

**Isle of Arran Community Council**  
**Minutes of Meeting held 30<sup>th</sup> March 2021**  
**Due to the current COVID19 restrictions, this meeting was held digitally via ZOOM**

Present: Bill Calderwood (Chair), Bob Haddow, Jim Henderson, Aileen Balfour, Julie Graham, Peter McMullen, Neil Arthur, Colin Mackenzie, David Murray, Cllr Timothy 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.

- The contribution of local Health Groups and NHS Ayrshire and Arran Health Board was recognised again. It was noted that over 75% of the Arran population had received their 1<sup>st</sup> inoculations.
- Apologies for absence were recorded from Rosalyn Mills (NAC), Sgt Douglas Robertson, John Lamont, Ricky McMaster and Liz Evans,

**2. Minutes from Previous Meeting**

Minutes of the meeting held 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2021 had been previously circulated.

Proposed Jim Henderson    Seconded Julie Graham

**3. Matters Arising**

- A support letter had been sent to Arran High School in respect of the Mountain Bike Club. Peter McMullen believed that the Club would be producing a budget for the project.
- Final orders had been placed for COVID grant funding to support the island toilet programme. Most premises have been open for the majority of the season. One had to close early, and one other had limited opening. To cover needs and once VAT and delivery was covered there was an overspend which it was proposed to cover from the CC project fund. This was agreed. Bill will be contacting groups to ascertain delivery arrangements.
- Julie attended one of the on-line Zoom seminars relating to the Circular Economy and the Planning System. She circulated and provided a report and PowerPoint file.
- Aileen had taken up the offer for on-line training and will update the CC further as she registers and explores the opportunities.
- The CC had contributed to a survey on future letting policy for NAC with respect to new Brathwic properties. Occupancy was expected September/October.
- Responded to invitation to join webinar re replacement power cables from Carradale.
- The CC were invited to respond on Easing of COVID-19 restrictions on islands. All members responded with varying views but a majority consensus that Option1. to align with the mainland directives was appropriate. A response was submitted with some comments around process etc. 1400 responses had been received from the Islands. The form did not provide for identification as to which Island it related to.
- A meeting was held digitally with Sarah Baird, the new senior officer, by way of an initial introduction. Follow up discussions will be arranged in the near future.
- The website licence will be renewed next month.

**4. Correspondence**

Bill Calderwood reported correspondence including:

Messages received via "Contact-us" –

- Message received asking process for establishing a "memorial bench"
- Other correspondence:
  - Notes covering a range of topics circulated from NAC covering green health, circular economy, Zero waste etc
  - Digital survey circulated.
  - Road closure notices and cancelations.
  - Aileen had been contacted re the Post Box at Shiskine. After discussion, it was agreed that Aileen will clarify when the post box will be restored with Royal Mail.

## 5. Treasurers Report

Julie advised that the CC Insurance was due on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2021. Costs are not increased. This was agreed for payment.

## 6. Police Report

Sgt Robertson had provided an update prior to the meeting as follows:

There had been 33 incidents, with 7 crime reports.  
He will shortly be interviewing for summer secondees.

## 7. NAC Local Managers report

Rosalyn had provided the following report prior to the meeting. She apologised that the digital link was poor and she had to drop off shortly into her update. We appreciate the effort that Rosslyn makes to provide the update in advance and attend to explain nay queries and answer questions.

### a. Eas Mor landslip and adjoining road network

The programme for tender issue and repair work is as follows:

Activity	Date 2021
Document receipt	26 <sup>th</sup> March
Pull together tender docs and issue	2 <sup>nd</sup> April
Tender period and return	23 <sup>rd</sup> April
Tender evaluation and award	30 <sup>th</sup> April
H&S compliance and mobilisation leading to start on site	17 <sup>th</sup> May
6 weeks tender period ending (end of works)	27 <sup>th</sup> June

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

- 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 as required.
- Low Road Kildonan – local roads team continue to patch this area as required. Resurfacing works are planned 2021/22. These were scheduled for June 2021 but will be held back until the landslip repairs are complete (so not to have both roads closed at the same time).

