

Isle of Arran Community Council
Minutes of meeting held on the 30th of November 2021
Meeting held by Zoom

Present: B. Calderwood (Chair), P. Albrich, N. Arthur, J. Graham, R. Haddow, R. McMaster, T. Young, R. Mills (NAC), Sgt K. Blackley, Cllr T. Billings.

also present H. Boag (Arran Banner), J. Ford (MoP), R. Cumming (MoP).

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting, in particular, Sgt. Blackley who was attending his first ACC meeting. The following apologies were received: P. Gibson MP, J. Hunter. R. Park, and P. McKinnon.

The Chair expressed our thanks to the local NHS Ayrshire and Arran Health board staff and those other groups who continue to support the community in a variety of ways.

2: Minutes -

Draft minutes circulated with no requested amendments prior to meeting.

Minutes of the meetings held on the 2nd and 9th Nov were approved.

- 2nd Nov. Proposed by J. Graham and seconded by T. Young
- 9th Nov. Proposed by T. Young and seconded by N. Arthur

3: Matters arising from last minutes not covered in later agenda items:

- A short discussion was held on the possible change of meeting date and / or time. Chair B. Calderwood advised that current constitution and long-term practice indicates ACC meetings on last Tuesday of each month. N. Arthur advised that he had prior engagements on a Monday and Wednesday.
- R. McMaster asked if the time of Zoom meetings could be pushed back to 19.30. A vote was taken, and this change was not supported.
- K. Weir asked if ACC members could attend meetings held in person by Zoom. The Chair advised that this was not currently an option as sound would be an issue but that speaker boxes could be investigated.
- No other changes were put forward so meetings will continue to be held on the last Tuesday of each month.
- P. Albrich mentioned the possibility of the ACC meeting taking place out with Brodick. N. Arthur raised the question of the cost associated with this and R. McMaster felt that it would make little difference, people who wanted to attend would travel to attend the meeting. The Chair asked the members to investigate the cost and availability of suitable locations within their own locality.

3a. Training

- The Chair advised that due to a few of the other local community councils not having completed the election process that training would be provided by NAC in the New Year. The date has still to be confirmed.
- N. Arthur had been in touch with Neil McAteer and Jim Miller of NAC Planning, and they were looking at dates in the New Year, mid-January, subject to prevailing Covid guidelines at the time. N. Arthur to advise ACC members of proposed dates and times and whether one or two meetings were required

4: Formal adoption of leads for subgroups.

The Chair confirmed the appointed ACC members for the subgroups as: Marine – P. McKinnon, AEG – N. Arthur, Environment – R. Mc Master Youth – J. Hunter and Website/Comms – R. Park

5: Police Matters

Sgt Blackley gave a brief background into his previous experience and long-term connection to Arran.

- There had been 106 recorded incidents, since the 1st October with 11 crime reports.
- Following the article in the Arran Banner he confirmed that officers were currently undergoing training for use of a Taser with one officer having completed that already. He stressed the use of Tasers was being rolled out across the force and was for the protection of communities and the officers.
- Following the retirement of A. Perrie they had no Special Constables on Arran and were looking to recruit one or two.
- Sgt. Blackley reported that a new protocol, The Herbert Protocol, was being implemented on Arran. This is a single national process to help officers quickly obtain information about a vulnerable missing person who has dementia, saving vital time in the early stages of an investigation.

6: NAC Local officers Report

- R. Mills apologised for not having submitted a report prior to the meeting.
- Winter gritting programme was in place and running with two gritters in operation. Gritting bins are due to be topped up by the 3rd of December.
- All planned road works have been completed by Hillhead Tarmac with just the Ross Road to be completed by Hamilton Tarmac.
- Two bays outside the main Co-op in Brodick will be temporarily blocked off whilst a free drinking water point was erected.
- The white line work had been completed with just yellow lines to be finalised.
- Yellow lines would be in place outside the Bank of Scotland towards the Post Office corner.
- N. Arthur highlighted the concerns of the hatched area in Blackwaterfoot for disposal of black water being used as a parking area by some motorhomes and requested that the road marking be updated to include the words No Parking.
- K. Weir had been asked to mention the bridge at Pirnmill. K. Weir to advise if this is the road bridge or foot bridge beside it.
- K. Weir asked about bin provision at the foot of Imacher Brae as this was a popular spot with campers. J. Graham thought a bin was missing next to the post box and phonebooth in Lochranza. R. Mills advised that NAC can't take on new assets and that it would be a case of taking one bin from another location, but the local waste collection team would know which bins were not utilised and could advise on this. The Lochranza bin should have been put back in the same location or near to.
- The repairs to Glenclay Rd had been completed. R. Mills advised to phone in or email with any concerns
- R. Mills advised that the Council Offices would be closed from the 24th of December to the 5th of January; the Registration service would continue to operate. All phone calls would be re directed to a central mainland help desk.

