

Isle of Arran Community Council

Minutes of Meeting held 29th October 2019

Present: Bill Calderwood (Chair), Jim Henderson, Liz Evans, Ricky McMaster, Julie Graham, Peter McMullen, Neil Arthur, Bob Haddow, Aileen Balfour

Also present:, Cllr Billings, Sgt Douglas Robertson, Brodie Pierce, Hugh Boag - Arran Banner, Jim Nichols - Minute Secretary.

1. Welcome / Apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending.

Apologies John Lamont, Colin Mackenzie, Frances Westwood

2. Minutes from Previous Meeting

Minutes of the September meeting had been previously circulated

Proposed Ricky McMaster Seconded Peter McMullen

3. Matters Arising

- 3.1 White lining – No dates yet confirmed. Brodie Pearce reported the contractors have commenced some white lining work but there is still no time frame for completion. He has made a recommendation to NAC relating to the purchase of a new white lining machine.

Ricky McMaster was concerned that the road junction at Low Kildonan requires give way signage as a matter of urgency.

Neil Arthur requested Blackwaterfoot Bridge be dealt with as a matter of urgency.

- 3.2 The proposed presentation to Arran Youth Foundation has still to be timetabled.

- 3.3 Lamlash Parking WC had recently written to NAC re yellow lines at Corner in Lamlash and NAC had responded with a proposal to introduce "KEEP CLEAR" signage at the corner and a short length up side street.

It was noted that the timescale for a Traffic Regulation Order for parking restrictions can be up to 18 months. Given the level of concern raised it was clear that it would be best to implement measures within a shorter time period. There were alternatives to parking restrictions that could be equally effective in deterring inconsiderate parking. The plan had been drafted to install a number of 'Keep Clear' markings in the areas which experienced the worst of the obstructive parking. These markings would be laid at the earliest opportunity, when the road marking contractor is next on the island carrying out a programme of works.

The location will continue to be monitored to assess what effect these markings have on the vicinity. Sgt Robertson's advised that any instances of obstructive parking be reported to Police Scotland to respond.

The CC agreed that the plan would be a step forward to resolving this problem.

- 3.4 Heating for NAC housing in Brathwic – Options for the main fuel source to the new properties has still to be confirmed. NAC are working in partnership with HUB Southwest Scotland, who will design and build the development. NAC are awaiting recommendations from HUB Scotland in regard to the heating.

It was confirmed that the properties will be let using NAC rent charges.

- 3.5 Jim Henderson advised that the issue of trees in Lamlash had now been dealt with.

- 3.6 Jim Henderson and Bill Calderwood had attended the session on 'Arran in 10 Years time'. There will be future events.

4. Police Report

Sgt Robertson noted that 11 crimes had been reported in the period.

The Police now have the winter numbers of Officers engaged on Arran.

The events have now mainly concluded. An application for a procession for 'Santas Sparkle' had been received for 23rd November.

Sgt Robertson also advised of a military exercise on Arran, due to commence on 5th November.

5. Correspondence

Bill Calderwood reported correspondence including:

Messages received via "Contact-us" –

- Multiple messages re road works / closures etc.
- Response received from SSC addressing points raised in CC letter to NAC.
- Invitation from NAC circulated relating to "budget discussions" at Shiskine and Brodick 7th November. Reservations required.
- Students looking for data on food waste. Directed to EcoSavvy.
- Application for a job on the island. It was explained we are a voluntary org and don't have vacancies.
- "Sasunnach enquiry". Message was asking if there was hostility towards incomers etc. WC had responded to assure them that all are welcome.
- Strathclyde Uni enquiry re population, income fuel poverty etc and a response is being prepared.

