

Isle of Arran Community Council

Minutes of Meeting held 26th February 2019

Present: Bill Calderwood (Chair), Julie Graham, Liz Evans, Jim Henderson , Peter McMullen, Marilyn Woods, Cllr Timothy Billings, Bob Haddow, John Lamont, Frances Westwood, Colin McKenzie, Ricky McMaster

Also present: Sgt Douglas Robertson, Hugh Boag Arran Banner, Gus McLeod NAC, Jim Nichols - Minute Secretary. 2 Members of the public

- **Welcome / Apologies**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending. He confirmed that the meeting was open to the Public, but the meeting was not a Public Meeting.

Apologies: Neil Arthur

- **Minutes from Previous Meeting**

Minutes of 29th January 2019 had been previously circulated and were agreed. It was noted that Richard McMaster had attended. With that amendment they were Proposed : Seconded:

- **Matters Arising**

- The proposed date for meeting with NAC had to be rescheduled. No further contact had been received with regards a revised date.
- No further communication has been received in relation to a possible slipway at Imachar.

4. Police Report

Sgt Robertson reported that there had been no significant crimes since the last meeting.

There had been a large scale missing person search, which had ended tragically. This had been co-ordinated by Inspector Comrie.

Sgt Robertson paid tribute to the various agencies involved in the search including MR, RNLI, NAC, Coastguard and the Outdoor Centre.

Whilst there had been no reported instances of sheep worrying, since the last meeting Sgt Robinson was considering how best to get the message of the importance of dogs being kept under control at all times to the public. An article will be appearing on the Police Ayrshire website and on Twitter in this regard.

5. Correspondence

Bill Calderwood reported correspondence including:

Messages received via "Contact-us" –

- Message asking about rented accommodation for social care worker. Directed to NAC housing.

Correspondence:

- SFRS updates circulated
- PB funding event notes. It was noted that the deadline for submissions had closed yesterday.
- Peoples panel focus group notice circulated.
- "No cold calling" NAc were looking for an 'owner'. Cllr Billings suggested that Lamlash Improvements may be prepared to assist, but this had not been further discussed. Concern had been expressed that this may impact on charity collections. Sgt Robertson advised that this affected traders- not charity collectors.
- Concern had been highlighted regards quality of work carried out at Blackwaterfoot / Torbeg area and NAC had investigated. NAC confirmed that there were remedials required at the recently resurfaced section of road at Torbeg, and that the contractor involved will be required to make satisfactory repairs, at their expense. This would, however, be undertaken in more favourable weather.

- Jim Henderson reported that a copy of a letter had been received today written on behalf of the Lochranza local group to the Head of Transport Scotland highlighting the benefits in terms of resilience and economic development by improving the Lochranza to Claonaig service. ACC agreed the frustrations and potential benefits of developing this route and supported the ongoing bid to expand the winter 2019/20 service which was still to be considered. Outline of possible improvement had been communicated to Lochranza however required support from Tarbert and Argyll users. ACC would reflect their views to the operator and TS.

6. Reports from Sub-Committees

6.1 Ferry Committee

Feedback had been received from the Arran Ferry Committee February meeting:

