

**Isle of Arran Community Council**  
**Minutes of Meeting held 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020**  
**Due to the current COVID19 restrictions, this meeting was held digitally via ZOOM**

Present: Bill Calderwood (Chair), Liz Evans, Frances Westwood, Julie Graham, Peter McMullen, Neil Arthur, John Lamont, Aileen Balfour.

Also present: Hugh Boag - Arran Banner, Jim Nichols - Minute Secretary

**1. Welcome / Apologies**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending. He explained that due to the circumstances, this meeting was a trial and it was not possible to have the Police, NAC or Cllr's join tonight, but they had been invited to submit reports.

The Chair recognised the significant efforts made by the NHS, Chemists, Volunteers, Postal Workers and NAC staff who were keeping services running. Support had been provided through a large number of volunteers recruited through ACVS and other bodies.

He thanked the many businesses such as Co-op who are delivering exceptional services around the island during these unique times. We thank them, everyone.

Apologies: Cllr Billings, Bob Haddow, Jim Henderson, Ricky McMaster, Sgt Douglas Robertson.

**2. Minutes from Previous Meeting**

Minutes of the February meeting had been previously circulated

Proposed Frances Westwood    Seconded John Lamont

**3. Matters Arising**

- Letter to NAC Exec Dir Communities has not yet been acknowledged. Disappointment voiced at the news.
- Confirmation received that proposed building works at Brathwic are on hold and parking restrictions will not be enforced.
- Participated in Web conf Re: wind farm expansion on Argyll and hopefully have managed to negotiate a share of the community benefit for Arran CC. Meeting was well attended by CC's from across Argyll who already benefit from the existing farms. Have also agreed that Arran CC will manage any funds directly rather than the existing arrangements which see funds allocated to the local Authority. This was also supported by Argyll CC's and negotiations with A&B will take place. This could be a positive impact opportunity for Arran and further details are to be confirmed.

- Provosts recognition Awards on hold.

#### **4. Police Report**

In the absence of Sgt Douglas Robertson, Bill gave a verbal report from Douglas. Complaints had been received by the Police in relation to non-residents travelling to the Island. The Police had been called a couple of times.

People have been spoken to regarding returning to the mainland.

The Police have been at the pier for the majority of sailings. Sgt Robertson could not confirm if the mainland Police were attending at Ardrossan.

Concerns were expressed regarding why people were still travelling on the ferry now. Neil Arthur felt that all lettings should be stopped.

WC noted that if their permanent address is on the mainland, the journey should be regarded as non-essential. The permanent address should be the one where the family stay for the majority of the year.

Local port staff have no authority to enforce government guidelines. CalMac staff could not be expected to be the arbiter.

#### **5. Correspondence**

Bill Calderwood reported correspondence including:

. Messages received via “Contact-us” and “other correspondence”–

- Message requesting information about HMS Vandal. JH has responded.
- Message from Film Company looking for venue info for possible feature film. Responded and VA following up.
- Invite from Civic Trust to session re: Planning changes. This was subsequently cancelled, but will possibly be rescheduled.
- Mail requesting planning info re: proposed fish farm. Link to NAC sent.
- Scottish Governments Islands Team contact introduced herself and requested feedback on COVID-19 needs. Responded with several points.

Other correspondence:

- Copy of various road closures and restrictions.
- National Planning framework notes circulated.
- NAC announcement of changes to CC constitutions in light of the current situation to remove minimum number of meetings and also to delay the CC elections scheduled for later this year to a date around end April 2021. This effectively extends our term or office for at least 6 months.
- Julie Graham advised the insurance cost was £84 and the website cost was £57.58. Approval for expense was unanimously approved.

## **6. Reports from Sub Committees**

### **6a. Feedback from Ferry Committee**

WC reported:

- The February meeting had been cancelled however January minutes were digitally approved and published.
- The March meeting was also impacted by weather and prohibited the attendance of CMAL CEO and also the team leader responsible for the new Calmac ticketing and Booking system. These will be followed up when allowed. It was noted there was now a slippage of 3 months on the dates for the programme.
- Various actions are being followed up including:
  - Livestock transport, Tidal restriction work, Additional crew hour conditions, Reporting stats.
  - Announcement of new procedures providing Taxi service for patients who cannot get cars booked for necessary appointments
  - RECC inquiry papers submitted.
  - Motor homes data is being collated.
  - SPT concession fare increases noted.
  - Questions around inconsistency in compensation conditions being followed up.
  - Major discussion focussed on interruptions, resilience and communications etc associated to these experiences.
  - Social media feature has been well received and is helping explain to residents the range a detail of work AFC is involved in.
  - CMAL had invited the FC Chair and Secretary to attend meeting to discuss various topics open. This meeting confirmed the funding for Gourock which AFC had been following up since the facility was withdrawn. Arran Ferry Action Group also attended.
  - WC had been unable to attend CalMac Community Board due to restrictions of travel due to weather.

### **6b Feedback from Elderly Forum**

The March meeting had been very short due to recent instructions limiting travel. There had been low attendance and the next meeting date will be published as conditions improve.

The lunch scheduled for May has also been postponed.

Future meetings have been suspended until further notice.

## **7. NAC Councillors report**

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr Billings. No report.

**8. NAC Local Managers report (This had been provided in an e-mail from Brodie Pearce)**

- NAC has enforced the implementation of stopping all non essential travel across the board so there will be no white lining. Inspections of roads will still take place and repairs will be carried out where they are essential along with winter gritting and emergency response actions. The repairs to the string are the only essential repairs taking place with regards to structures and flooding so no work will currently be carried out at the fisherman's walk.
- The household recycling centre will be closed until further notice, along with special uplifts as there is supposed to be no non-essential travel.
- At this time Cemeteries and Montrose House are the only grass cutting maintenance being carried out and of course burials will go ahead as and when required excluding the interment of ashes.
- These measures are being implemented across the board within North Ayrshire Council and People are able to see the latest on the councils website which has a twitter feed sections which seems to be getting regular updates.

Please see below an extract with regards to service provision,

*"Like other public bodies and organisations, the Council is continually assessing the impact of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) on its ability to continue to deliver services. Whilst the Council has robust business continuity plans in place for unforeseen events, these unprecedented circumstances present substantial challenges which have resulted in service provision being affected. As you can see services are continually under review and NAC are protecting the workforce where they can to ensure the delivery of essential services, which in this case are bin collections. At this time NAC ask people to use their domestic bins where possible which are continuing to be serviced and to store large items until they can offer an uplift service or the transfer station re-opens to the public*

Neil Arthur expressed concern relating to the closure of the coup, given that Arran do not have brown bins for garden waste.

John Lamont asked if it was possible to cost repairing a pothole. WC will enquire of Brodie.

**9, A.O.C.B**  
Nil

**10. Next Meeting: 28<sup>th</sup> April at 6pm. This meeting will be held digitally in the same format, utilising ZOOM technology**