

Isle of Arran Community Council
Minutes of Meeting held 25th August
Due to the current COVID19 restrictions, this meeting was held digitally via ZOOM

Present: Bill Calderwood (Chair), Jim Henderson, Frances Westwood, David Murray, Julie Graham, Peter McMullen, Neil Arthur, Ricky McMaster, Cllr Billings,

Also present: Rosslyn Mills (NAC), 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, with the return of schools, it is beginning to quieten down a bit. Many residents are still being supported by friend's family and the vast pool of volunteers which support residents and vulnerable and their contribution is recognised in these unusual times. The recent update from the medical teams shows a continued period with no confirmed cases identified.
- Last month, with great regret, the resignation of Frances Westwood was announced. This was her last meeting, and we wish her well for the future and thank her for her contribution to our work. I am very pleased to confirm that following the advertisement of the open position I would extend a welcome to David Murray as the new representative for Corrie and Sannox and am sure he will be welcomed by all members.
- Apologies for absence were recorded from Bob Haddow, Colin Mackenzie, John Lamont, Aileen Balfour, Liz Evans, Sgt Douglas Robertson and Brodie Pearcey
There were no Declarations of Interest.

2. Minutes from Previous Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held 25th August had been previously circulated.

Proposed Julie Graham, Seconded Jim Henderson

3. Matters Arising

- Local Development Plan LDP2 paper on conservation area. No responses had been received. Peter McMullen will respond as such with no objections or concerns raised.

4. Police Report

Sgt Robertson had submitted a verbal report to the Chair.

‘Since the last meeting there have been 60 reported incidents which included 8 crimes reported. It was noted McLaren Hotel was still insecure.’

5. Correspondence

Bill Calderwood reported correspondence including:

Messages received via “Contact-us” –

- A journalist had asked for CC opinion on several matters associated to McLaren hotel planning handling etc.
- A message had been received in connection to social media coverage around legal requirements for home alarms for smoke etc. Contact through SFRS website gave information relating responsibilities under the ACT and Regulations, and the SFRS Fire Safety Enforcement Officer (Gordon Harkins) could be contacted on 07831149291 in the event of further related questions.

Other correspondence:

- Renewal for Scottish Island membership was agreed.
- A note from Police Scotland with link to questionnaire was available at: <https://consult.scotland.police.uk/surveys/your-police-2020-2021/>
- NAC had advised that there was no need for a AGM or accounts to be concluded until pre-revised election dates. Julie Graham has asked that if anyone has expenses, they wish to claim for the current session’s activities, to please indicate and submit claim prior to September meeting.
- Next Arran Locality partnership meeting scheduled for 9th Sept.

6 Reports from Sub-Committees

6a Ferry Committee

Feedback from Ferry Committee August mtg.

- Supply and demand is considered to be balanced
- Update provided on Ar Turis programme which will be the new booking and ticketing system. Project scoping is almost completed and discussion with potential providers underway. Anticipate project will commence later this year with introduction in 2021 for user interface.
- Capacity related discussions confirmed that work to increase IoA internal seating capacity would be completed that week, and this has subsequently been confirmed with booking systems updated. 25 seats had been added to the capacity.
- The AFC was asked to assist in raising awareness of need to contact CalMac if unable to travel.
- Responses to AFC ‘s list of questions posed last year to Ardrossan Task Force had been updated and are available on Transport Scotland website.
- Meeting being schedule for next week to discuss material for digital presentation of aspects of the proposed work to start to collect views and opinions. As previously stated, this will not remove the plan to meet when appropriate for face to face engagement.

- Contrary to recent press articles it is not currently planned to use Troon on a fulltime basis during the works at Ardrossan, As has been notified previously there is work being undertaken to provide alternative destination if the work prohibits temporary access at Ardrossan. Gourock will continue to be an alternative port and work is estimated to be complete in Qrt4 2020 as planned for the “life extension” to the linkspan.
- Limited catering is being introduced to longer journey routes but there are no plans to introduce for the Ardrossan service.
- Claonaig service running well with no exceptional demand causing issues.
- Neil Arthur raised the issue of lack of toilet facilities at Claonaig. It would seem there are land ownership issues which affect planning applications.

6b. ARG /AEG.

- The ARG meetings had been reduced to fortnightly.
- Meetings with CalMac, TS and NAC now concluded, and no further meetings planned.
- Monthly discussion with NAC directors will continue.
- Focus for next meeting on the 28th will be on recovery for economy.
- Initial discussions being held on future “governance” and to prepare for wider discussion on structures for AEG / ARG.
- Further community engagement session planned for the 26th August cancelled due to lack of interest.

Neil Arthur believed the group should be wound up by 31st March 2021.

Cllr Billings reported there was the need to maximise the initiatives to discuss things and work together. The Plan that was being developed need to go to consultation. NA was concerned that the Environment appears to have been placed before the Economy.

6c. TBRRF funding for islands toilets.

- Several meetings with village organisers had been held to agree needs.
- Initial list of materials prepared, and orders placed for mix of signage, dispensing equipment and sanitiser/ soap and other materials
- Delivery had been received and sorted to villages, with only 2 locations to uplift.
- Thanks to John Lamont and Julie for their help on this project.

It was noted that whilst material was available, there was concern among some elderly volunteers who felt vulnerable when undertaking cleaning activities.

Neil Arthur stated that Local Authorities have no Statutory Duty to provide toilets and asked Cllr Billings to request NAC to contact the SG to request they provide resource to reopen the toilets. Cllr Billings agreed to raise this with NAC.

7. NAC Councillors report

Cllr Billings sought initial views on the proposed changes to Local Authority Boundaries. He advised that Public Consultation would take place at a later date.

The proposal would make Arran a separate Ward, with 1 Councillor.

The report talks of the number of Councillors being relative to the voters. it could be considered that 1 would be an under representation, whilst 2 would be an over representation.

It was confirmed that the view of Arran Community Council was that Arran should have 2 Councillors to reflect the geography of the Island, and the introduction of the Islands Bill. The Political representative is also responsible for engagement with the Statutory Agencies.

8. NAC Local Managers report

Rosslyn had provided a full report prior to the meeting, which had been circulated.

She joined the meeting having just returned from assessment of various flooded parts of the Island (Dougarie and Lochranza) that had occurred today.

It was reported that the roads resurfacing work would continue, with the first available ferry being 7th September.

The White Lining Contractor would also be coming over.

The Jet Patcher had been over for 4 weeks, with 1 week lost due to weather

Verge work has been temporary halted. Rosslyn advised that the Countryside Act precludes cutting hedges until mid-September.

9. A.O.C.B

There was no other business.

10. Next Meeting: Tuesday 29th September 2020 at 6pm. This meeting will be held digitally in the same format, utilising ZOOM technology