

Isle of Arran Community Council
Minutes of Meeting held 29th September 2020
Due to the current COVID19 restrictions, this meeting was held digitally via ZOOM

Present: Bill Calderwood (Chair), Jim Henderson, Aileen Balfour, David Murray, Julie Graham, Peter McMullen, Neil Arthur, Colin Mackenzie, Liz Evans, 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.

- As we enter uncertain times again we continue to recognise the tremendous work our health care staff and the many volunteers are doing to keep us safe and provide the services needed for our wellbeing.
 - As of Friday, we were still clear of any confirmed cases. We are all encouraged to download the trace app and also for those who qualify, to ensure we make arrangements for Flu vaccinations.
 - Appreciation to NAC Roads Dept was recorded for making alterations to their Roads schedule to accommodate the vaccination schedule.
 - Apologies for absence were recorded from Bob Haddow, Ricky McMaster, John Lamont, Sgt Douglas Robertson and Brodie Pearcey
- There were no Declarations of Interest.

2. Minutes from Previous Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held 29th September 2020 had been previously circulated.

Proposed Julie Graham, Seconded Neil Arthur

3. Matters Arising

- The Chair had replied to a journalist preparing article on events around the McLaren Hotel.
- Locality meeting held via digital but the Chair had been unable to connect to the link provided. The papers are available at: <http://northayrshire.community/arran-locality-partnership-meeting-9-september-2020/37054/>

4. Police Report

Sgt Robertson had submitted a written report

‘Since the last meeting we have recorded 71 incidents and 9 crimes. The major incident involving the PS Waverley collision on Thursday 3rd September resulted in 24 casualties, 6 of who were flown off the island for treatment on the mainland with

the remainder being either triaged, treated and discharged from the scene as walking wounded or conveyed to AWMH for treatment.

The major incident plan was invoked and worked well with all the agencies involved doing an outstanding job to bring the incident to a satisfactory conclusion in the circumstances. Since the incident, all the agencies/organisations involved have held their own internal debriefs on top of a multi-agency meeting being held the day after the incident. A structured debrief for all agencies is currently being planned so that any opportunities to learn or disseminate good practice aren't missed. My sincerest thanks go to all involved not forgetting those who came forward with offers of assistance with accommodation etc had it been required.

I mentioned to you that I had attended a joint meeting with NAC re the ongoing issues with the former McLaren Hotel. Rosslyn or Brodie may be better placed to provide you with an update, however, it appears that the Abode Group (owners) are now engaging with NAC through their agent and hopefully the property will be properly secured pending works commencing to demolish the building once the necessary permissions are in place to do so.'

Bill Calderwood reported the building had been inspected by NAC and others, and the recommendation was that a demolition request should be submitted. Rosalyn confirmed this and advised that Thompsons had been instructed to make the building safe (ie. boarding windows etc)

5. Correspondence

Bill Calderwood reported correspondence including:

Messages received via "Contact-us" –

- A message received asking if we could ban cyclists from Forestry routes due to safety concerns for other users. Neil Arthur advised that historically Forestry roads had only been open 2 or 3 times per year, and walkers should be aware that their primary purpose was for vehicles to transport trees. Paths were open at their Own risk.
- Enquiry from German writer who was asking for info on ferry services from Lochranza in 1908. Our local expert (K Morrison) had the provided vessel name, timings and pictures of the vessels.
- Message from SSE covering: Ofgem's draft determination for the next electricity transmission price control - implications for network reliability
- A request had been received enquiring if contact by Zoom from a member of the public could be made. Bill had agreed this, but no contact made.

Other correspondence:

- Various updates on roads programme circulated. Neil Arthur reported that 2 areas at Shiskine to be retarred had been white lined.
- Notification re Northern Lighthouse Board Slipway work at various locations. Responses from MP and MSP to circulated Minutes had been received with offers of assistance where required.

6. Brodick to Corrie Cycleway

David Murray spoke of the danger that still existed to cyclists and walkers on the section of road from Brodick to Corrie.

He enquired if the project was going to be resurrected.

Bill Calderwood spoke of the on-going proposal for the Brodick to Lamlash cycleway.

Cllr Billings advised there had been issues with NTS re the routing. He believed the discussions had only been in relation to NTS land, and not beyond.

Hugh Boag said that route options had been discussed some years ago.

7. Ferry Committee

7a Feedback from Ferry Committee September meeting.

- Supply and demand is considered to be balanced with weekend continuing to show usual seasonal demands.
- Various actions updated for transport of livestock, timber etc.
- Smart ticketing programme is progressing.
- Gourock linkspan upgrade progressing for completion in Dec'2020
- Arrangements for booking currently at 80/20 split discussed with suggestion to move to 90/10. All members were asked to consult and feedback their preference. ACC members have supported retention of 80/20 with a clear majority. Awaiting final results from AFC. AFC had today confirmed to CalMac they wished the 80:20 to continue.
- AFC chair has written to CalMac and Transport Scotland requesting discussion in light of recent failures.

Bill Calderwood provided a report from recent CalMac Community board as follows:

- Community fund launched 1st oct for funding from £500 - £2k aimed at young groups.
- Meeting with head of TS to discuss various topics including performance reporting, communications, representation, structures and future ferries planning.
- We also have a working party looking at capturing un-met demand.

