

**Isle of Arran Community Council**  
**Minutes of meeting held on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021**  
Meeting was held in Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick

Present: W. Calderwood (chair), J. Henderson, J. Graham, N. Arthur, R. Haddow, J. Lamont, L. Evans, C. McKenzie, Cllr T. Billings, D. Murray, Sgt Robertson, and R. McMaster

Also present H. Boag Arran Banner and J. Nichols Minute secretary.

The Chair welcomed all to this meeting, returning this month to Ormidale Pavilion. The following apologies for absence from P. McMullen, A. Balfour, and R. Mills NAC. were registered. There were no declarations of interest. The Chair expressed our thanks to the local NHS Ayrshire and Arran health board staff who continue to extend an excellent level of care to the community.

**Agenda item 2 Minutes**

The minute of the meeting held on the 27<sup>th</sup> July 2021 was approved.

Proposed by J. Graham and seconded by J. Lamont.

**3. Matters arising from the minute**

3.1 Final papers are awaited from Scottish Power.

3.2 Noted that Licensing application for PHT had been passed.

3.3 Letter sent to AFAG secretary as agreed. Awaiting acknowledgement of receipt.

3.4 CC Election details had been circulated and published in Banner.

**4. Police matters**

Sgt Robertson reported 104 incidents with 19 crimes.

There had been a higher frequency of on-line frauds reported, and many of these were from overseas callers, which are out with the jurisdiction of the Police.

He had been in touch with the organisers of the Rat Race regarding the possible holding of a further event in October.

**5. NAC Local officers report**

Rosslyn had submitted apologies for absence, but had provided a written report of the current NAC activities on Arran re Roads etc

**Jet Patcher**

Delighted with the results of the jet patcher on the String, Ross Road (Lagg end) and at Machrie. Some side roads (Corriegills, Brathwic, Market Road and Strathwhillan) also actioned. Machine and operator were excellent.

### **Fisherman's Walk**

Final stages of Licence approval taking place and optimistic about the project works being permitted in the coming months. This will include reinstating the rock armour on the Cloy Burn behind the library.

### **Bins - Blackwaterfoot Golf Course**

We are aware that residents have complaints regarding the large Taylor Bins located in the car park for Blackwaterfoot Golf Course. These bins are currently emptied 3 times per week. There have been a few occasions this summer when the bins have been overflowing and at this time additional hand collection of the scattered waste has been carried out. The overuse of these bins has eased as the summer passes. However, we will continue to monitor and respond accordingly.

### **Bins – absence of**

There are a few bins round the island that were removed as they were damaged, or mechanisms were faulty. We were awaiting a delivery of bins to the island to allow us to replace these, which we received at the end of last week. We will work to get the new bins out to their respective places as soon as possible.

### **Bins - new**

We can only provide new bins (where there has not been a bin before) if we relocate one. We are happy to discuss the individual needs of communities and ask that committee members get in touch with the local office direct to see what we can do to assist.

### **White lining**

Works not carried out due to poor weather and disruption to ferries at the start of August. NAC contract manager for the roads programme is negotiating a new start date with the white lining contractor with a view to carry out lining/ marking on resurfaced areas in the coming weeks.

### **2021/22 Roads Programme**

Low Kildonan remains on track for September.

Ross Road (Lamlash hill) resurfacing to take place in October ahead of forestry extractions

### **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. The reopening of the office is further delayed and will be reviewed by NAC Executive Management Team on a fortnightly basis.

Neil Arthur expressed concern regarding the line of sight at the crossroads at Blackwaterfoot, which he had previously reported.

In addition, a large pothole at the side of the String Road had been reported over 2 weeks ago. but not actioned.

John Lamont queried if there would be any programme for the clearing of ditches. No further information had been received relating to verge cutting.

Bill Calderwood had forwarded queries to Rosalyn relating to the Waste Bins.

Clr Billings advised that the NAC Offices remain closed due to COVID concerns. Neil Arthur felt they should be open.

