

Isle of Arran Community Council

Minute of meeting held 25th May 2021

Due to the current Covid 19 restrictions, this meeting was held digitally via Zoom.

Present: W Calderwood (chair), R Haddow, J Henderson, P McMullen, J Graham, N Arthur, C McKenzie, R McMaster, J Lamont, L Evans, D Murray, Cllr T. Billings and R Mills.

Also present H Boag.

1. Welcome /Apologies

- The chair welcomed all to the meeting and thanked them for attending this digital meeting.
- Partly a return to a normal way of life with government restrictions being eased for travel, tourism and business. The Island now getting busier, and this is putting some stress on our services.
- We continue with thanks to the local NHS Ayrshire and Arran health Board staff who continue to support the community with an excellent level of care and the other support groups with their service.
- Apologies for absence recorded for Sgt Robertson, J Nichols and A Balfour.
- There was no conflict of interest recorded.

2. Minutes from the previous meeting held on the 27th April that had been previously distributed.

Proposed by J Graham and seconded by J Lamont.

3. Matters arising.

- All materials for toilet spend have now been distributed except for the Southend, this will await further arrangements.
- J Henderson attended the Buteiful Coasts meeting held via Teams, his report was circulated to all members, no questions were raised but JH added new information. Since the Teams meeting an appeal had been received to support the Buteiful Coasts objection to the proposed 'trout farm' being proposed by Dawn Fresh Foods who have submitted an application to SEPA for a CAR licence to dump chemicals and other substances at their 3 sites in the Clyde. As you will now have learned the SSC have begun a process to appeal the NAC rejection of the 'Millstone Point' proposal. With a CAR licence to SEPA The chair requested a view from the Councillor T Billings who was not certain of the process and intimated that the appeal may go to the Scottish Government. J Lamont advised that such appeals generally go to the reporters Scottish Office.
- The Chair introduced a matter concerning the Zoom licence, which the meeting approved renewal for another year.
- A Balfour is following up the post box relocation and has also contacted Patricia Gibson seeking assistance. AB reported that she received a copy of a response from a Michael Hogg, Senior Public Affairs manager. In his response he apologised for the delay and stated that the work to relocate the post box would commence after the 18th May weather permitting.

- Acknowledgement received for our response to Libraries-Hall's engagement. No date for reporting or decision of the outcome.
- Crofters licence application has been approved with conditions. Only acoustic music allowed to a maximum of 85 db. The owners confirming that they would be managing the use of music and advising neighbours of any changes, that will be monitored. To date there have been no objections to the owner's intentions.

4. Police matters

- 4 summer officers were now on the island, at present making themselves familiar with the Island and local services. NA advising that the officers were billeted in his area and were being well looked after. In the past month there had been 50 incidents with 10 crime reports and that calming features were being addressed for the roads.

5. NAC Local managers report.

- There has now been a delay to the planned work schedule advertised a few weeks ago, due to a combination of weather, cancellation of ferry service and further delay of repairs to vessels causing the postponement of the 2-boat service on the Ardrossan/Brodick service. The contractor has intimated that work will commence this week, regardless of ferry issues, which may cause some works to take longer than planned. However, any further delay will run the risk of the programme for 2021 not being completed. A further update will be issued once the 2-boat service starts operating again, scheduled for the 3rd June.
- **Eas Mor landslip and adjoining road network.**
 - This programme has been delayed by the disruption of the ferry service and a meeting is taking place tomorrow to establish a new timescale. Further news following the meeting will be advised.
- **North Sannox landslip and closure.**
 - Works to reinstate and reopen the road at North Sannox are scheduled for the end of May. Forestry Land Scotland are responsible for these works and plans are in place to relocate part of the road by digging into the banking, creating space to relocate the road from the slipped area.
- **White lining**
 - Contractor Marcon has confirmed a rebooking for week commencing the 7th June. Being aware of the problems created at the Brodick end of the string road, a temporary signage has been installed to highlight the give way already in place. WC raised issues of safety measures concerning motor homes, some that were oversized for the Arran roads. Requesting an upgrading of White and Yellow lines, RM advising that this may involve a traffic order and that most of the lining work will take place after the improvement works.
- **Ditching, water, Garden tidy and street scene duties.**
 - Programme to clear ditches and removal of excess water off the roads continues to progress. Garden tidy commenced as planned in April, 44 gardens are now being acted on for 2021. Works to clear overgrown paths and weeding of high-profile areas has been taking place. Including Brodick main street and the outer fringes of the Whitehouse Woods in Lamlash.
- Traffic calming measures