7: Correspondence for November:

- Tree Planting: J Graham confirmed that the information had been circulated to Lochranza and Catacol residents for consultation and she had already received two positive responses.
- The circulated Boundaries Commission report had been acknowledged by T. Young only

- R. McMaster advised that the [Merkland Land Management Plan Consultation - Forestry and Land Scotland](#) could be found online and that it was covering the usual aspects of tree, peat management.
- Following receipt of a letter from chair of LCCA, J. Graham, highlighted their concerns re housing, both affordable and derelict properties, within the villages. N. Arthur advised that the Arran Development Trust were best placed with the knowledge and experience in the provision of affordable land and social housing. Compulsory purchase of derelict property was a very long process and not guaranteed. J. Graham confirmed she had given this information to the Chairman of Lochranza and Catacol Community Association, prior to committee meeting of LCCA.
- T. Young had submitted a pre meeting report from Whiting Bay. R. Mills advised that whilst some issues were being dealt with by local officers' certain problem sections were not owned by the Council and therefore fell out of their remit such as the area outside of the PO which is also the landowner.
- Website Update. Both W'Bay and Southend CC members have forwarded some revised wording for the ACC website. R. McMaster suggested the link to the community website could also be added. Process ongoing.

8: Treasurer's update.

- Current Admin balance = £1200 and Project Account = £96.08.
- The Chair advised that receipts must be produced for all purchases. Stationery and postage also have to be accounted for in the same manner. Travel expenses are 45p/ mile as per NAC car standard. Expenses form to be emailed out.

9: Sub Committee Reports

9a Ferry Committee

B. Calderwood provided an update from the November meeting attended by CalMac Operations Manager and Commercial Director.

- Follow up from previous meetings associated to service, resilience and communications continue. A letter sent to the Transport minister and Island's minister and copied to the AFC received a standard response advising timetable requests to be routed via AFC. R. Hadow requested further details on the letter which the Chair explained.
- Discussions continue on the carriage of livestock and timber.
- A breakdown will be provided on vehicle type on sailings to allow a comparison of space utilised per vehicle type.
- Plans for relocation of Brodick kiosk are progressing with the aim to have car processing from both sides of the kiosk to ease the issue of long tailbacks at booking in times during the summer and traffic driving around the traffic island.
- Ardrossan Task force meeting scheduled for 7th December.
- Community engagement for timetables etc when the ferry service moves temporarily to Troon are expected to begin in Qt1'22
- Vessel availability for Winter 22/23 being looked at.
- Summer timetable should be released within the next 10 days
- New ticketing and booking system progressing and currently scheduled for Mar/Apr intro.
- Food trials are considered to have been partially successful, but feedback has been recognised and certain offerings will be provided on a plate. Local food produce offering is being expanded.

9b SSE

- The planned visit by SSE was cancelled due to the weather. N. Arthur, B. Calderwood, P. McKinnon, and J. Graham will attend when the visit is rescheduled.

9c AEG updates:

- N. Arthur advised that the meeting was scheduled for 17th Dec, and he will provide an update at the next scheduled meeting of the ACC on the 25th of January

9d Locality Partnership -

- Following ACC withdrawal from the Locality Partnership an agreement on engagement process is to take place.

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10: NAC Councillors Report

Councillor Billings supplied a written report prior to the meeting which was circulated by the Chair.

- Councillor Billings successfully obtained Council agreement to urge the Scottish Government to curb the use of bottom fishing methods to allow sea beds to recover which in turn benefits fish stocks and help mitigate climate change.
- The Scottish Government plans for short-term letting licensing is to be discussed at the Council meeting on the 8th of December. Some letting associations have withdrawn from the process as the plan is considered potentially harmful to tourism, costly and burdensome to administer.
- The Islands Plan was circulated just before the ACC meeting. Cllr Billings met the NAC Islands Officer to provide input to the development of the Arran islands plan. We have until the 4th of January to review and consider our response. The Chair suggested an interim meeting to formulate a CC response.
- Financial support was provided to KA Leisure during the pandemic but is required to be self-sufficient for 2022-2023.
- The newly formed NAC Tourism Forum, with Cllr Billings as vice-chair, has been set up to develop a Visitor Management Plan. Whilst similar to a plan developed by Highlands Council this year it is expected that the NAC version is likely to be similar but to also include more about how the council and businesses work together to establish a more cohesive relationship
- Arran Access Trust are looking for Volunteers
- Speed monitoring was carried out on the Newton Shore. 1431 vehicle speeds were recorded during a 9-day period; the average speed of cars was 10mph, with only 15% travelling over 13mph and none over 30mph. As a result, it was recorded that the request for a 20 mile speed limit had no basis. Speed monitoring will be carried out along the main road in Lochranza early in 2022.
- Streetscene Volunteer Strategy. N. Arthur said on reading the stated purposes of the strategy was the aim to hand over some of the Councils current roles to the Community. Cllr Billings advised that the aim was to recognise all those within the Community that already voluntarily improve their individual village group.
- A fund is currently open for coastal specific play proposals in Blackwaterfoot; Lamblash; Whiting Bay and Kildonan.

N. Arthur requested the fencing around the existing play area in BWF be repaired

K. Weir requested the council consider an additional playpark for Lochranza. J. Graham advised this had already been looked at by the hall committee. R. Mills advised the spit at Lochranza Castle was owned / managed by Historic Scotland. The funding window will close soon (DATE TBA) so applications need to be received very soon.

11: A.O.C.B

- T. Young had provided a paper highlighting the issues facing the island Primary Schools in accessing swimming lessons. The cost of transport was the main problem. B. Calderwood suggested support may be available through Education funding. A contact was provided to T. Young as someone who maybe able to offer some advice

12: Next Meeting

Confirmed as Tuesday 25th January. Meeting location tba

The next item was held in private attended by ACC members only.

13: Planning / licensing:

Meeting Concluded 19.50