elderly Forum

The chair is keen to have representatives attend their meetings but in circumstances where this is not practical they would appreciate a written report from CC meetings. This applied also to the third sector, Ferry Committee and other Community groups.

It was commented that the CC meetings are also open to the public and EF members are welcome to attend.

7. **NAC Councillors Report**

Cllr Billings reported:

- A Consultation held last week on proposed NAC housing development in Brodick. WC had attended the meeting, and noted that people were concerned re: proposed access to site through Brathwick rather than straight through Springbank.
- No further information re: MacLaren Hotel proposals. WC requested if any revised plans come forward, they are again brought back for public consultation.

- A SG consultation on Community Engagement in Communities is ongoing. If the CC wish to hold a meeting, this must be before 26th October. The funding to hold the meeting may be available from NAC. Cllr Billings agreed to circulate information related to this, and the CC will consider whether to host a meeting.
- The Locality Partnership meeting Thursday, and will include discussion on the Community Investment Fund for Arran (£104K). Proposals for Arran are sought.
- NA queried if the LDP is being reviewed. Cllr Billings confirmed to review by the SG is ongoing.
- JG asked Cllr when we would hear about the Lochranza re-zone - reply was it was with the Scottish Government, full response expected probably late March.

8. LOCAL MANAGERS REPORT

Gus McLeod advised the 20MPH speed signs at the schools. No 20mph signs are currently operating. Plans were in place for repairs prior to school return at the latest.

Brodick Hill road will be completed next week, and bridge facing work by end of October.

Roadworks are recommencing as tar lorries arrange ferry space.

NA raised issues with road surfacing in Blackwaterfoot which had previously been highlighted but no change is imminent.

Japanese Knotweed (J.K.) – roadside verges are Council responsibility. Spraying will be undertaken when weather permits. J.K. is a Scottish Government responsibility.

9. AOCB

Cllr Billings agreed to make enquiries to establish if telephone calls made to NAC Trading Standards are now being re-routed to Citizens Advice rather than NAC taking the calls.

10. Date of Next Meeting

30th October 2018 at 6:00 pm To include our AGM.