- Following a note in the previous minute relating to speeding and a request for calming measures. The Senior Manager was consulted, in the first instance this is a police matter. If the speeding was a proven problem by the police, NAC would then undertake a speed survey. The planned area in Lochranza is adjacent to the distillery on the straight section of the road.
- The council office remains closed to the public, phonedlines are available from 0900 until 1300 and an answer machine is available out with those hours. Scheduled to open to the public with safety measures from the end of June, subject to lockdown restrictions.
- Advised that subsidence at Whitefarland is being monitored.
- Despite assurances being given the trees planted at the bottom of the hill approaching Lamdash have now been removed following several complaints.
- DM requested an explanation about patching being undertaken at the sandstone quay in Corrie. RM responded by advising that this was a tidy up of the area, which was an adopted carriageway
- Cllr. B enquired about the annual flower supply of bedding plants. RM advised that there was a reduced scale of planting. Focusing on the Brodick seafront.
- WC advised that Brodick Improvements had applied for funds to attend to the bedding boxes in Brodick. DM spoke of the 9 tubs located in Corrie and that households were taking responsibility in looking after them and a prize was being allocated for the best one.
- JG advised that with regard to the private and visiting pontoons located in Lochranza the person to make enquiries to was David Henderson. NA highlighted the difference between private and visiting moorings located around Arran. BC advising that in Brodick a donation system was in use.
- NA introduced a matter concerning Landward and a possible invite to the Island. Thanking Rosslyn for her management of the traffic issues on the String Road during the work being carried out.

6. Correspondence for May.

- Due to Easter and the continued lockdown this month has been rather quiet.
- Message received from a forestry company offering Christmas Trees, advised that the Island had established supplies.
- Message asking for feedback on 'Local Place Plan workshops'
- NAC note regarding awareness of CC benefits. Ahead of 4-year elections anticipated in September 2021.
- Licensing responses submitted for Crofters and the Drift. Also, the Arran Gift Box.
- Arran composting discussion scheduled for the 7th June. NA has offered to represent the ACC in the discussion. JL also intimated an interest.
- A note was circulated regarding the Scottish Island federation regarding opportunities for young members of the community to experience training to gain personal skills.
- Advice from the PPG groups about accessing people's vaccination records.

7. NAC Councillors report.

- Much of my time in May has been related to Ardrossan, regarding discussions about proposals to develop South Beach. Also assisted residents with neighbourhood problems, a matter becoming more evident due to the lockdown.
- Arran recovery group- Issues involve the ongoing problems relating to the ferry service. Many businesses reporting slow trade, residents having problems travelling to and from the mainland, especially involving medical appointments.

- Libraries and Hall consultations- that finishes by the end of May. Comments received regarding the ease of responses and the quality of the proposals. Reported to the relevant Council officers and will be following this up. In particular Council meeting on the 9th June at which these issues will be debated.

BC intimated that in his opinion the information was sparse causing confusion. Highlighted that the Hall area involved the ownership of the Putting green, Bowls and Tennis court. Depending on the outcome of the talks NAC has a requirement to provide nursery facilities.

- NA compared the closure of toilets in the past with Arran and the Three Towns that resulted in different rules and closures.

8a. Reports from Sub Committees- AEG and ARG

- NA reported that there had been a work group meeting with a few of the committee that he was not party to.. As the ACC elected representative, he would be attending the next meeting scheduled for the 11th June and a report will follow.

8b. Ferry committee

- 'Turn up and go' due to the reduced capacity issues this has now been reduced to 8 passengers on the Caledonian Isles.
- Medical travel procedures are not impacted with the above ruling.
- The Loch Seaforth issues were debated, with the Isle of Arran due to return to the Clyde by the 3rd June.
- Passengers with dogs now require to be issued with a ticket at no charge to deal with limited numbers being allowed to travel in the passenger areas. There is still the option, that at the owner's discretion, dogs can be allowed to remain in their cars.
- A compromise has been agreed that when the Campbeltown service is implemented, starting on the 3rd June, on Thursday, Friday and Saturday services will be via Brodick, in either direction.
- The building of the Claonaig toilets has been delayed due to Marine Scotland raising issues with the septic tank outflow. In the meantime, the provision of a port-a-loo is being progressed.
- Visitors to the Island becoming in contact with Covid 19 will have to isolate on the Island. No travel will be allowed on the ferry, unless by a medical ambulance transfer.
- Committee members raised the following issues with the ferry service. NA spoke of 6 pedestrians denied passage. DM spoke of a distressed neighbour who was also denied passage. WC responded by informing the meeting that procedures for "turn up and go" were still to be finalised, which was overdue. He also explained that there was a higher than normal rate of "no shows" and encouraged everyone to advise CalMac if they were not going to travel as planned to allow the capacity to be re allocated. JL spoke of another vessel being used to meet the demand, adding tonnage to the fleet but no confirmation has been received to date.

9. AOCB.

Nothing was advised in advance of the meeting and members raised no other business. However, the chair took the opportunity to advise members that to make the best use of our time, advance notice of any matter would be preferred to give all the opportunity to consider any issues raised in advance of the monthly meeting.

10. The next meeting is scheduled for the 29th June at 1800 hrs in digital form unless otherwise advised, subject to the covid regulations.

Planning matters were discussed in private and on conclusion of the business meeting a talk was held about the meeting held with ACC and LPP representatives on the 26th April.

Minute secretary J Henderson 26.5.2021