

**Isle of Arran Community Council**  
**Minutes of Meeting held 28<sup>th</sup> April 2020**  
**Due to the current COVID19 restrictions, this meeting was held digitally via ZOOM**

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

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 this Digital Meeting.

Police and NAC had been invited to submit reports.

The Chair thanked all those whose contributions continue to provide essential services to our residents. The list is extensive, and includes the Emergency Services, the NHS and NAC staff, Volunteers and staff who were keeping services running. Our appreciation was immeasurable.

Apologies for absence were recorded from Colin Mackenzie, Bob Haddow, Jim Henderson, Ricky McMaster, Sgt Douglas Robertson, Brodie Pearcey

**2. Minutes from Previous Meeting**

Minutes of the meeting held 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 had been previously circulated.

Proposed Julie Graham Seconded Liz Evans

**3. Matters Arising**

- There had been no changes to the action list reported last month in the current environment.
- A further update had been received from SSE, which confirmed the expectation that Community Benefit funding should be received in respect of the windfarm on Argyll. Members were asked for recommendations to contribute to proposals and suggestions as to how Arran might best benefit from the funding in terms of Green Energy. The CC is expected to hold this money, which might be used for Recycling, Green Initiatives, Environmental and could include Arran 2030 projects. The CC must demonstrate a robust process for this money, which will generally benefit the community of Arran.

Historically this money had gone to Argyll and Bute Council, but it was now agreed that a portion will be distributed through CC's.

It was reported that Community Benefit funding in respect of the windfarm at Ardrossan had gone to North Ayrshire Renewables.

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

In the absence of Sgt Douglas Robertson, Bill gave a verbal report received from Sgt Douglas Robertson. There had been no major incidents, with public order work ongoing in the current restrictions. It was confirmed that 4 summer secondees will arrive this Saturday.

#### **5. Correspondence**

Bill Calderwood reported correspondence including:

. Messages received via "Contact-us" –

- An approach from National press for statement around second home occupation.

Other correspondence:

- Confirmation of payments for insurance and website licences had been received.
- Local Health update circulated, and CC added to distribution list for future issues.
- A message had been received from ACVS highlighting potential SSE funding targeted to CC's to support COVID-19 efforts or to deal with conditions impacting services. The Secretary has reviewed this and made an application for a laptop to help with digital meetings. This will also be useful for anyone requiring to access media in the future. The application is for less than £500. Closing date is 30<sup>th</sup> April and a decision is awaited, circa end of May.
- A link was passed with an example from the Cumbrae CC's newsletter to inform their community suggesting Arran CC might consider something similar.
- Cllr McMaster had written regards the wording of the March draft minutes. Those attending the meeting had approved and Cllr will be advised.

#### **6. Telephone Box Removals**

The need for the remaining public telephones to be serviceable and hygienic was confirmed. It was noted that there is still poor mobile coverage at the Southend of the Island.

#### **7. Reports from Sub Committees**

##### **7a Feedback from Ferry Committee**

- The April meeting had been cancelled due to the self-isolation guidelines and availability of members.
- The minutes of the last meeting had been approved digitally and published.
- As notified variations to the timetable had been accepted and will stay in force until 7<sup>th</sup> May at least or until a change in government guidelines is announced.
- Vulnerability of service during these unusual times was highlighted when trying to staff replacement vessel. Resolved by bringing Hebridean Isles on service from berth in Campbeltown.

- All essential supplies are being delivered to island and no critical shortages have been highlighted.
- Continue to support the guidelines for “**Stay at Home** unless travel is **essential**”
- Cllr Billings expressed the need for a consistent approach to be adopted by Calmac in regard to what essential travel means. Neil Arthur reported differences in service with comparison with sailings to Bute etc. CalMac are supported by Police Scotland in this matter.

### **7b Feedback from Elderly Forum**

No further meetings held. Due to Covid-19 restrictions.

### **8. NAC Councillors report**

Cllr Billings reported that NAC still have issues of finance to be resolved, and there were issues relating to schools in terms of provision of on-line education.

He reported that in his capacity as a voting member of the Health and Social Care IJB, North Ayrshire was below National Testing levels for COVID 19.

On Arran, PPE provision has been appropriate and Care Homes have been provided as needed.

### **9. NAC Local Managers report (This had been provided in a e-mail from Brodie Pearce)**

- NAC have no changes to services although the employees are keen to get back to full time but are staying inline with the govt. guidance of no unnecessary travel.

Bins from domestic properties are certainly full and communal bins again have been noted as having an increased loads but nothing like NAC usually get over this period . We (NAC) can't say if this is the homeowners producing more waste or other people using the bins which is a common occurrence anyway,. but we haven't had any reports of any major fly tipping We have had a few small items left next to public bins but this is a common occurrence and I wouldn't put this down to the restrictions.

- Brodie can't see the transfer station opening within the lockdown period, as it still all comes down to not encouraging any unnecessary travel,

### **10. A.O.C.B**

Nil

**11. Next Meeting: 26<sup>th</sup> May 2020 at 6pm. This meeting will be held digitally in the same format, utilising ZOOM technology**