

**Isle of Arran Community Council**  
**Minutes of meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> July 2021**

Due to Covid 19 restrictions, this meeting was held digitally by ZOOM.

Present: W. Calderwood (chair), J. Henderson, J. Graham, N. Arthur, P. McMullen, R. Haddow, J. Lamont, A. Balfour, C. McKenzie, R. McMaster, T. Billings and R. Mills NAC. Also present H. Boag Arran Banner and J. Nichols Minute secretary.

The Chair welcomed all to the Zoom meeting and registered the following apologies for absence from Sgt Robertson, D. Murray and L. Evans. There were no declarations of interest.

Before commencing with the meeting, the Chair raised three matters of concern/interest.

1. Expressing our thanks to the local NHS Ayrshire and Arran health board staff who extend an excellent level of care to the community.
2. Social media attacks on store staff who are doing marvellous work to supply the community with food etc. In difficult circumstances.
3. Retirement of Andrew Fraser (Head of NAC Democratic service) after a period of 38 years. Andrew supported the ACC on a variety of issues and topics. Chair proposing a note of thanks that was unanimously supported.

**Agenda item 2 Minutes**

The minute of the zoom meeting held on the 29<sup>th</sup> June was approved by N. Arthur and seconded by R. Haddow.

**Agenda item 3 Matters arising from the minute**

- NAC legal have given an initial review of the SSE papers, that has been reflected in a response to SSE to finalise negotiations.
- Update of housing at Blackwaterfoot. N. Arthur advised that discussions had taken place and a response was expected in the next two weeks, after which contact will be made with the Arran Development Trust.
- J. Graham has coordinated the financial papers for submission to NAC audit. Confirmation was given that no outstanding expense claims were current.

**Agenda item 4 Police matters**

- Sgt Robertson reported 75 incidents with 10 crimes. 4 Mountain rescue call outs with casualties. Sterling work by the team.
- An elderly woman had been the victim of bogus workmen, this was an unusual incident on the Island and people are reminded to be careful of cold calling.
- C. McKenzie reported on the poor standard of parking in the Brodick area, which was highlighted with the absence of road markings following the recent road improvement works.

- N. Arthur mentioned the water tankers that were parked together taking up the spaces of many cars. Due to the amount of traffic suggested that the marking should perhaps be carried out very early in the day or last thing in the evening.

## **Agenda item 5 Local officers report**

Rosslyn reported the current NAC activities on Arran re Roads etc

- **Verge works**

Annual verge cutting programme has been taking place since the end of June and throughout July. It is scheduled to continue for the coming weeks. Works includes cuts with the tractor mounted flail, small tractor flail, and hand strimming / mowing. Programme was delayed for the tractor mounted flail due to a delay in obtaining parts following breakdown, now working well. Focus on main roads before moving on to side roads in early August.

- **White lining**

Informed by NAC contract manager that the appointed white lining contractor is scheduled to be on the island w/c 2<sup>nd</sup> Aug to carry out lining/ marking on resurfaced areas.

- **2021/22 Roads Programme.**

Programme now complete. Final measure and snags to be completed this week.

Low Kildonan to be carried out in September (dates tbc)

Eas Mor landslip and adjoining road network

Awaiting update on the works in this area.

- **Office duties**

Our office remains closed to the visiting public, however our phonelines are open and manned from 9am-1pm. An answer machine is available out with these hours and messages are picked up until 5pm.

Office is scheduled to reopen (on an appointment basis) on 9<sup>th</sup> August – subject to the rate of change in lockdown restrictions.

Julie Graham enquired re the traffic monitoring that was to be carried out by the Lochranza Distillery. Rosalyn reported that this was delayed due to the equipment being broken.

Neil Arthur expressed concern that the contractor was only cutting the verges at road junctions rather than the tops and faces of hedges as previously. Rosalyn explained that there were staffing shortages, and there had been a problem with the flail.

Cllr Billings confirmed that, to date, the High Road was not officially open. The reopening was expected next week.

Rosalyn reported that the JetPatcher had arrived and was expected to be in operation for a month.

## **Agenda Item 6 Correspondence**

Messages received via “Contact-us” –

- o Messages received asking a ferry capacity query. Confirmed capacities currently available
- o Note seeking help with costs for electricity.
- o Contact information for visitor looking to use Slipway at Whiting Bay.
- o Note from Screen Machine re COVID access and checking status. NHS local manager has responded.
- o CC circulated with a note to CalMac re booking system. CalMac responded.

• Other correspondence:

- o Multiple updates covering various road works circulated which are almost complete.

Message highlighting the “Queens award for voluntary service” One member had responded to suggest that we could nominate all the groups who are maintaining the toilets. However, there is not one group responsible for this and each village has its own procedures etc with some closed this may not be considered as a compliant proposal. It would be interesting to hear if any villages have considered proposing any groups or individuals.

o “Corra” foundation grants scheme circulated but the projects need to be in their area which would exclude Arran.

o Message circulated advising of consultation on “fireworks”.

o A CC member had been communicating on matters in Brodick and indicating their membership of AFAG and ACC. The Chair had confirmed the member was not acting in any official capacity for ACC

o Query around responsibility for removal of diseased trees and awaiting formal note from Forestry but it is understood that responsibility will rest with landowner. It was confirmed that there is no legal responsibility to have them removed.

o Early warning to be responsible in use of water during this dry period. An update from the Ayrshire resilience group had been received.

Neil Arthur was still awaiting follow up from NAC regarding Recycling of Garden Waste on Arran.

## **Agenda Item 7 Reports from Sub Committees**

7a. Feedback from Ferry Committee June meeting

- Disappointment voiced at withdrawal of offer to provide Pentalina by the operator.
- Further vessels are being investigated.

- AFC arranging date for meeting with Transport Minister.
- AFC chair to participate in Meeting arranged by NAC with Cabinet Minister for Islands.
- Ar Turas booking and ticketing system introduction being scheduled to roll out from 1<sup>st</sup> Feb 2022
- Request to TS/CalMac to extend Campbeltown services via Brodick for rest of year.
- Action sought to explain capacity utilisation.
- Initial reports of new detailed breakdown of carrying numbers presented.
- CalMac confirmed work ongoing to refine parameters.
- AFC's FAQs for Ardrossan Task Force have been updated and published on TS website and link on CC website (Ferry sect)
- Constant questions related to Turn up and go capacity / procedures. (post mtg it was announced that outside capacity will be increased to 50 foot passengers.
- Link for CalMac survey has been circulated to gather post COVID travel info.
- June meeting minutes posted on ACC website.

On a related matter it was reaffirmed and emphasised that Arran Community Council are part of the Official Arran Ferry Committee and the Arran Ferry Committee will represent the views of Arran on Ferry Matters. The AFC are a recognised as a representative body covering all aspects of Arran community and they are also officially recognised by Service providers, and local and national government bodies The AFAG will be advised of this by the CC and encouraged to co-operate with them.

## **7b Locality Partnership**

- ALPP papers can be accessed at <http://northayrshire.community/your-community/arran/>
- Meeting held 17<sup>th</sup> June.
- Notes have now been issued and available at above link.
- Initial meeting with NAC Head of Connected Communities has not reached agreement for change but further meetings are planned.

Jim Henderson reported that in his view most of the matters discussed had nothing to do with Arran.

## **Agenda Item 8 NAC Councillors report**

Cllr Billings reported that NAC have made application to the SG for funding for people with private water supplies.

**Agenda Item 9 AOCB**

Nil

**Date of Next Meeting**

**Tuesday 31st August 2021 in Ormidale Pavilion. 6pm if permissible under govt guidance.**

**Note meeting venue**