

Isle of Arran Community Council

Minutes of Meeting held 30th April 2019

Present: Bill Calderwood (Chair), Jim Henderson, Marilyn Woods, Bob Haddow, Frances Westwood, Colin McKenzie, Ricky McMaster, Julie Graham

Also present: Sgt Douglas Robertson, Gus McLeod NAC, Hugh Boag Arran Banner, 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: Peter McMullen, Liz Evans, John Lamont, Neil Arthur, Cllr Timothy Billings, The Chair recorded best wishes to Neil Arthur
No Conflict of interests notified.

2. Minutes from Previous Meeting

Minutes of 26th March 2019 had been previously circulated
Proposed Ricky McMaster Seconded Frances Westwood

3. Matters Arising

- Repairs to road surface area at Torbeg are still to be scheduled with the contractor.
- The Portacabin has not yet been removed from Brodick Hill. NAC are following this up with the owner.
- A Schedule had been circulated to cover 2019 road upgrades. Revised times for some sections have been circulated this week. It was felt that the positioning of some signs had caused confusion. NAC agreed to review with contractor.
- White-lining is still to be scheduled when weather and equipment are available.
- The “No Cold Calling” visit from Trading standards is still to be confirmed for 9th May. Agreed this should be progressed ASAP.
- Reliability information for all Calmac routes are available on Calmac website. With 50 routes to report the options for comparison reporting are complex. Ardrossan numbers to end March were circulated. Group were reminded that MV Isle of Arran is still the fleet spare vessel.

4. Police Report

Sgt Robertson reported that the “Rat Race’ Cycling event was successful. The organisers are discussing with some entrants the overnightparking of camper vans.
The 10k race had also gone ok.
3 further events are to be held next month.
A safety advisory group has been established in North Ayrshire.
4 Summer Police secondees to Arran will shortly be commencing.

5. Correspondence

Bill Calderwood reported correspondence including:

Messages received via “Contact-us” –

- Lighting issues relating to street lights on all day, which have been explained in the Arran Banner.
- Concerns about traffic access at proposed new housing development in Brodick. Residents were worried re the dangers to children or damage to vehicles from construction traffic. It was agreed that NAC be informed that residents consider the proposed road access is unacceptable. It was noted that local authority housing developments do not go through the

same planning tests as private developers have to conform to. This item was subject to a vote in the CC, and the proposed course of action was agreed 7 votes to 1.

- A note had been received from Argyll CC asking the Arran position for extending the service to Lochranza. WC had responded to explain the CC had requested extended services in recent years and await response from Transport Scotland.
- Confirmation of payment for Insurance had been received.

Correspondence had been circulated covering:

- Tidal restrictions at Claonaig
- Change to on-line reservation system to allow customers to save payments details and make changes on-line.
- Green Health week.
- Ground maintenance budget consultation
- Disability assistance flyer.
- Additional sailings up to and over Easter
- Proposed fish farm - various info
- Forthcoming Pan Ayrshire CC conference.
- Invoice received for annual website renewal received. Premium - £57.58 reduced from last year.
- MW advised that the Scottish Government are planning Consultation events on the Islands Bill. Further details of these events were not known. The purpose is to advise the intended Draft Islands Plan.

6. Reports from Sub-Committees

6.1 Ferry Committee

The April meeting of the Ferry Committee had discussed:

- . Actions updated including:
 - Stakeholder group restructure awaiting decision from other regions. Clyde have agreed to combine with some Argyll groups to rationalise structure.
 - Print at home ticket trials have been successful and further enhancements are being considered to reduce paper usage.
 - Scope and tendering details for new Booking and ticketing system is progressing and estimated to be introduced mid 2020. BH queried the responsibility for producing the scope and tendering for this, as he felt it should be speeded up.
- Decision for Winter timetables is still with Transport Scotland.
- Request to have IoA deployed over Easter has been agreed and further additional sailings are being monitored.
- Discussions with Transport Scotland for future 2 boat timetable are to be scheduled in qtr 2 '19.
- 3 month review of Patient transfer procedures to be undertaken in April.
- CalMac Paper prepared for flexible "crew hours" has been submitted to TS for review. Calmac Community Board members discussed with CalMac and have suggested some further refinements.
- Carrying numbers for Feb'19 show reduction on passengers by 1.46%, Cars up 2.16% and CV metres down by 23% against the same period last year.
- Planned repairs to PAS have been completed with further work to be scheduled.
- Passenger assistance during times when PAS is unavailable are being reviewed again.
- Staff awareness of procedures to recover vehicles from Ardrossan following cancelled sailing have been reviewed and operator confirmed that these procedures are documented. Staff will be refreshed in procedures.