Other correspondence:

- Message received from NAC licencing.
- Circulated poster re: Understanding Dementia
- Invitation to attend an initial meeting of a new activity "Community Alcohol Partnership" to help younger members of the community. Joint initiative with Youth Groups, Third sector, Retailers, Licencing, Police and the CC

6. Reports from Sub Committees

6a. Feedback from Ferry Committee

WC reported

- Next business mtg scheduled for 11th November. No meeting in October.
- AFC were in contact with CalMac during the recent failure of the linkspan at Ardrossan and contributed to the alternative arrangements to have vehicles routed via Troon on the Sunday.
- Also following up on reported scheme for travel to hospitals but no confirmation of the details or start date have yet been received.
- Surveys are being conducted by Calmac re Booking Systems and Ardrossan.
- BH added that on behalf of the AFAG they wished to recognise the contribution from AFC secretary on behalf of the community during recent incident associated to loss of Linkspan at Ardrossan

6b Feedback from Elderly Forum

- Meeting well attended and several topics of interest covered
- Representation at Locality meetings was discussed with general view that this format was not effective. They will write to request a review.
- Welcomed CC actions on parking.
- Intend to hold a "festive" lunch in Feb for residents over 55.

7. Emergency Helicopter evacuation procedures.

This issue had been raised with the CC by Liz Evans and Julie Graham following discussion at the Patient Service User Group in Arran Medical Group.

Permanent Helicopter Landing Site for Air Ambulance

'An approach has been made to see if the PSUG can help with proposal for a Permanent Helicopter Landing site for the Air Ambulance. This has been discussed at the Arran Sub Group for emergencies with the Ayrshire Local Resilience Partnership. It appears that there is no agency responsible to install a fixed landing site.

History

It was not possible to use the old landing site at Brodick when the new ferry terminal was being built. Whiting Bay/Knockinkelly, was subsequently designated as the landing site by the Civil Aviation Authority for helicopters to land for non-emergency landings for hospital to hospital transfers. This was supposed to be a temporary arrangement. Life or death situations helicopters can land anywhere, but where possible the Ormidale is used.

The Whiting Bay site involves a mandatory requirement for the Coastguard to clear the site, often in treacherous wet and muddy conditions. The area quite often involves the ambulance parking some distance from the helicopter with not a great deal of privacy for the patient.

There have been 150 non-emergency transfers which has doubled in the last 4 years. There have also been 9 life or death transfers.

The Old Brodick site is not suitable which is not all to do with the new ferry terminal! There is no-where down Market Road suitable.'

Sergeant Robertson reported that he chairs a Sub-Group of Emergency Response Agencies, and advised that the normal transfer of patients by helicopter was from Whiting Bay. This was not ideal and impacted on the Coast Guard service, which is run by volunteers. The volunteers operate the lighting systems at the landing site.

There is no Statutory Duty for the Coast Guard to turn out for the helicopters. and the CG representative and he do not feel this is sustainable. Ideally the site would be unmanned, with the lighting remotely controlled by the pilot of the helicopter.

In conjunction with the CG and the Ambulance service, they are looking at a couple of possible sites on the Island.

Whilst technically this is not a CG or Police matter, it may be the sub group might approach the CC in the future for support.

It was proposed that any decision on a future permanent location for the Helicopters should be taken with due consideration for any proposed new health hub location to ensure the facilities were appropriate for future use and not simply based on current available land. It was agreed this must be a consideration and the CC offered support as appropriate in any future developments.

8. NAC Councillors report

Cllr Billings reported that the Arran Fair Trade Zone is due for re-accreditation next year, and there will be publicity to support this.

He advised that the NAC budget will be discussed this Thursday at consultation events on Arran.

SG consultations are current relating to the 'Tourist Tax' and Waste Deposit Returns. The Planning process relating to 'Calling In' was discussed.

9. NAC Local Managers report

Brodie Pearcey advised that the Operational Support Officer post on Arran had now been filled.

30mph speed restriction signs will going up in Sliderry. "No cold calling" signage has still to be put up.

Cameras are now working on the String Road.

10. A.O.C.B

Nil

11. Next Meeting: 26th November 2019 at 6pm.