

Isle of Arran Community Council
Minutes of Meeting held 26th May 2020
Due to the current COVID19 restrictions, this meeting was held digitally via ZOOM

Present: Bill Calderwood (Chair), Aileen Balfour, Liz Evans, Frances Westwood, Julie Graham, Peter McMullen, Neil Arthur, John Lamont, Bob Haddow, Ricky McMaster, Cllr 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.

Police and NAC had been invited to submit reports.

The Chair thanked all the Volunteers and Essential Services staff who were keeping services running.

Apologies for absence were recorded from Jim Henderson, Colin Mackenzie, Sgt Douglas Robertson, Brodie Pearcey

There were no Declarations of Interest.

2. Minutes from Previous Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held 28th April 2020 had been previously circulated.

Proposed Julie Graham Seconded Liz Evans

3. Matters Arising

- It was noted that changes had been announced relating to a Temporary introduction of a free uplift scheme, and the proposed opening of the Recycling Centre.
- The CC is still awaiting the payment of the Grantmoney in respect of the purchase of IT equipment.

4. Police Report

In the absence of Sgt Douglas Robertson, Bill gave a verbal report received from Sgt Robertson. There had been no significant crimes. The summer Officers had been undertaking work in relation to Resilience and familiarisation with the communities.

Allegations relating to a complaint relating to cruelty to an animal were being investigated.

5. Correspondence

Bill Calderwood reported correspondence including:

Messages received via "Contact-us" –

- Approach from National press for statement around second home occupation.
- Former resident looking for details of Lamlash High. Jim Henderson had responded.

- A note from the Scot Government and SSE re scoping opinion on extension to wind farm in Kintyre (between Skipness and Tarbert). This was considered low risk and limited visual impact.
- A request for views on proposed small forestry development at Slidery. The CC had no major concerns raised, other than the traffic impact of extraction but Ricky suggest the timber will be small and this should not be a concern. Bill will respond appropriately, to indicate no issues.
- Contact from local business who were operating a fruit and veg stall on their premises. Assurances had been received that everything complies with current regulations and local Police have confirmed appropriate signage relating to social distancing is in place, to reassure the public.

Other correspondence:

- Scottish Water advising of resumption of work at Lamlash.
- Local Health update circulated.
- Acknowledgement from Scottish Council regards planning enquiry, and how CC's were handling Planning matters.
- Possible grant funding for temporary active travel projects. Bike racks and assistance for core paths (eg maintenance of Fishermans Walk) have been suggested by the Public. It was noted that work had stopped at the Castle on the Brodick to Corrie cycleway. Bill would contact Cllr Billings in this regard.

6. Reports from Sub-Committees

6a Ferry Committee

- The May meeting had been cancelled due to the self-isolation guidelines and availability of members.
- As notified, variations to the timetable have been published and as a result of AFC intervention all future bookings have been suspended until a clearer picture on capacity and timetables has been considered. AFC await dialogue on this matter and look to consult the wider population to gather views.
- Discussions are also continuing to establish a process to provide updates and receive views on the planned upgrades at Ardrossan.
- All essential supplies are being delivered to island and no critical shortages have been highlighted.
- Continue to support the guidelines for “**Stay at Home** unless travel is **essential**”.
- No further contact has been received from CalMac management.
- Cllr Billings advised that NAC had not been listed as a Consultee for the Transport Transition document, and he had therefore contacted Craig Hatton, NAC to have this omission reported.

The Ferry Committee appreciated the importance of obtaining the views of the Community in respect of progression from the current situation.

6b Arran Economic Group

- Ricky had been unable to attend the recent meetings, so Bill had provided some “community” views. The focus had been to try and determine a process to plan and manage the recovery of the island from the current position.
- It was noted that a questionnaire would be published later this week.
- There is a lot still to be resolved and the questionnaire was not ideal, but the group who had produced it felt it covered the key areas as aligned to Scottish government route map.
- It is agreed that the health service advice and capacity is a critical part of any decision on the future and they are involved at all levels of discussion.