## **6. Correspondence**

Messages received via "Contact-us" –

- Message from stranded resident's relation asking for assistance. Resilience group sorted it out without delay,

Other correspondence:

- Circulated consultation for Island bond Scheme.
- Message re: CalMac community funding circulated
- Message announcing launch of £1.3m Healthy Islands fund.
- Consultation from SFRS circulated.
- Updates circulated re local office opening hours.

The Treasurer reported she had submitted accounts to end of August which have now been audited by the NAC audit department and provisionally approved subject to supply of month end bank statements. NAC had recognised the work the CC had performed noting *"I see from your minutes that you have had a busy and fruitful year and wish you every success in your future endeavours"*.

It was agreed that Approvals for Expenditure would be a regular agenda item in future.

## **7 Reports from Sub Committees**

### **7.1 Ferry Committee**

Bill Calderwood provided an update from Ferry Committee August meeting

- Transport Minister has confirmed he will meet with AFC members. Date to be confirmed in mid Sept.
- Question raised related to revised Saturday sailing due to alleged weather report.

- Examples of unavailable sailings when capacity then is found to be available. This is being followed up by CalMac using data provided by AFC.
- Revised handling for unbooked camper vans was explained.
- Provision of toilet facilities at Claonaig is being followed up but permissions still required to be confirmed.
- New carrying detail formats being progressed and will be incorporated in revised on-line reporting estimated to be introduced later this year.
- It is planned that a £10 charge will be applied for cancellations within 48 hrs as per T's and C's.
- Post meeting, Minister arranged a fact-finding discussion with AFC officers following several communications, to understand first hand events around the loss of service due to Covid restrictions. This will not compromise his intention to meet in Sept.

### **7b Arran Economic Group**

A meeting of the Arran Recovery Group was held on 20th August. Neil Arthur reported matters under discussion included.

- Preparations for a forthcoming Ministerial meeting.
- Population decline. With poor ferry services and lack of affordable housing identified as key contributory factors.
- Transport matters - mainly relating to the poor ferry service exacerbated by Covid restrictions.
- Economic impact of Covid and consequential huge reductions of tourism and the related drop in income over the last two years.
- Present employment vacancies - particularly in education, health and social care and hospitality. (See also (2) above).
- An update on delivery of the key objectives of the Islands Bill.
- Confirmation of the ARG's response re the proposed Islands Bond.

John Lamont reported that Brodick Calmac Office could not be contacted by telephone after 6pm.

Ricky McMaster commented that the food on the Caledonian Isles was poor.

### **7c Arran Locality Partnership**

- The next meeting will be held 16 September 2021
- There has been no approach to discuss agenda or other work in advance of meeting.

- No further updates and on our clear statement we cannot support this forum in its current structure. A follow up note will be sent to the Chief Executive.

## **8 NAC Councillors report**

Cllr Billings provided an update on the allocations process of the new NAC Housing in Brodick.

Bill Calderwood enquired if there was any progress on a Housing Association initiative to build further properties in addition. Cllr Billings was not aware of any progression.

Cllr Billings had been in discussion with BT in regard to plans to remove some phone boxes on the Island. Currently this is held up due to lack of finance.

Julie Graham asked if there had been any movement in terms of monitoring speeding in Lochranza. Cllr Billings agreed to make further enquiries.

Cllr billings confirmed the cost of Building Warrants is common charging policy with the mainland.

## **9 AOCB**

9.1 David Murray spoke of the problems at North Sannox Picnic Area relating to Wild Camping, Campervans and Caravans. He believed signage should be erected to remind people of the Country Code and to respect the environment.

9.2 This would be the last meeting of the CC before the retirement of Sgt Robertson, and the Chair, on behalf of the CC, paid tribute to his contribution to the Island, and his inputs to the CC over his time in office.

### **Date of Next Meeting**

**Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2021 in Ormidale Pavilion. 6pm**

**Note meeting venue and date of meeting**