

Isle of Arran Community Council
Minutes of Meeting held 26th January 2021
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: Rosslyn Mills (NAC), Jim Nichols - Minute Secretary

1. Welcome / Apologies

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

- The New Year saw a continuation of restrictions impacting both residents and businesses. The initial phase of vaccinations had started, with many appreciative messages for the work our health services are doing. The CC recognised the various volunteers and business who are supporting the community.
- Apologies for absence were recorded from Sgt Douglas Robertson and David Murray
Declarations of Interest are noted in the Minute of this meeting.

2. Minutes from Previous Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held 24th November 2020 had been previously circulated.
Proposed John Lamont Seconded Liz Evans

3. Matters Arising

3.1 NAC to consider further delay for Community Council elections until November at next council meeting in February. Confirmation is awaited.

3.2 The Chair had participated in on-line transport conference arranged via NAC/Scot CC's. The meeting lasted 3 hours, with no mention of ferries. It had focussed on road and rail, with little for rural areas. Bill has requested a list of participants.

3.3 A followed up on training with NAC had been made and awaiting a response. This training was expected to include roles and responsibilities.

4. Correspondence

Bill Calderwood reported correspondence including:

- Messages received via "Contact-us" –
 - An offer from Arran High School Mountain bike club to update us on their plans. The Chair will contact the Club regarding a possible presentation.
 - Request for information from a German author who is writing a murder mystery book based on Arran. An appropriate response had been sent.

- Other correspondence:
 - Road closure notes circulated.
 - COVID updates from PPG circulated. It was noted there were 4 cases currently on Arran.
 - A job role etc for New Senior Officer (Islands) had been circulated.
 - Final call for comments on Boundaries commission, which closes today.
 - Appeal for contributions from Arran Sound - New Year messages.
 - Participatory Budgeting notices circulated.
 - Correspondence from Dr S Campbell regarding representation and CC interaction with new Senior Island officer was noted. This had been circulated to CC members in advance. Bill Calderwood and Jim Nichols recorded a Declaration of interest, due to their being Directors of ACVS which was mentioned in Sally's note.
 - Various session being planned related to Islands Bill. This will be updated as information becomes available.
 - NAC have advised that the CC can use Microsoft Teams, which may be more accessible for others. A CC trial will be held shortly.
 - A note had been received from NAC on website compliance for links to independent sites.

5. Police Report

Sgt Robertson provided an update as follows:

- 'Since the last meeting on 24th Nov 2020 there have been 88 recorded incidents and 9 offences reported none of which are of a concerning nature or indicate a worrying trend. The festive period was considerably quieter than we would normally expect although this was hardly surprising given the restrictions in place at the time and since as we move through another period of lockdown. We receive frequent calls regarding suspected breaches of Covid regulations from the public which are investigated to establish the full circumstances with the majority either not amounting to breaches or breaches of a very minor nature which are dealt with in an appropriate manner short of enforcement in accordance with Police Scotland policy. That said, over the past week we have taken enforcement action in respect of three individuals which is the first time since March 2020 that we have had to use the last resort of enforcement. It's fair to say that everyone is increasingly fatigued by the restrictions placed upon us but at this critical stage, it's as important as ever that everyone continues to comply as that, coupled with the roll-out of the vaccine will hopefully provide the route out of our current situation.
- We have commenced the selection process for Summer secondees to the island and so far the response has been encouraging. Once we reach the closing date for applications in the second week of February, I'll know where we stand in terms of firm applications and can then move onto the next stage of the process.'

6. NAC Local Managers report

Rosslyn gave a comprehensive update on North Ayrshire Councils operational work on the Island. There had been a particularly long period of ice and snow, which had resulted in the NAC contractor having to shut down for 2 weeks.

The NAC teams were at full complement and had been mainly gritting.

Work on the road at Kildonan was expected to be March or April. The landslip will impact on the NAC budget. Problems were highlighted in relation to the section where the road is closed, with closure barriers being moved without authorisation.

It had not been possible to carry out further white-lining due to the weather.

The Contractor still has work to complete on last years Roads Programme.

Rosalyn mentioned the process to apply for grit bin filling and salt, and explained the criteria for eligibility.

Currently NAC have 2 vacancies on the Island to join the Street Scene teams.

It was noted that summer bedding would again be made available as in previous years.

7. Ferry Committee

7a Feedback from Ferry Committee December meeting.

- Meeting held with Mr Wheelhouse MSP to discuss service levels and also best arrangement for service during closure of Arran berth to complete upgrades. A survey will shortly be held to seek the views of the public regarding the options during the period the work is being carried out.
- Ardrossan Task force meeting minutes have been published.
- Updated status papers published on NAC and TS websites and hard copies available from CC on request.
- Work on Gourock linkspan scheduled to be complete February. New linkspan expected to be installed this week weather permitting with service reinstated in 2-3 weeks.
- Recent announcements of delayed return for Caledonian Isles due to additional work identified.
- The hours of operation of the port office will be on a restricted basis.

7b. ARG /AEG.

- First meeting of 2021 held last Friday and notes published today at <https://www.arranrecoverygroup.co.uk/>
- Future discussions to begin to move forward with Arran Plan.
- There was recognition that the Arran Plan would be short term in relation to providing a route out of the pandemic.
- Interviews for the post of Senior Officer (Islands) were underway. For Community Actions the officer will work with the Locality Partnership.

8. NAC Councillors report

Cllr Billings reported that NAC were limited in what support schemes they could offer, because most schemes were controlled by the Scottish Government.

9. A.O.C.B

Funding available to community groups who were maintaining the toilets around the Island was discussed. Information on requirements was to be passed to Bill Calderwood together with a current situation report.

10. Next Meeting: Tuesday 23rd February 2021 at 6pm. This meeting will be held digitally. The format will be agreed dependent on the trial to be conducted shortly.