

Isle of Arran Community Council

Minutes of Meeting held 26th March 2019

Present: Bill Calderwood (Chair), Jim Henderson , Peter McMullen, Marilyn Woods, Cllr Timothy Billings, Bob Haddow, Frances Westwood, : Colin Mackenzie, Ricky McMaster, Neil Arthur

Also present: Sgt Douglas Robertson, Gus McLeod NAC, Jim Nichols - Minute Secretary

1. **Welcome / Apologies**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending. He confirmed that the meeting was not a Public Meeting, but that the meeting was open to the Public.

Apologies Julie Graham, Liz Evans, John Lamont, Hugh Boag Arran Banner

2. **Minutes from Previous Meeting**

Minutes of 26th February 2019 had been previously circulated

Proposed Neil Arthur Seconded Colin McKenzie

3. **Matters Arising**

- A Participatory Budgeting event had taken place at the High School. All applicants had been awarded funding.
- “No Cold Calling” – Cllr Billings advised that this will be actioned by NAC through a local group. Confirmation was awaited from Lamash Improvements Committee.
- Repairs to area at Torbeg are still to be scheduled with the contractor.

4. **Police Report**

Sgt Robertson reported that there had been no significant crimes since the last meeting.

There had been no further instances of sheep worrying, and since the last meeting Sgt Robinson had arranged publicity through social media and signs had been erected in areas where dog walking was prevalent.

In respect of Cold calling, a meeting was expected to take place on 8th April with Trading Standards. Recruitment was on-going for candidates seeking the summer posts on the Island.

Colin McKenzie raised issues regarding parking on the road outside the Coop (Alma). It was expected the position would worsen when the construction for new housing in Brathwick commences.

5. **Correspondence**

Bill Calderwood reported correspondence including:

Messages received via “Contact-us” –

- A message asking about rented accommodation for social care worker. This had been directed to NAC housing.
- A letter from a resident recording personal experiences from ferry incident.

Correspondence circulated covering:

- SFRS updates had been circulated. It was agreed these notes continue to be circulated.
- Information relating to a survey for primary care and book keeping training, W-Power entrepreneurs and NAC social enterprise training.
- Revised photos in relation to possible timber extraction slipway at Imachar. No formal details or date for planning application to be submitted.
- A public meeting will take place on 2nd April in Lochranza public hall in respect of proposals for a new fish farm.
- BC had attended a initial meeting on a proposed competition to create an “Arran Flag”. This would need a “lead group and could cost approx £1000 to organise, design, manufacture and launch. This could take 4-6 months, with an initial registration of £350 to start of process. If this goes ahead, it was felt the CC should be involved.
- Annual insurance renewal received. Premium - £84. Due 1st May. Payment was agreed.

6. Reports from Sub-Committees

6.1 Ferry Committee

The March meeting of the Ferry Committee had discussed:

- Decision still awaited on winter time table requests and early deployment of Mv IoA to cover April vacation demand.
- Discussions for future 2 boat schedule to be scheduled on completion of Winter discussions.
- 3 month review of Patient transfer procedures to be undertaken in April.
- Info was provided to explain the numbers of interruptions to the use of the PAS system. 18 occasions impacting access for between 1 sailing and three days. Adelte on site this week to carry out damage repairs.
- Request to have boarding checks carried out at the far end of the terminal waiting area. This has been trialled and has shown to be slower. This will be monitored for review.
- KG MSP shared responses from Minister which were considered to be limited in detail or timescales. £4m additional funding being allocated in 2019 to assist resilience.
- AFC have written to request discussions with Ministers following recent collision with the pier.
- Next AFC meeting 8th April.
- The Ardrossan Steering Group meets 23rdth April 2019.
- MW requested that information be requested from Calmac on cancellations on the Arran route, and comparative figures for other routes. BC to follow up.
- BH spoke of recent public concerns raised with Calmac on Mull. A member of the public spoke of disruptions also on the Islay service.
- It appeared that an arrangement relating to collection of cars from Ardrossan Car Park following cancelled sailings had not been effective due to the smaller vessel used when Caledonian Isles was out of service.

6.2 Elderly Forum

Marilyn Woods reported that Ruth Betley had made a presentation regarding a proposed reorganisation of local Health and Social Work.

6.3 Environmental Panel

Ricky McMaster reported on a meeting of the Environment panel, held on the 21st March. The first topic related to changes from the forestry being run from Westminster to being devolved to Holyrood, whilst this is a change for the forestry commission (including a name change), Arran may not see any change.

NTS reported the castle will reopen 5th May. In conjunction with SNH, they have restored 80ha of bog and hagg.

The Access Trust are involved in getting the Cloy Bridge upgraded, which forms part of a popular walk.

Visit Arran are seeking to create "step ashore access" at Lamlash, primarily for the Holy Island ferry and visiting yachts.

Ricky had raised the proposed slip at Imachar. It had been highlighted that the trees need harvested, and it was necessary that the various options for extracting the trees should be detailed in terms of the effect on the general public.

Discussion had taken place on "Scotland's forestry Strategy", the main points being increasing the use of Scottish wood products in construction from 2.2million m³ to 3million m³ by 2030, to increase the areas of native woodland by nine thousand ha/yr while improving water and air quality. This should not really affect Arran as we are about saturation point.

The next meeting is October 2019.

7. NAC Councillors Report

Cllr Billings reported:

- NAC Budget had been set at the meeting on 28th February 2019.

- Participatory Budgeting had enabled all applicants to receive an award. Most was for the full money. No listing was available of groups and funding provided.

8. NAC Local Managers Report

A map of proposed roadworks for next year had been circulated. Hillhouse had been appointed as the contractor .

A timetable will be circulated for comment. This will include surface dressing.

Whitelining forms part of a previous Hamilton contract and is due to be completed when weather allows.

Gus confirmed the tar 'hot box' is broken and NAC are looking at repairing it again.

The NAC position relation to gabions for shore line protection was questioned. Gus confirmed that NAC have a responsibility for protection, but do not recommend gabions now. The preference is for rock armour to protect roadways and footways.

Gus agreed to follow up the removal of a portacabin on Brodick hill.

9. AOB

Nil

WC confirmed again that the CC meeting is open to the public, but is not a public meeting nor a public discussion forum.

10. AOCB

Nil

11. Date of Next Meeting:

30th April 2019 6pm
Ormidale Pavilion