

Isle of Arran Community Council

MINUTES OF MEETING

held at Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick on, 30th April 2013

Those present:

John Inglis, Chair, Jim Henderson, Treasurer, William Calderwood, Secretary, Liz Evans, John Lamont, Brenda Stewart, Richard McMaster, Colin Mackenzie and Cllr John Bruce

Also present were: Gus Macleod – NAC, Howard Driver – Arran Banner, Barbara McNeice and Jim Nichols (minutes).

13/04/1 Membership of Arran CC

13/04/2 Minutes of meeting – 26th February 2013:

The Minutes of the meeting held 26th February 2013 were adopted as a true record.
Proposed Jim Henderson Seconded Colin MacKenzie

The minutes can be viewed at <http://www.arrancommunitycouncil.org.uk/records.php> following the meeting.

There was no meeting in March, due to the severe weather situation.

13/04/3 Matters arising

13/04/3/1 Loss of Taxi provision

John Lamont explained that he had spoken to existing taxi owners. Licences were available 6-7 years ago, and some drivers have more than one licence. Drivers feel that it is a marginal business. It was explained that it is an expensive business to go to the other side of the island, therefore this is a fraught area at present. The information from NAC is that Licences are still available. There are 9 available on Arran and only 4/5 are currently allocated. In Glasgow, prices have come down 10-15%. John Lamont provided information that a licence costs £335/yr plus insurance and the running costs. Private Hire licences for Arran are not limited in numbers and cost £310 per year.

13/04/3/2 Arran High School

Bill Calderwood explained that a meeting was scheduled for the week of the power disruption, and had been rescheduled for June. Nicky Harris' has indicated she hoped to attend our next meeting in May.

13/04/3/3 Licensing

John Lamont felt there were no concerns for ACC, therefore it was agreed to close this item.

13/04/3/4 Knotweed

Brenda Stewart reported that the Coastal Conservation Fund was being explored.

13/04/3/5 Youth schemes.

Message had been sent to Mr K Gibson MSP requesting support to arrange meeting between SPT and Scottish Government department.

13/04/3/6 **MyBus**

Cllr Bruce found that the service was worthwhile after spending a day with the drivers. It was reported that there is no age barrier for use of the MyBus service, the criteria is Disability or Lack of Ability. This service will take people to hospital, although this service could be better used. Brenda spoke of SPT/Red Cross problems, regarding sustaining funding for the coming year. A letter from Mr K Gibson MSP was read out covering the Red Cross funding.

13/04/4 **Police matters**

Police representative was not present. Bill Calderwood would raise an issue of parking on double yellow lines at a future meeting.

13/04/5 **Correspondence and Communications Report**

13/04/5/1 Secretary spoke to the Communications report previously circulated to members including the ACC Secretary's report for March 2013 meeting:

Our thanks were expressed to Steph Hill for her contribution to our work. Best wishes extended to her for the future. There is now a vacancy for a representative for Lochranza and Catacol.

Correspondence:

- Liz Evans had communicated with the Scottish Island Federation on Arran regarding energy and recycling initiatives which are being considered.
- Community Councils. Bill Calderwood reported that in North Ayrshire there are 17 Community councils, 11 of which are active.
- Attended Communities day "The Future is Local" event in Edinburgh.
- "Contact Us" Notes:
 - **Snow Disruption**
It was reported that Lochranza residents are seeking additional compensation to that proposed by SSE. A public consultation had been arranged by SSE in Brodick and Whiting Bay. John Bruce reported that a multi-agency meeting had taken place last week. Gus Macleod explained it was very much an operational debate. Liz Evans expressed her feeling that communications weren't good. John Lamont felt that, as a PR gesture, they would want to go to the communities in the most affected areas. This was agreed. Bill Calderwood will request a meeting for the Tuesday -Thursday (28th - 30th May). This would most likely be held in Shiskine or the Kinloch Hotel.
 - Representation for the Shiskine/Blackwaterfoot area is still to be resolved. Barbara McNeice has confirmed an interest. Neil Arthur had highlighted a need for the location to be represented.
 - A visitor decried lack of signposting for interesting places i.e. Standing stones etc.

13/04/6 **Project Updates**

13/04/6/1 **Energy Project**

Bill Calderwood reported that the tender grant application had been made. 10 Companies had sent in responses and the quality of the applications to carry out the work was good. Bill explained that he had met with Community Energy Scotland. The grant application had been submitted with a recommendation for tender.

John Bruce explained that the Area Committee Council meeting in May is being held on Arran and Bill Calderwood will make a presentation on the project.

13/04/6/2 Roads

Bill Calderwood explained that the roads work plan proposal had been published last month covering this years investment a total of £1.2m. A "Roads Meeting" took place 3 weeks ago in Lamlash. SPT, Cal Mac, Community Council & NAC were all represented, however no emergency services representation was present. A map was shown to the committee. The road works at Kilpatrick and Thunderguy will result in significant road closures. A key worker access system for morning and evening at Kilpatrick will be in place.

The Chair spoke of an initiative to speak to the Communities Minister, although this seems to have lost its way in terms of NAC progress. John Bruce confirmed that he will take this up again. John Lamont spoke of Arran being awarded The Best Destination in Scotland Award, which included Auchrannie, The Glenisle, The Douglas and Kilmichael. It was queried if Destination Arran should be involved.

Brenda Stewart expressed her surprise that NHS had not come forward. Bill Calderwood confirmed that all Emergency Services were invited. John Bruce asked the local officer if a strategy had been finalised for Kilpatrick. Gus McLeod advised that this was nearing completion.

With regards the wider transport strategy draft document which had been prepared by the CC and published. A local individual, with industry experience, had offered to give support with another from the mainland offering assistance.

13/04/6/3 Broadband

Jim Nichols spoke about Broadband issues on the Island. It was agreed to progress this through a sub-committee.

13/04/7 Treasurers Report

Jim Henderson spoke to the Financial Report. Insurance and Website Licence have been paid.

13/04/08

A.O.B.

13/04/08/1 Richard McMaster spoke of issues arising from the severe weather. The clearing of the roads resulted in snow being piled in gateways which made it difficult to access livestock. He felt that the gateways should have been cleared. Gus McLeod explained that once the roads had been cleared, they did then clear the gateways.

13/04/08/2 Cllr Bruce gave a report of recent North Ayrshire Council Matters. The impact of Welfare Reform was discussed. If arrears can be identified due to Bedroom Tax they will forestall arrears for eviction for at least a year.

Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 4th June 2013.
Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick.