

Isle of Arran Community Council  
Minute of meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2021.  
Venue Ormidale Pavilion from 1800 hrs  
Last meeting of this 5-year session.

Present: W. Calderwood Chair, J. Henderson Secretary, N. Arthur, R. Haddow, L. Evans, C. Mackenzie, J. Lamont and A. Balfour.

Also present H. Boag of the Arran Banner.

1. The Chair welcomed all to the final meeting of this term and recorded the following apologies for absence from J. Graham, D. Murray, R. Mills, T. Billings, P. McMullen, R. McMaster and J. Nichols.

During the chair's introduction there was no declarations of interest. Thanked the local NHS and other organisations who continue to support the community. Finally advised the meeting that the Council has been informed of abuse being directed at Cal Mac staff, both at the terminal and in the village. The meeting agreeing that such behaviour by the public was unacceptable advising that anyone with a genuine complaint should instead contact senior management of CalMac.

2. Minute of the last meeting held on the 31<sup>st</sup> August was approved by L. Evans and seconded by J. Lamont.
3. Matters arising not covered in the agenda. Letter sent to AFAG to date has never been acknowledged. To be raised again at item 6 of the agenda.
4. Police matters- with the Sgt in late stages of leaving his post in Arran there was no report submitted. The chair informing the meeting that Sgt Robertson has been listed for security duties at Cop 26.
5. NAC local officers report at 21.09.21
  - **Fisherman's Walk**  
Delighted to share that NAC have got the marine licence for the Glencloy Water, Arran erosion protection work. Tendering for the works will begin in the coming weeks and a date for the project commencing will be advised following this.
  - **White Lining**  
White lining works were started on the 6<sup>th</sup> September. The contractor is scheduled to return week of the 27<sup>th</sup> to complete all works. N. Arthur advising that remedial work at the crossroads has not been completed, line of sight being very poor, if not dangerous.
  - **Beach cleans**  
With sufficient notice the NAC are happy to provide litter pickups and bags for any groups carrying out beach cleans or litter picks on the island. We are also able to collect all the waste collected if a drop off point is agreed prior to the event.  
By calling the local office to arrange.
  - **2021 / 22 Roads programme**  
Low Kildonan remains on track for September. J. Lamont stating that apart from the road surfacing the ditches require to be cleaned out also. Ross Road resurfacing to take place in October ahead of forestry extractions.
  - **Office duties**  
The local office remains closed to the public. Contact by phone still available 9am to 1pm. Answer machine in use out with those times. Opening of the office will be reviewed on a fortnightly basis.

#### 6a, Correspondence

- Circulated short survey on behalf of the Local Government and Communities.
- Invite received to participate in discussion associated to covid precautions for the planned Ultra Tour of Arran. Event will be based at the Ormidale Pavilion on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> October involving about 250 runners. This is a well organised group with strong guidance and procedures for infection control if required.
- Note circulated on Island engagement for future planning- the first session involved between 40 and 50 participants. A second session is taking place on the 28<sup>th</sup> September
- CalMac community fund reminder circulated.
- Request from NAC to encourage applications for a local council roads job that has been advertised.

#### 6b **AFAG** (Arran Ferry Action Group)

- The meeting was advised of a social media announcement by AFAG that ended with an inaccurate statement with regard to the ACC and AFC. The chair read out a proposed response for the Banner detailing the inaccurate statement, which was unanimously adopted by the meeting. N. Arthur reminded the ACC that over a year ago the AFC had invited AFAG to an AFC meeting that was turned down. J. Henderson also reminded the meeting that shortly after the AFAG was formed the ACC invited their officers to a meeting that was also turned down. Refer to item 3 of the agenda.

7. **Treasurer's report.**

J. Graham had submitted the accounts to NAC that have been audited and approved by NAC and digital signed copies have been provided. Funds will be transferred to ACC bank account when staff are available. Total funds in bank at end of period being £437.18

8. **Reports from sub-committee's**

**8a. Arran Recovery Group-** A meeting took place on the 10<sup>th</sup> September. N. Arthur gave a brief report of the proceedings. The process was on hand but to date no evidence of anything substantial being instigated.

**8b. Ferry Committee**

The September meeting was held digitally due to covid concerns, both R. Drummond and A. Hood attended the following subjects being on the agenda.

Livestock transport,

Scheduling of first ferry from Ardrossan

Unsatisfied demand,

Underutilised capacity - there is extensive record of the demand, new ticketing system online for roll out February 2022 with possible reintroduction of multi ticket purchasing.

Poor Communications with call centre.

**8c. Locality Partnership.**

The latest Microsoft Teams meeting was held on the 16<sup>th</sup> September at 1645 for two hours. A note had been delivered explaining why the ACC was not attending. Discussions have been followed up with relevant managers. ACC chair spoke with the NAC Chief executive to seek assurances around the ACC and the ALP. This was constructive but until the elections are completed no real progress can be made. Chief executive recognises the role of the ACC and our contribution over the past years.

N. Arthur stating that once agreement had been reached on islands priorities the ACC role needed to be recognised.

The Chair explained the background of the process and any future decisions will be up to the new ACC members.

9. **NAC Councillors report** - none submitted.

10. **A.O.C.B.** meeting raised none.

On completion of the agenda business the Chair presented his end of term report for the CC term of office. This term was extended from 4 to 5 years due to the pandemic.

The ACC website has now received 35.5000 hits. The engagement covering a range of other organisations including Ferry, Elderly Forum. ACVS, AEG, Forestry, ADT, AYG, Coast, Scottish Islands federation, boundaries commission, health boards, royal mail, MSP's and MP etc.

During the past 5 years we have had members who left to follow other pursuits, each adding their own particular expertise for the ACC meetings, M. Woods, C. Atkins, P. Randall, and F. Wheeler.

NAC local officer representation has also changed with the retiral of Gus Macleod and the appointment of Rosslyn Mills who has proven to be a welcome addition to the NAC presence on Arran providing the ACC with positive contributions.

Cllr Billings has been a regular attendee and contributor to the work which is provided in a non political basis recognising that the CC is not politically aligned to any party. He updates the group on North Ayrshire Council activities and any pending legislation to help guide responses to appropriate panels.

As Chair I wish to recognise the support of Jim Henderson and Peter McMullen who have indicated they will not be returning as ACC members after the elections. Peter leaves a big hole to fill, as the ACC planning officer he did a sterling job advising and directing the ACC on various planning applications. Peter stands down as he is shortly leaving Arran.

Jim has been on the ACC for almost 12 years serving in various roles including Vice Chair, Treasurer, Marine coordinator, Ferry representative and presently Secretary, supporting my position as the ACC chair and his service is much appreciated. Liz Evans has been a strong contributor representing Pirnmill. Colin Mackenzie has also provided background on education and other matters of importance to the benefit of the island.

The ACC is a collaboration of the membership and the activities led by the appointed officer's, others who deserve recognition include, Ricky McMaster Vice Chair who is probably the longest serving council member. Julie Graham the ACC treasurer. Neil Arthur representing Blackwaterfoot & Shiskine. John Lamont representing Whiting Bay. The others have shorter terms of office like R. Haddow, A. Balfour and D. Murray who have contributed during the period of covid isolation. Thanks to one and all.

Finally, Jim Nichols the ACC minutes secretary who provides his services on a voluntary basis His wide range of experience on island matters is a useful addition source of information and adds to the ACC discussions.

Chair also recognised the Arran Banner for their continued attendance and regular reporting of the meetings.

The ACC is not a ruling body but has a role to represent the communities wide range of views and topics to ensure the best outcomes for Arran. This can sometimes cause compromise for villages who take a different view on some matters. But their support to ensure the best outcomes for Arran is a major plus for this ACC committee.

Liz Evans complimented the Chair on his chairmanship of the meetings over the past 5 years.

N. Arthur agreed with Liz and complimented the chairs attention to detail, and his work and time carried out behind the scenes.

The next meeting of the ACC will be subject to the result of the ongoing elections. Date and time to be confirmed.

Chairman.....

Min Secretary .....

William Calderwood

Jim Henderson.  
22<sup>nd</sup> September 2021.

Personal note from Jim Henderson post meeting

It seems fitting that I sign off my involvement with the ACC recording the minute of the last meeting of this session.