

Isle of Arran Community Council

MINUTES OF MEETING

Held at Ormidale Pavilion on 28th October 2014

Those present:

Richard McMaster (Chair), William Calderwood (Vice Chair), Hazel Gardiner (Secretary), Jim Henderson (Treasurer), Colin McKenzie, Barbara McNeice, Liz Evans, Cllr John Bruce

Also present were: Jim Nichols (minutes), Gus MacLeod, Brenda Stewart & two members of the public, PC Colin Haddow (Police), Hugh Boag (Banner)

14/10/1 Apologies: Alan Stout, John Lamont,

14/10/2 Minutes of meeting – 30th September 2014

The minutes of the previous meeting were adopted as a true record.

Proposed: Colin McKenzie Seconded: Jim Henderson

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

14/10/3 Matters Arising

Full listing circulated in advance:

Main points included:

Response from Craig Hatton covering several points:

Brodick Beach

I have now received outline options for improving the appearance of the current sea defences. However the most cost effective option requires further discussion with SEPA before it can be considered in more detail. As you are aware the Council is not the landowner and therefore any proposals will either need to be in line with our lease agreement or require further discussion with the owner.

Discussion will continue with SEPA over the next few weeks. I will share any options and/or proposals with you once these are complete.

Brodick - Corrie Multi-users path

The next section of path between the Museum and the existing path between South Lodge and Home Farm will be constructed in the current financial year. A meeting was held with Brodick Golf Club in late August 2014 to discuss the Club's requirements in relation to the section of path across the course and to agree the timescale for implementation. It was agreed that works would not commence until the end of the Medal season (late September) to reduce the potential impact on the Course. The final specification for this section is currently being prepared for discussion/agreement with the Golf Club and adjacent landowner in mid October. The works will then commence in November 2014.

A meeting is planned with the National Trust for Scotland in November 2014 to discuss and agree the final details for the section of path within the grounds of Brodick Castle and Country Park. Concerns had been raised by the Trust in relation to a potential further Phytophthora outbreak however the findings of their recent investigations have been returned clear. If the grounds remain clear of Phytophthora and all the necessary permissions are in place we would aim to construct this section in 2015/16. Funding is in place for this section from Sustrans. If this is not possible we would start the construction of the Merkland Wood section instead. This has been agreed with the Trust and Sustrans as an appropriate way forward.

Roads

I am nearing the completion of a 3 year plan for planned improvement works to the island network. We are currently working with a number of potential funding bodies to ensure that any opportunities are also included with the plan. Alongside this I am developing a new approach to consultation with appropriate stakeholders and the wider community. Roadworks to the network will be restricted to essential maintenance until the 3 year plan has been completed and agreed. I expect the plan to be complete over the next few weeks and consultation to commence thereafter.

14/10/3/3 Resilience

Meeting confirmed for 25th November and village representative's names are to be forwarded to Bill Calderwood for communication to Scottish and Southern Energy for invites.

14/10/4 Police

Nothing to report. No issues raised.

PC Haddow reminded all of the importance of locking vehicles to prevent thefts from cars. Also recommended locking houses, sheds and outhouses.

14/10/5 Appointment of various sub group representatives.

The following positions were re-elected unanimously

Ferry Committee	Jim Henderson, Bill Calderwood to continue as deputy.
Health representative	Liz Evans
Housing	Colin McKenzie
Forestry	Richard McMaster
Scottish Islands Federation	Bill Calderwood

The position for planning and Elderly Forum representative were agreed to be held over pending new membership. Bill Calderwood agreed to continue in these roles until next meeting.

14/10/8 Correspondence

Contact us:

- Message received from Whiting Bay Community group asking if the ACC can help in any way in connection with their interest to purchase the Eden Lodge if it comes to the market?
- Request received asking for the ACC's responses to a questionnaire on Youth and Criminal Justice.
- Note regarding the condition of several paths at Whiting Bay which are under the control of Arran Access Trust. Message passed to them and they will discuss at their next meeting in November.
- Note from visitor regarding two several overgrown walls found in Shiskine area. Passed to Civic Trust.
- Follow up on War memorial cleaning requested. Local office have confirmed contract has been issued and the work will be carried out before Remembrance day.
- Support provided to group working on "mobile Infrastructure" project.
- Message from Thrust Housing Association advising of event to be held on Arran.

General Communications:

- Health and Wellbeing: note circulated requesting interest for Volunteers to be an "Information Buddy" closing date 3rd Nov.
- Strategy document consultation note circulated.
- