

Isle of Arran Community Council
Minutes of Meeting held 24th November 2020

Due to the current COVID19 restrictions, this meeting was held digitally via ZOOM

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

Also present: Rosalyn Mills (NAC), Hugh Boag - Arran Banner, Jim Nichols - Minute Secretary
Andy Walker, Forestry and Land Scotland

1. Welcome / Apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending this Digital Meeting.

- A difficult period with the recent outbreak affecting a number of residents and reminding everyone to protect and be aware. Thoughts to those affected and wish them a speedy recovery. Our health service and volunteer groups once again demonstrated how lucky we are to be supported by such dedicated individuals A big thank you again to all supporting the community thru these times.
- Apologies for absence were recorded from Sgt Douglas Robertson and David Murray There were no Declarations of Interest.

2. Minutes from Previous Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held 27th October 2020 had been previously circulated.

Proposed Julie Graham Seconded Liz Evans

3. Matters Arising

3.1 Post – No progress had been with Royal Mail with regard to all mail being sent off the Island. Patricia Gibson had heard from Royal Mail, who stated that the Royal Mail operation had changed some years ago and they gave assurance that there was no impact on service.

3.2 A discussion will be scheduled during the break in connection with the future role of the CC.

3.3 A Calmac funding scheme relating to tackling social isolation, mental health, poverty etc closes on 30th November 2020.

3.4 Armistice arrangements had been agreed and applied.

4. Correspondence

Bill Calderwood reported correspondence including:

- Messages received via “Contact-us” –
 - Request from Student at Glasgow Uni seeking for Arran data on demographics etc. Responded with links and info acknowledged.

- Enquiry regards permits for work. Directed to Local office
- Other correspondence:
 - Road closure notes circulated
 - Notice re: Review of electoral arrangements had been circulated.
 - MY Place Awards notice circulated with request for suggestions to be provided
 - Green health development fund circulated
 - Islands Communities impact assessment
 - IT/Digital inclusion enabling grant circulated with request for any interest
 - Link to NHS stats circulated. Participatory budgeting steering group nominations. One CC member agreed to be nominated.
 - Circulated Alcohol report.
 - Invitation to “fair say on Council Budget” discussion. 2 CC members attended
 - Invite to Coast event “the limits” marine environment. 28 people had attended a Zoom meeting.
 - Circulated flyer for “Community Benefits” opportunity.
 - Circulated invitation to comment on proposal associated with - Glenscorrodale Native Woodland. Jim Henderson will respond.

5. Police Report

Sgt Robertson had advised that there had been 3 reported crimes and 35 incidents in the previous month, none of which were of a concerning nature.

Thanks were recorded for his report.

6. Forestry and Land Scotland

Andy Walker gave a comprehensive update on the recently announced plans to remove large areas of Larch due to the prevalence of disease. Forestry and Land Scotland had agreed that the work on Arran could be extended for a further 3 years due to the large areas affected.

Andy referred to a map showing the affected areas and confirmed a large area at Kilpatrick would be part of the work. He advised that the affected trees represented 5% of the trees on Arran.

Most would be felled then harvested in the normal way and removed from the Island. Ricky McMaster enquired if a specialist firm for disposal. Andy confirmed a certified company would need to be utilised.

Affected areas would be left 3 years before replanting, by which time the spores will be gone. There are no plans to establish foot baths or to close forest paths.

Cllr Billings enquired why they need to all be felled. Andy confirmed it was a Statutory Duty.

7. Ferry Committee

7a Feedback from Ferry Committee October meeting.

- Demand appears to be easing and availability improving.
- 80/20 allocation clarified as applicable to passenger capacity.
- Major debate around the situation at Ardrossan which is clearly the responsibility of Peel Ports Group. AFC chair has written on three occasions to CalMac and Transport Scotland to seek clarification of why there is no published plan for the repairs. Issue has been escalated to senior levels at PPG by both CalMac and TS and politicians are aware of the significant impact this failure is having to both business and residents.
- AFC discussed alternatives to the loss of the 07:00 from Ardrossan when having the vessel overnight in Brodick. Crew hours and weather will influence this for future incidents. Discussions ongoing.
- Clarification requested to Lochranza timetables to emphasise that service to Claonaig would continue until 24th Oct.
- No extension on Lochranza service confirmed by Transport Scotland after 24th October.
- Clarification sought for 4th January service from Caledonian Isles with assurances sought that it would remain on service until backlog was cleared. Need to wait for dry dock schedule to be confirmed at end October.
- Ardrossan Task Force Community info packs being finalised.

Ricky McMaster queried the position regarding the proposed withdrawal of the Calmac van. Bill Calderwood confirmed an email had been sent to the MD of Calmac. Communication is expected before the weekend in this regard.

7b. ARG /AEG.

- Meetings held fortnightly.
- Minutes are published at <https://www.arranrecoverygroup.co.uk/>
- 2nd survey has been published with hard copies available in Banner.
- List of available grants is being prepared and analysis of potential applications being developed.

8. NAC Councillors report

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

COVID-19 Restrictions

North Ayrshire Council continues to be part of the decision-making process as to which COVID-19 tier North Ayrshire is in. As one of Arran's Councillors I have made sure that the

CEO of NAC is appraised as to the views of the various organisations and individuals that approach me on the subject.

Cost of the School Day

I have joined a short-term working party to look at the impact the cost of the school day has on the equity of educational opportunities. This is part of the Council's objective to provide equity for all pupils and to address disadvantages caused by poverty. Examples of costs are:

- Cost of extracurricular items (such as outings, music lessons, coaching)
- Travel - for those who don't get free travel to and from school
- Meals - breakfasts, lunch and
- Uniforms - impact of school specific items (such as colours, badges), sharing useable but outgrown items, impact of 'dress down' days
- Donations to charity - schools sometimes encourage giving which some pupils could find very hard to do

Issues may not always be down to money, but are about the approach taken. There were examples of things schools did with good intentions but had detrimental impacts of some pupils. The group has been listening to good practice research from other council areas, from pupils within North Ayrshire providing both positive and negative examples, from head teachers across NA about what they are already doing and some of the constraints they have come across.

The purpose of the short-term working party is to formulate a council policy that will help schools minimise the impact that the cost of the school day has on pupils.

Regeneration

North Ayrshire Council is very aware that the restrictions that have been in place to help stop the spread of the COVID-19 virus have had a devastating effect on communities and the economy. With that in mind the Council is using what levers it has to help us all recover and rebuild the economy. As was reported in the Arran Banner, the Ayrshire Growth Deal has been signed, which will form a significant part of the recovery plan, including for Arran the proposals around marine tourism. In addition, plans for the development of the North Shore site in Ardrossan (school, housing and marine centre) are progressing well, as are the plans for the harbour redevelopment.

Members will be aware that the Arran Recovery Group has developed its recovery plan, and along with the data from the recent surveys will assist the Council in identifying some other areas where it could contribute to Arran's recovery.

Boundary Commission Consultation

A reminder that the consultation is still in progress and one can comment as an individual or organisation.

Arran Locality Partnership

There was a meeting of the group on Tuesday afternoon, 24th November. Cllr Billings reported that there will be 3 types of Participatory Budgeting – Youth, Arts and General.

Ricky McMaster thanked Cllr Billings for his report on this item, as he had been unable to join on the link provided.

9. NAC Local Managers report

Rosslyn had provided a full report on behalf of NAC prior to the meeting, which had been circulated.

Rosslyn was thanked her for the comprehensive information contained in the report.

NAC – Local Officers report 24.11.2020

NOTE: Prolonged period of heavy rain since last update (26.10.2020) has delayed progress on several items covered previously.

Landslip(s) / coastal erosion / parapet

- The large slip at Eas Mor. The initial investigations have been completed and works are underway to design the required repair. Dialog with landowner also underway. Investigation works were carried out with regards to the opening of one lane of road to allow use under lights, however the erosion below the road is too substantial for this to be considered a safe option. The road is likely to remain closed until the New Year.
 - Some concern raised regarding increased HGV traffic on the Geary while these repairs take place, this has been raised and the road is considered fit for this purpose. However, the condition of the road will continue to be monitored, and repairs conducted if/as required.
 - Low Road Kildonan – repairs are scheduled to be carried out to the road surface; however, these have been weather delayed. The area close to Drumla is of note as water is persistently flowing onto the carriageway from a neighbouring property, repairs cannot be carried out until this is addressed.

We have entered a dialog with the owner of the property to ensure this happens in a timely and appropriate manner.

- Areas of slips / erosion along length of road from Eas Mor slip to Levencorroch have been surveyed, works to repair these will be included in the Eas Mor slip programme.

White Lining

- The white lining programme is underway in key areas on the island – including those recently resurfaced. Unfortunately, the contractor had one dry day the week they were on the island and only carried out works at a small number of the locations identified. We have had confirmation that will be returning to the island – and await a period of dry forecast to allow them to do so effectively. We remain hopeful that this will take place this side of the new year.

Winter Gritting

- We are now into our winter gritting programme (wk. 22/10/20 – wk. 08/04/20) updates on when gritters are active can be found via [here](#) and via the council twitter account

Ditching / water on road

- Our programme to clear ditches to aid the removal the excess water from the roads continues to progress. Works this week include Pier Brae (with new drain installed) and the Bouguillie. As we move out of Autumn and in to winter we will also be carrying out a programme to empty and clear the gullies around the island.

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.

Ricky McMaster queried why spoil is being left at the road edge when ditches are cleared. Rosslyn confirmed she is trying to resolve this.

Bob Haddow reported a large pothole at Brodick Pier, which has become a trip hazard. Rosslyn advised this would be done.

10. A.O.C.B

There was no other business.

Bill thanked the CC for their support during the year.

11. Next Meeting: Tuesday 26th January 2021 at 6pm. This meeting will be held digitally in the same format, utilising ZOOM technology

