

Isle of Arran Community Council
Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 26th April 2022

Due to the current Covid 19 situation, this meeting was held digitally by ZOOM.

Present: W. Calderwood (chair) J. Graham, P. Albrich, P. McKinnon, T. Young, R. Park, Cllr T. Billings, R. McMaster, R. Mills NAC and Sgt K. Blackley
Also present H. Boag Arran Banner and J. Nichols Minute Secretary.

The Chair welcomed all to this meeting.

Apologies for absence were received from J. Hunter and R. Haddow

There were no declarations of interest.

The Chair reminded the CC re Code of Conduct and the elections next Thursday. Members were requested to let people know of meetings they were attending as representatives of the CC.

2 Minutes of Meeting held on 29th March 2022

The minute of the meeting held on the 29th March 2022 was approved.

Proposed by J. Graham and seconded by R. Park

3. Matters arising from the minute

3.1 Monthly Meeting – P. McKinnon is still to provide an update for the next meeting, on cost of hire and availability for Corrie Sannox Hall as he was not at their last meeting.

3.2 NAC Planning Training – The planning training has been completed. Positive feedback had been received.

3.3 Updates circulated re SSE cable replacement from Carradale.

3.4 A reply had been sent to Skipness CC re: Earraghail wind farm application and a response to consultation had been submitted. The Chair would check historical communications.

3.5 No feedback had been received in respect to the Roads Plan

4. NAC Local officers report

R. Mills reported that NAC were experiencing high levels of absence at present.

The Jet Patcher for 2022 works should be the same machine as last year, with the same operative.

41 residents are using the garden tidy scheme this year.

2 new staff have started work on the waste team, but there has been no recruitment to the gardening roles to date.

The NAC Offices remain closed in Lamlash at present. On the Mainland, NAC Offices reopen after 3rd May 2022.

Polling booths will be established and opened as planned for the elections next week.

With effect from 1st April 2022, NAC have set up a 'Report a Road Fault' section on the NAC website. <https://www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-road-fault.aspx>

R. McMaster reported that the lights at Whiting Bay Primary seemed to operate erratically.
R. Mills advised that a technician repair would be carried when next on Arran.

There was no further update in respect of work on the Ross Road.

NAC will check if the dog waste bin at Kilmory should be relocated.

5. Police Report

Sgt Blackley reported that there had been 42 incidents reported since the last meeting, including 7 crimes. This was a decrease of 1/3.

2 races had been held, which seemed to have gone well.

No further fuel thefts had been reported.

Secondees were starting next week for a six-month period.

J. Graham asked if there had been any reports of dogs off leads, following a lamb kill. Sgt Blackley advised there had been no reports.

6. Correspondence

P. Albrich reported communications received through "Contact us" and other correspondence

6.1 A request to join ACC planning training from another group was rejected at this time.

Cllr. Billings advised that the group had made arrangements for their training now.

6.2 A request for guidance on housing application was directed to NAC.

6.3 A copy of letter to MSP complaining about Ferry procurement etc. passed to AFC.

6.4 A letter had been received highlighting the lack of information on disability access, services and facilities for the island.

6.5 A Scottish Water newsletter had been circulated.

6.6 A note concerning a landslip at Cuddy Dook will be circulated.

6.7 A letter received from Mr Arthur re his resignation and officer's acknowledgement of effective date. A further letter in this regard had been received this evening.

The Chair confirmed the information had been forwarded to NAC Committee Services on 10th April 2022 and appropriate advertising would now take place in respect of the current vacancies. Advert to be published following NAC elections.

7 Treasurers report

J. Graham provided the current bank account information and reported the 1st grant payment had now been received.

It was agreed to pay an invoice in respect of the CC website.

8. Reports from Sub Committees

8.1 Ferry Committee

Bill Calderwood provided an update from Ferry Committee

- Report from meeting with Transport Minister.
- Monthly meeting held with CalMac Area manager and networks operations manager attending.
- Progress on transport of livestock following recent discussion and visit to island by transport manager.
- Other actions included efforts to reduce traffic congestion in Brodick. Further analysis of options to move kiosk being undertaken in April.
- New ticketing system update with confirmation later provided that the introduction will be delayed until Sept/Oct '22
- Community Engagement session arranged by NAC to review possible Ardrossan future designs etc was well attended and views recorded.
- Many examples discussed associated to communications and misleading info. This included continued evidence of sailings underutilised yet showing unavailable to book online. CalMac again suggested that “no shows” were major contributor. Possible initiative to address this may be the subject of further engagement.
- Post mtg Note: Calmac have published some draft outlines to MSP’s which have not been well received. Date pending for meeting with AFC.
- Outdoor seating on Caledonian Isles was expected to be replaced by end April but still ongoing delays in delivery of frames etc.
- Response received on request for improved winter timetable with no changes being applied.
- Raised the issue around tidal restrictions at Lochranza and CalMac will review.
- Mtg had been arranged with CalMac MD for the following day, but he was unable to attend due to possible interruptions from adverse weather forecast which did not materialise.

Post meeting there has been a major failure of the Caledonian Isles engines.

Many meetings have taken place over the last week which have included CalMac, Transport Scotland and the Transport Minister and other governments advisors.

The latest update was - Repairs to CI are progressing to plan with earliest date for return being reported as 3rd May.

Additional vessels requested and all options being explored to provide extra capacity. AFC members also attended a site visit to Troon to understand the layout and what facilities would be provided.

CC members expressed concern at Brodick re the booths not being open for the early ferries, and traffic overtaking the queue the wrong side of the bollards.

It was considered that the queueing situation at Brodick was potentially dangerous with long tailbacks reported. Sgt Blackley advised that responsibility for traffic management resides with the Council, but he would be visiting the Brodick CalMac Manager in the next few days to discuss the current problems.

8.2 Grant to Arran CC

P. Albrich reported that 5 CC members had volunteered to form a subgroup (R McM, PA, JG, JH, BC)

Guidance and offers of support from NAC. Sarah Baird welcomes the news and hope to participate with us in the admin of the scheme. Has several links etc to optimise the funds potential.

Application made and waiting appointment to establish second bank account.

Some request for funding had been received: -

Corrie Hall to help cost of heating repairs

Request for support to have bracken, gorse and rhododendron wild growth as part of control measures.

Potential application from Youth group.

Initial note from Lochranza toilet group looking for support to install handrails

Others were interested to know process.

A Subgroup meeting date is to be arranged to progress this.

Cllr Billing spoke of experience in NAC in running schemes, and Bill Calderwood advised that Sarah Baird and ACVS have experience of assisting sourcing match funding.

9. AOCB

9.1 Community Lottery P. Albrich felt that in view of the recent award of the grant to the CC that this item should be deferred at this stage.

Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 31st May 2022 @6pm

Provisionally this will be a face-to-face meeting