It was not known at this stage if the questionnaire would be available both on-line and on paper.

7. NAC Councillors report

Cllr Billings spoke to a written report he had submitted in advance of the meeting. This follows below:

Health and Social Care

As a member of the HSCP board, I continue to participate in the two weekly updates. The update on 15th May reported that numbers of cases across Ayrshire continue to fall and the numbers of people in hospital and ICU have reduced. Work is underway on how to reopen health services that were put on hold during lock down, given that the model of care is very likely to look very different.

Attendance at A&E is well down. Finding out why people are not coming is important. If people are using health services more appropriately that is great and needs to be encouraged, but on the other hand, if people have not accessed services at all because they are scared then they need to be addressed to enable people to come forward.

Protective equipment situation was reported as being much better, with stocks starting to build up. It is also available to all who need it, including care homes if they have difficulty in accessing their own supplies. However, the level of testing continues to be a challenge within Ayrshire, especially with the expansion of the levels of testing recently announced.

Deaths related to Covid 19 within care homes are of particular concern, as they are across Scotland, although no cases reported in Arran's care homes.

HSCP is working on its plans on how easing lock down could be done. Restrictions have resulted in some different ways of working within care at home and social services. Much of this could be further expanded to help provide more comprehensive care at

home, given that the option of moving to a care home is being seen less favourably at the moment

Council Issues

The Council has taken decisions on the following issues:

- Community Wealth Building - there was an article in the Banner last week on this
- Reshaping of the Administration Cabinet - the Labour members who form the Council's administration have given themselves new job titles. This does have some meaning as the titles recognise the challenges of coping with Covid 19 for possibly the years to come, and the various strands of the wealth building initiative.

We are all pleased to see the waste site reopen and grounds maintenance resume. There is a discussion to be had about grass cutting in the future. I have received numerous comments about how good the less formal look is, especially with more flowers. However, concerns have been raised about grass getting too long and the possibility of more ticks.

Finance is a concern for the Council as well as the HSCP. There have been additional costs due to the virus, and both organisations continue to work with the Scottish Government on how those additional costs will be covered.

Council Meetings

There have been no meetings apart from the online meeting that has limited attendance held every two weeks. There are reports and minutes of these meetings on the Council's web site.

KA Leisure

As a board member I have been kept up to date on the issues within that organisation, including staff furlough, plans for reopening (as allowed), and finance. We have a KA Leisure board meeting this coming Thursday via video conferencing.

KA continues to have its free exercise classes during the week, and this may be something that will be continued into the future.

CLlr Billings will provide the CC with a copy of the final report submitted by NAC in relation to the proposed removal of telephone boxes.

8. NAC Local Managers report (This had been provided in a e-mail from Brodie Pearcey)

- The reinstatement of uplifts and the opening of the HWRC 1st June. This will be the normal hours and we will be accepting wood, garden waste and general waste in the first instance, with other items to be reinstated at a later date
- Phase 1 reintroduction of Streetscene duties. For Arran this is mainly Grounds Maintenance cutting the public areas, with the ride on machine commencing today, and next week we will increase the frequency of servicing the public/dog bins.
- We are also carrying out some maintenance to verges to clear road signs, verge markers and some verges on narrower roads where access has been restricted by growth avoiding wild flowers where possible.

9. A.O.C.B

Bob Haddow requested information relating to the Ardrossan Harbour Steering Group. Bill advised that discussions were on-going relating to communications and how a Public Meeting might be held in the current situation.

Cllr Billings advised that discussions with NAC were taking place next week.

It was noted that design and background work in relation to the new ferry was still ongoing whilst the yard is furloughed.

10. Next Meeting: Tuesday 30th June 2020 at 6pm. This meeting will be held digitally in the same format, utilising ZOOM technology