**b. White Lining**

Due to the ongoing pandemic and the uncertainty with travel to the island (boat disruption) the white lining contract has been suspended. We are awaiting confirmation of dates from the contractor; however, they will only commit to sending their team over when they have a clear period of weather and accommodation and travel is readily available. It was expected that the contractor may return on 19<sup>th</sup> April.

**c. Ditching / water on road**

Our programme to clear ditches to aid the removal the excess water from the roads continues to progress. We have been targeting the areas we know to be problematic, so far these include Butterhill, Levencorroch, Machrie Moor Road, DJ weirs, Corrie, Merkland and the Heights. We have also been investing time at the witches’ bridge at Whiting Bay and on Pier Brae, where there is an ongoing problem with water coming out of the road.

**d. Garden Tidy**

We will be commencing the Garden Tidy Scheme on Monday 12th April 2021. The Garden Tidy Scheme Applications will be open until Wednesday 7th April 2021 and the total cost will be £84.00.

**e. Overnight Parking / concerns over campervan nuisance**

We are aware of the concerns of residents with regards to the use of laybys, passing places and car parks for campervan use / overnight stays. Currently NAC does not currently have a policy covering overnight parking restrictions, it may be something for the authority to consider as the popularity of staycations increases.

We have circulated a list of NAC maintained car parks on Arran, these are covered by The North Ayrshire Council (Off Road Parking Places) (Controlling Regulations) Order 2010. Section 11 sets out several restrictions of use of the parking places, including (Vii) *“No person shall use a vehicle or trailer as sleeping accommodation or for residential purposes while it is upon a parking place at anytime”*

- It is important to note that the enforcement of this is at the discretion of the police. Who (it is my understanding) would only intervene if the camper was causing an obstruction or a nuisance (which they would take an interest in should it be the case in any public area) However, we are happy to discuss the installation of these signs on a case-by-case basis in our car parks.

**f. Office duties**

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

In respect of White Lining, David Murray again expressed concern about the lack of white lines at the Junction of the A841and the String Road. Rosalyn confirmed this was on the list for attention. It was confirmed that NAC could not provide new Dog Waste bins, but any not used could be relocated.

## 8. Reports from Sub Committees

### 8a Feedback from Ferry Committee March meeting.

- Update provided on the Ar Turis programme to replace current ticketing and booking system. Contract awarded and training and personalisation for CalMac is underway. System is based on system used by other shipping agents, who balance large fleets with multiple routes and timetables. It is expected this will go live in Sept '22.
- Action list reviewed and still pursuing practical resolution to recover 07:00 sailings ex Ardrossan when vessel berths overnight in Brodick.
- As travel looks to free up, everyone is reminded again to mention to check concession cards and renew ahead of travel at Post Office.
- "Turn up and Go" procedures to be reviewed and comms refreshed.
- AFC have challenged the government decision to re-instate services to Campbeltown whilst social distancing restricts capacity on vessels. Awaiting discussion.
- Work at Lochranza is now complete.
- Port office closures out with timetable had been questioned and these had been implemented to protect staff as a number of non-ferry related visits with some not complying to face coverings etc placed unnecessary risk to staff and passenger services. Ardrossan conditions were amended to allow residents who had returned to the port early after a health visit when their travel was provided are now allowed to use the facilities if they comply with procedures.
- Update from CalMac Community Board included decision to request Motor homes fares be representative of capacity consumed. Volumes being tracked. Requested to have under 22 free travel on busses to be extended to include ferries.
- Calmac reviewing term and conditions of travel. Further discussions to be held.
- Port office opening hours planned to move to normal hours as the summer timetable commences

### 8b. ARG /AEG.

- Neil had provided a detailed report and project outline table, to which he gave an update report to the meeting.  
There was a meeting of the Arran Recovery Group on the 12<sup>th</sup> March at which the main points are summarised as follows:
  1. Sarah Baird the newly appointed Senior Officer (Islands) attended for the first time. This coincides with the Islands legislation and implementation plan. The role effectively combines the work of NAC, HIE and the Scottish Government.
  2. It was acknowledged by the Chair that *"the Arran Recovery Group was formed as a tactical group and the 2030 plan was woven into a Recovery Plan. This should now move back to the Strategic work of the AEG, with the ARG picking up on the tactical work of safely starting and optimising the economy and community"*
  3. The inter relationship with AEG, ACC, the locality partnership and the local authority is still evolving as is the constitution of the relevant bodies.
  4. At the request of the AEG Chair, Cllr Billings written a paper for discussion on 'governance'. Discussion is ongoing.
  5. There seems to be an acceptance that the previously named Arran 2030 plan has been renamed as "Arran 2030, Island in Balance"
  6. ACC agrees with others that it would be beneficial if all island groups were to focus their objectives on:
    - (a) "Arran 2030, Island in Balance"
    - (b) The NIP objectives
- Neil outlined the various objectives and asked for anyone interested in becoming more involved in any of them to get in touch before the next ARG mtg on the 15<sup>th</sup> to allow him to reflect our interest.
- Full minutes are published at <https://www.arranrecoverygroup.co.uk/>