- A new procedure had been agreed to be trialled to assist the return of vehicles which owners have left in Ardrossan car park following disruptions and they had returned home on foot.
- A request had been made to reconsider the dates to introduce the second boat for Summer to cover Easter which is very late. Discussions are to be held between Transport Scotland and Calmac in this regard.
- Feedback from the Ardrossan Task Force confirmed:
 - The landside investigative work is on plan.
 - Summary of comments and comments submitted following recent public meetings will be available on NAC website when completed. Several concerns were of prominence, eg.
 - Reliability of service
 - Coordination with other transport
 - Terminal building should be single level
 - Current service levels are unacceptable
 - Learn from Brodick experience in design and facilities for passengers.
- No update on delivery of new vessel despite several requests from CMAL and Transport Scotland to the builders.
- The Ministerial Review is currently expected to be the week after Easter.
- The proposed winter timetable for 2019/20 requests are still being considered. This includes a 2 ferry service for Ardrossan to Brodick and increased return sailings from Lochranza to Cloinaig Tarbert weather dependent have been requested.
- John Lamont reported that there were still issues to be resolved when lorry bookings are called off at short notice.
- The importance of the attendance by the various public bodies at meetings related to Ardrossan was emphasised.
- Bob Haddow raised concerns relating to ticketing systems. These have been previously discussed and the scope of a new system is being developed by TS following failure of the previous contracted package. Regrettably delivery would be some time off as it had not yet gone to tender.
- BH once again highlighted the network concerns of the ferry infrastructure and felt Arran was not visible in stating our case. Examples included Islay where the Whisky Association had an article published and also reports from Mull with regards their failing infrastructure. Chair provided a summary of the actions which Arran had taken over the past few months including a joint meeting with Islay to Mr Wheelhouse and a face to face follow up meeting in November with the Minister on Arran to highlight the impact for the communities and request actions to address the late delivery of the new boats, requested priority for a new ticketing system. Other items covered were communications, lack of resilience in crew availability and the need to develop the timetables for both Brodick and Lochranza routes.
- MW proposed that in advance of the anticipated public meeting the CC should prepare a “plan” to make sure we got the most from the opportunity.
- Next AFC meeting 11th March.

6.2 Health and Social Care

Action notes from the Patient and Service User Group meeting held on Monday 21st January 2019 had been previously circulated.

Julie Graham and Colin Mackenzie confirmed that the main focus had been how the staff would work from the hubs and the possible impact on surgeries.

Richard McMaster spoke of the shortage of Care at Home staff on Arran. Cllr Billings agreed to take this matter forward.

6.3 Elderly Forum

Bill Calderwood had attended. Items covered included:

- Discussion on proposed medical “hub” with many questions and concerns voiced about location, impact on village surgeries, transport etc.
- There were questions about proposed amalgamation of Locality partnerships and Forum groups. This appeared to have been arranged without wider consultation with current membership despite going to Council
- Road safety and lack of marking was also raised by attendees - see below .
- BC highlighted that CC are welcomed to these meetings and MW indicated she would attend the March meeting but could not commit to further. Members are asked to consider how we can ensure an attendance.

7 Road Safety

Marilyn Woods raised the general issue of the road conditions and road markings.

In summary Marilyn believed:

- Driving over the String in poor visibility, particularly at night can be treacherous. There is an absence of white lining in places and a paucity of reflective marker poles along the sides of the road. Even with careful driving, especially in foggy conditions, it is difficult to follow the road. In snowy conditions the side-road marker poles are vital. On the east bound carriage way towards Brodick there are some sections of the carriageway that are literally inches away from the edge. If a driver made a misjudgement in these areas it wouldn't be a question of ending up in a ditch ,the vehicle would probably roll right down the banking.
- Added to this the road surface in places, particularly on the bridges, is crumbling badly. This is especially dangerous for bikes or motor cycles. She realised that the state of the roads is an issue all over Arran, but felt her responsibility to be to highlight this particular danger, as leaving the road at certain places along the String could be life threatening.

Notes had been provided by NAC -

- 'With respect to concerns raised regarding road markings and in particular the String Road, in line with our practice on the mainland we will look at replacing the centre line road markings and introducing reflectorized road studs. Replacement of the road marking will however need to be carried out in the new financial year.'

Gus McLeod reported that a meeting would be held in March as part of the Budget discussion.

Sgt Robertson emphasised that people should always drive with regard to the weather conditions and the road conditions.

8. **NAC Councillors Report**

Cllr Billings reported:

- NAC Budget setting meeting is 28th February 2019.
- There will be a trial for a year holding combined Locality Partnership Meetings and HSCP Locality Forums

- The proposed NAC Social Housing development at Brathwick has been delayed , but this is not expected to delay the eventual occupation in 24 months.
- Cllr Billings is exploring aspects of Self Directed Care Support.

9. NAC Local Managers Report

Liz Evans requested a bin be placed at Thundergay.

John Lamont reported the road was in disrepair at Dippen.

10. AOCB

Nil

11. Date of Next Meeting

26th March 2019 6pm

Ormidale Pavilion