

Isle of Arran Community Council
Minutes of Meeting held 23rd February 2021
Due to the current COVID19 restrictions, this meeting was held digitally via ZOOM

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

- Local NHS Ayrshire and Arran Health Board staff have continued to support the community with an excellent level of care. Other support groups are also continuing their generous services.
- Apologies for absence were recorded from Rosslyn Mills (NAC), Sgt Douglas Robertson and John Lamont,

2. Minutes from Previous Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held 26th January 2021 had been previously circulated.

Under the item from the NAC Local Officer, the Minute was amended to reflect that the Road Closure Barriers on the road at High Kildonan had been removed on occasions without authority.

Proposed Jim Henderson Seconded Julie Graham

3. Matters Arising

- NAC have agreed to delay of CC elections until autumn.

Jim, Peter and Bill attended a meeting of Arran High School Mountain Bike Club, held at Dyemill (within social distancing guidelines) to hear about the proposed off road cycle project. Jim and Peter reported that they had been provided us with a scaled plan, drafted on the 25th September 2018, of the proposed area. The plan avoided more popular paths of dog walkers etc. Also, their business plan that had been developed over a period of 4 years.

Robert McNeice (Chairman) explained the pitfalls and the support from the Forestry Commission and the Scottish Off Road Cycling association.

It was explained that this was a unique opportunity, with effective partnerships to create an off-road cycle training route that could enhance Scotland's reputation as a centre of excellence for Mountain biking for this developing sport.

It would make use of natural assets to be found in the Dyemill area. The site was close to the holding area with a natural pond that they intend making use of and another area where they would construct a hard standing trial route for bikes, complete with a shelter and facilities for bike and trail maintenance.

The Group sought approval and a letter of support from the ACC.

It was noted that at this stage, the budgetary requirements were not known.

Peter McMullen proposed the CC give full support to the initiative. The CC agreed to give their support to this project. initially this would be in the form of a supporting letter.

- Discussions had been held with Audrey Sutton around the CC and LPP interface. A proposal to have ACC Chair attend was welcomed and our request to move forward for agenda topics etc was recognised.

- Information had been requested on which toilets have been open thru the COVID and if any require additional supplies of PPE etc. The spend report needs to be completed by end March, with final information required on Mon 1st March.

4. Correspondence

Bill Calderwood reported correspondence including:

Messages received via "Contact-us" –

- Message questioning restricted hours for Port Office. Passed to CalMac for response.
- Individual considering purchase of rural property asking for owner information etc. Advised the CC cannot provide such information.
- Information sought on a memorial bench. Passed to NAC
- A note had been circulated on Out of hospital Cardiac Arrest Strategy. Julie and Liz attended and reported a (Zoom) meeting had been held on 16th February 2021 with 25 delegates present from wide and varied disciplines. A full report was given to the CC, and a further meeting will be held in the future. It was noted Arran was ahead of the game regarding Defibrillators.

Other correspondence

- A note had been received from NAC re Website compliance for accessibility of impaired readers.
- A note circulated re CC Operation during COVID
- A message re circular economy and Planning
- Ardrossan Task Force Survey results
- Community Rights
- Strategic Transport Projects Review.
- West Torrisdale Wind Farm proposal
- COVID 19 Updates
- Appointment of Senior Officer (Islands)
- Zoom Training (NA and WC attended)

5. Police Report

Sgt Robertson had provided an update prior to the meeting as follows:

There had been 33 incidents, with 7 crime reports.

He will shortly be interviewing for summer secondees.

6. NAC Local Managers report

Rosalyn had advised she had been busy with priorities on roads and safety issues today and had submitted apologies for tonight. There had been no major issues other than weather related and the usual roads etc. Initial draft programme for future road works was currently being worked on.

It was hoped the Jet Patcher might come over later in the year, and also a white-lining machine.

7. Ferry Committee

7a Feedback from Ferry Committee January meeting.

- Action items were updated with ongoing questions around transport of Livestock and National government proposals discussed. The proposals cannot be accepted as a way forward.
- Still pushing to have a better arrangement for occasions when vessel berths overnight in Brodick with the subsequent loss of the 07:00 from Ardrossan.
- Progress with certification of new linkspan welcomed. CalMac questioned around protocols for use when released to service.

- Ardrossan Task Force meeting scheduled for 17th Feb with survey to be carried out re preferred mainland port during works at Ardrossan.
- Port Manager highlighted that many concession cards are coming up for renewal and this is carried out at Post Office NOT the ferry terminal. Request to alert everyone of the need to have this done in advance of travel.
- Work at Lochranza progressing well although recent weather had delayed completion a little.

7b. ARG /AEG.

Neil Arthur gave a comprehensive written summary of his attendance at the recent meeting of the Arran Recovery Group.

The full minutes are published at <https://www.arranrecoverygroup.co.uk>

8. NAC Councillors report

Cllr Billings had provided a written report in advance of the meeting.

'Councillor Update - February 2021

Ferry and Ardrossan Harbour

At last week's Council meeting we received an update on the work at Ardrossan harbour. The Council has an interest in the harbour because of the strategic importance of the port as a ferry terminal, and as part of the wider development planned for the marina and north shore area.

You will already be aware that the harbour work is planned to start in September 2022 to be completed just under 2 years later. Also, that it has been decided to move the service to Troon whilst the work is being carried out - two main reasons: 1) weather will cause around 25% cancellation or diversion if the Irish berth is the main port, 2) Glen Sannox won't fit the Irish berth as is due to delivery in autumn 2022

I asked the Council to support me in criticising the Scottish government in its handling of the ferry and harbour procurement processes. However, I was not supported by the SNP or Labour councillors.

Discretionary Business Support Payments

At today's Cabinet meeting they are discussing how NAC will use the discretionary business support fund. I have been in conversation with the council officers about the proposals and I am considering if I will call-in the proposal, as I consider that the use of the fund may be too restrictive.

Having said that, it will only be around £2000 one-off payment, so for some business that have not received any other funding it is not exactly huge.

Communities and Governance

I have written a discussion paper for the Arran Recovery Group to consider. The ARG is due to publish in March it's refreshed suggestions for the way forward on Arran. We will be discussing it over the coming weeks, and it may be helpful to have wider input before the final thoughts are put into the ARG's document.

I will remind the CC that the ARG has no power to do anything - what it does is bring together in a coherent form the thoughts and opinions of a wide range of people that represent a wide cross-section of Arran's communities.

KA Leisure

I am one of the councillor board members for KA Leisure. It has been somewhat a challenging year for KA Leisure with the organisation being hit with closures and huge losses. We are fortunate that NAC continues to support the leisure trust and there has been closing working to produce a plan for the coming year, which was presented to NAC Cabinet today.

I would remind the CC that one new service offered by KA Leisure is live and recorded online classes. This enables everybody to access a huge range of different classes at home. This will continue after lock-down is over and will provide those of us living in more remote areas or are housebound access to group exercise.

Budget Planning

We councillors are all involved in budget discussions. We know that the Scottish government is giving NAC around 0.8% more money next year (even though I would comment that the SG is getting 9% more in its allocation). We are looking to see how that money could be carved up with the budget setting council meeting due to take place on 4th March 2021.

Timothy Billings

9. A.O.C.B

- Ricky McMaster expressed concern regarding the transport arrangements by ferry might be affected in the future in respect of wind speed maximums.
- It was noted that NAC funding may be available for on-line meetings utilising Zoom or Teams. This may be a recognisable expense.

10. Next Meeting: Tuesday 30th March 2021 at 6pm. This meeting will be held digitally. The format will be agreed dependent on the trial to be conducted shortly.