### 8c. Arran Locality Partnership

- Various topics covered including cost of school day, Connectivity, Arran Drug and Alcohol study and Update on food systems
- Funding had been approved for all applicants to the Participatory Budgeting funding available.
- Arran priorities were discussed and proposal to carry out a review of what the current priorities should be.
- LPP papers can be accessed at <http://northayrshire.community/your-community/arran/>
- Next meeting scheduled for 17<sup>th</sup> June. 4:45 – 6:45 pm.

### 9. NAC Councillors report

Cllr Billings provided the following update:

- The most significant Arran issue this month was the deciding of the Arran fish farm application by the Planning Committee. It was the most discussed and, therefore, lengthiest item I have had to consider as a member of the Planning Committee.  
My opinion was that the objectors put their case well, which contrasted with the applicant's less structured approach. The local development plan does not forbid development in the area concerned but does require that various criteria are met. It was not clear from the application that the proposed fish farm could meet those criteria. I am pleased that the committee was unanimous in its decision to refuse the application.
- The Council set its budget at the meeting on the 4th March. There were no real surprises and was one of the most straightforward budget meetings. The Council had planned its budget based on historic trends for funding, which is an overall 1% cut in core funds. However, this year the funding will be 0.84% higher, which meant that some cuts/savings for this year have been deferred to next year (you will all have seen the consultation on the halls and libraries). I proposed that some additional funding was given to the Health and Social Care Partnership to enable them to develop a community based mental health initiative as part of the Partnership's response to Covid, but this was not supported.
- There was a Locality Partnership meeting in March. The main issue to take forward are:
  - Refresh of the local priorities – the current 3 priorities were discussed and set about 4 or 5 years ago. It is considered that local priorities should be redefined to take account of all the changes that have happened since they were last set. It was suggested that a wider approach is taken to what are Arran's priorities, and that specific groups or organisations asked to take ownership of specific relevant priorities to ensure that positive action is taken towards addressing each priority.
  - Participatory Budgeting – there have been a large number of applications for the money, but all have been funded, apart from the Youth section where voting took place earlier in the month. There will be an announcement about the projects shortly.
- Other work has included KA Leisure Board meetings, where we have set the budget and Covid recovery plans in place. It has been a very challenging year for KA Leisure and the coming year will be critical for the future of the leisure trust. One good thing that has been developed over the past year is the online fitness programme, where one can join in with live classes, as well as pre-recorded sessions. This has enabled those who would normally go to classes to continue to exercise but has also brought a wide variety of classes to those who may not have wanted to travel to a class or didn't have access (such as most of us on Arran).
- My regular work as a councillor continues to help support individuals with Council related issues, such as waste, business support, access to care at home and maintenance of graveyards.
- One last thing – there is a lot of money around at the moment held in various funds. It can be challenging to find what fund would be best for your project. The Council has a new Facebook page 'North Ayrshire Virtual Funding Centre' where you can find information and updates on

the various funds available. There are links to the Council's communities team who would be pleased to assist with finding suitable funding opportunities.

**10. A.O.C.B**

- Neil Arthur sought clarification on the process to suggest amendments to the Roads Schedule. The priorities are reviewed on a regular basis by NAC and the current schedule is prepared with the current conditions and pending budget confirmation. Bill requested any suggested amendments be forwarded to him by Saturday. It was confirmed that no Roads Works will be approved until the NAC Budget Meeting is held.

**11. Next Meeting: Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2021 at 6pm. This meeting will be held digitally. The format will be agreed dependent on the trial to be conducted shortly.**