- Request to install handrails on stairs at Brodick terminal is with CalMac / CMAL
- Problems of connectivity with buses again highlighted and Stagecoach will be asked to confirm contacts following recent staff changes.
- MW responded to frequent interventions from BH and voiced support for the existing CC and Ferry Committee work in trying to address the many issues listed related to the ferry service. This was supported by the majority of attending members.

Summary of meeting with Mr Wheelhouse MSP

- Included impact statement to highlight increasing anger from residents regards the reliability of the service
- Minister acknowledged the situation and recognised the need for contingency plans.
- Additional Crewing paper was discussed.
- New vessel delivery is a major concern and Minister confirmed he has been disappointed in the yards inability to fulfil their delivery times and he has asked for a revised schedule which has not yet been provided.
- Mr Wheelhouse agreed additional sailings over Easter period.
- Operators IT systems are being updated to improve communications etc. Request to have VRDP revised as a priority was acknowledged and will be discussed with TS.
- The next Arran Ferry Committee meeting is scheduled for 13th May.

Ardrossan Task Force

- Steering group meeting had discussed papers for Ministerial meeting on 23rd April.
- This meeting agreed to progress with the preferred option to improve the Arran Berth.
- Costs have increased due to the extended range of work now proposed and discussions are ongoing on this.
- Next stage is for detailed designs to be completed for the marine work by end of 2019 with work expected to begin in spring 2020. With improved berthing, new linkspan and terminal building constructed.
- Work will require the extended use of the Irish berth during the construction period of 18 months.
- Communications procedures to be reviewed to ensure communities are informed of Plans, progress, changes etc.
- WC advised the Task Force is aware that it is felt necessary for the provision of a gangway for the Irish Berth.

General points:

FW felt passengers should be allowed to disembark first from the cardeck when the gangway is out of use at Ardrossan to enable connection with the train. There should be a consistent approach in this regard.

No further information was available in regard to the risk of grounding to the Catriona.

In concluding this agenda item it was again requested by a member that it be recorded that despite the interventions from one member the majority of the CC members had confidence in the efforts of the CC and Arran Ferry Committee representations in difficult circumstances. This was again supported with only one member dissenting.

6.2 Elderly Forum

WC had attended the recent meeting. Topics discussed included

- Feedback from previous overview of proposed health Hub. This was generally positive.
- My Bus changes. CC will try to obtain a contact to SPT to understand why the hours are changed and who the changes were discussed with. WC has since spoken to NAC and now have a Cllr's name to contact who liaises with SPT.
- Ongoing concerns highlighted re cold calling are being progressed.
- Overnight Parking at ferry terminal. CalMac are now actively putting notices on windscreens.

6.3 **Arran Economic Group**

- AEG Meeting held on 28th March covered:
- New website for "Discover Arran" was previewed www.discoverarran.com The objective is to provide information to retain working people on the Island and attract new working people to the Island
- Draft annual report was previewed.
- Update received on Health Hub.
- Next meeting in June to cover future structure and direction.

It was agreed that Ricky McMaster would represent the CC on this Group in future

7. **NAC Councillors Report**

No report received.

8. **NAC Local Managers Report**

MW thanked Gus for the dog notices provided.

Gus confirmed that the tar lorries have been booked on the ferry for the scheduled dates.

Due to staff shortages some bin collections have been 24 hours later.

9. **AOB**

BH intimated he intended arranging a stand at the Whiting Bay memories event to promote the CC.

FW reported that a number of hardwood trees on roadside near Cladach have been numbered. It is believed the landowner intends to cut them down for timber sale.

WC confirmed Brodick Improvements Committee had approached estate managers with little success and would support any individual application for a TPO if one is prepared.

11. **Date of Next Meeting**

28th May 2019 6pm
Ormidale Pavilion