

Isle of Arran Community Council
Minutes of Meeting held 28th July 2020

Due to the current COVID19 restrictions, this meeting was held digitally via ZOOM

Present: Bill Calderwood (Chair), Jim Henderson, Aileen Balfour, Liz Evans, Julie Graham, Peter McMullen, Neil Arthur, John Lamont, Bob Haddow, Ricky McMaster, 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 opened thanking everyone for their time. Although the island was getting busier and businesses were getting back again we still have to be careful and many of our residents are still reliant on the many volunteers and services being extended by many groups to help the community through these unusual times. He thanked everyone for their caring and consideration.
- It was with regret he announced the resignation for personal reasons of Frances Westwood. Frances had been a strong and consistent contributor to the work of the CC and her participation will be missed. She had informed the village association of her decision and the latest village newsletter carries details of how anyone from the village can indicate interest and request an application form. The Chair had informed NAC of the decision and it is hoped that a replacement will be appointed very soon. Apologies for absence were recorded from Sgt Douglas Robertson, Brodie Pearcey There were no Declarations of Interest.

2. Minutes from Previous Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held 30th June 2020 had been previously circulated.

Proposed Jim Henderson, Seconded Liz Evans

3. Matters Arising

A Grant application had been prepared in partnership with ACVS for funding to help public toilets open safely and provide equipment and supplies in current pandemic. Despite a disappointing level of interest from CC members, the good news was that the grant had been approved, and the money will be paid to the CC in next 7-10 days. The CC will work with the various groups to collect their equipment listings etc and order materials. Participating groups were requested to submit a list of requirements in this regard.

4. Police Report

Sgt Robertson had submitted a digital report.

'Since the last meeting there have been 39 reported incidents which is considerably less than we would normally expect to have at this time of year obviously but is an increase on the lockdown phase. As everyone will be well aware, the return of tourists to the island is in almost full swing and as such I would expect to see an increase in the usual type of business we normally deal with over the summer months although there are no events taking place. Hopefully everyone whether they be visitors, residents or business owners are doing their best to comply with SG guidelines to help suppress Covid in order that we can keep moving forward through this.

Since the last meeting there have been 7 crimes reported including 1 Serious Assault. This crime was detected and 1 male was arrested and charged accordingly. The case was an isolated event which occurred on private premises and therefore there are no need for concerns in respect of the wider community.

Nothing else of note to report at the moment and if anyone has any issues they wish to raise, please feel free to direct them to me.'

5. Correspondence

Bill Calderwood reported correspondence including:

Messages received via "Contact-us" –

- Approach from several potential visitors asking about our infection rates and how they will be welcomed.

He had been copied in messages from a resident to our elected representatives regards cutting of grass verges when wild flowers are in bloom. Cutting had been delayed this year and all care taken. A village had complemented NAC on the way the work had been carried out. However, Neil Arthur was concerned that there was potential risk to cyclists from overhanging brambles and noted that cutting was still to take place in Blackwaterfoot.

Cllr Billings agreed to contact the resident that had raised the issue.

- An approach from a journalist to speak about the ongoing situation at McLaren and our views on how the planning process was handled.

Other correspondence:

- Various messages circulated covering Arran Recovery group questionnaire and results.
- Letter from Chair of Elderly Forum to explain the reasons (social distancing) they are not holding meetings and to thank everyone for their patience and understanding.
- Road closures notices circulated. It was noted work at the rodden was still to be completed.

John Lamont had spoken to NAC reporting safety concerns at the South End. It was believed the Jet Patcher would be in operation next week,

Neil Arthur understood that hot tar was not now possible, and cold tar patches would be utilised. Cllr Billings agreed to contact NAC.

- Notification of National digital session on how planning is coping during lockdowns. The timing was unsuitable for Peter or I to participate. The value of debates as they will apply to island environments was questioned.
- A note had been circulated inviting participation in an overview of ARG. 2 members had participated. Report will be issued following receipt of feedback and comments related to draft minutes. Closing date 30th July. Link circulated to minutes and papers for the work being undertaken.
- Patricia Gibson MSP acknowledged our minutes and offers her support for any matters appropriate to her areas of influence.
- Message from Scottish Islands federation re position for islands businesses coming out of lockdown and asking Arran's situation and views around cruise ships starting to consider operations.
- The Local Development Plan has been approved.

6 Reports from Sub-Committees

6a Ferry Committee

Bill Calderwood gave feedback from Ferry Committee July meeting.

- July meeting held via Zoom and previous meeting minutes approved and published.
- Capacity limitations explained and further work identified to improve numbers on Isle of Arran.
- New regulations for 1m+ had been announced and questions asked when signage etc would be updated.
- Increased capacity had been implemented day following announcement.
- Booking window extended from the 14 days and plans to slowly release further periods still retaining the rolling arrangements.
- Capacity is released 80/20% retaining capacity for local travel needs.
- Revised system introduced to provide return bookings for "turn up and go" to reassure residents of return travel.
- Further meetings being arranged with CalMac, Transport Scotland and NAC to develop options.
- Claonaig service will operate as past years as a "turn up and go" service.
- CalMac reviewing options for extension of IoA in Sept/ Oct.
- Bus service timetable was discussed, and Kenneth Gibson MSP is taking the matter up with SPT. No additional funding has been allocated and concerns voiced around capability with social distancing and when the schools resume.
- Ardrossan steering group meeting had been cancelled and awaiting info from NAC regards date for digital event.

It was believed that further capacity would be available on the Isle of Arran following additional screening being fitted.

7. NAC Councillors report

Cllr Billings reported that KA Leisure had been reopening, but local facilities had not reopened.

There was no definitive date for the restoration of pre COVID Bus Timetables, due to a lack of funding. The current services do not operate after late afternoon.

Neil Arthur queried the operation of school buses, but there was no information in this regard.

8. NAC Local Managers report

No report received.

Bill Calderwood spoke of an urgent problem following flooding and new erosion on Fishermans Walk in Brodick. This was placing the Coastal Way in risk of partial closure at the Bridge.

Neil Arthur again reported that no white lining had been carried out at the Rodden.

9. A.O.C.B

There was no other business.

10. Next Meeting: Tuesday 25th August 2020 at 6pm. This meeting will be held digitally in the same format, utilising ZOOM technology