7b. ARG /AEG.

- Meetings held fortnightly.
- Minutes will be published at <https://www.arranrecoverygroup.co.uk/>

- Future engagement is being considered with a further survey planned.
- Forecast of demand has been developed and will match against ferry capacity.
- Initial numbers look balanced with the weekends continuing to be a bottleneck for vehicles due to most wishing to bring cars.
- Economic study published today.

Neil Arthur was concerned that NAC and HIE were giving credence to and funding an unconstituted group.

Cllr Billings advised that no decisions had been taken, other than communicating the current situation. A report will now inform cost/benefit information and should strengthen any COVID funding bid put in by Arran.

7c TBRRF funding

- Majority of funds now committed. Of the initial £9k granted (including NAC top up) ACC will have approx. £800 left to support all locations until March 2021.
- Material ordered and distributed. Thanks extended particularly to Julie for arranging payments so efficiently and to John Lamont for support.
- Funding has provided a mix of Signage, Dispensers, sanitiser and soap, also PPE for those operating the facilities.
- A significant spend (£2600) has been to provide professional cleaning services to 4 locations which have allowed them to open their facilities during the week for 4 weeks. All other locations have continued to provide 7 day services. As this investment is unsustainable the arrangement will end this week and we wait to hear what arrangements can be provided in the absence of further funding.

7. NAC Councillors report

Cllr Billings reported that NAC have been discussing contractual arrangements, and the Council will be mindful of the Community Wealth Building Fund.

He reported that NAC recommendation in respect of the Boundaries Commission changes was for 1 Councillor to represent Arran. His recommendation had been for 2 Councillors.

A Locality Partnership Meeting had been held. Agreement had been reached for Arran Youth Foundation to take over ownership of their building.

A project at Arran High School was under consideration for the Community Investment Fund.

Following the implementation of the Islands Act, the Council are considering the appointment of an Islands Manager.

8. NAC Local Managers report

Roslyn had provided a full report prior to the meeting, which had been circulated. Bill thanked her for the comprehensive information contained in the report. (encl below)

Peter McMullen queried if there would be any work to add safety indicators on the bridges on the String Road. Rosalyn advised that there will be some bollards put in.

9. A.O.C.B

There was no other business.

10. Next Meeting: Tuesday 27th October 2020 at 6pm. This meeting will be held digitally in the same format, utilising ZOOM technology

NAC Local Report:

Landslip(s)

- The large slip is still under investigation by external consultant we will update when we get a report back of their findings
- The small slip on Church Brae has been made safe by local contractor. Temporary fencing in place.
- A second small slip at Auchenhew Farm is also under investigation internally. Temporary fencing is in place while we await the outcome of this.
- Two small slips in the North (Pirnmill and Imachar) will be dealt with by our Roads team in the coming weeks.
- Small slip at the side of the Ross Road is under investigation internally. Area is coned off until we receive instructions for its repair.

White Lining

- String Road was actioned w/c 21st September
- We have an assurance that a programme of white lining has been instructed following resurfacing works. We do not have a confirmed date for this. As updated previously, this will include the areas highlighted by the CC previously. Inc. lines at Jimmy Gordons.

Programmed Resurfacing

- We are disappointed by the change to the resurfacing programme that was circulated previously. Our understanding is that this was brought about due to availability on the ferries and the challenges of getting materials over for the larger jobs.
- Works at Lochranza will now take place day after the flu clinic.
- We will continue to liaise with the programme manager with regards to the proposed dates for these works in 2021 to ensure that they do not clash with Easter holidays.
- We will work on hot tar 'large' patches of the areas being postponed – i.e. Manse Road, Lamlash and Whiting Bay (Cooper Angus). This is recognised as a sticky plaster approach; however, it is needed to see the roads passable for the winter months.

Jet Patcher

- The weather was not on our side while we had the jet patcher on the island, resulting in 10 days of downtime, however the improvement to the roads treated is notable. Particularly Torbeag, Machrie Bridges, Corriegills and at Kildonan road end / Airview. We now know the capabilities of this kit and operator, we hope for its return in 2021.

Signage & Island Tidy

- We are working on a programme to reorganise and replace signage on the island that is either damaged or cluttered. This has started with the key 'welcome' points at both ferry terminals and either end of the string road.
- We are in the process of replacing the damaged verge masters (reflective poles) and will move on to damaged signposts and signs during the winter months.

Ditching works

- We have on hire a small 360 excavator which has been put to good use ditching. We are on the third week of hire and are targeting the areas we know to be worst. Our intention is that now these areas have been mechanically cleared, they should be considerably easier to maintain and reduce the amount of water on the road and subsequent damage.

Hedges (Autumn)

- We are now on to the programme of hedge cuts. Due to staffing shortages in the waste team for the coming weeks this will be limited to one day per week. We will be closely monitoring the work and ensuring that areas where trees need to be cut back are dealt with in an appropriate – and correct manner. Priority will be given to the areas that are causing obstruction and / or hazard to all road users.

Fisherman's Walk

- Temporary wooden fence erected as cones / barrier tape were repeatedly vandalised or blown into the river
- Marine Scotland allocated our application to a case officer with a notice of potential contamination so hopefully we will receive a faster response than the statutory timescale. We are in constant communication with Patricia Rowley from NAC Structures and Flooding team with regards to this.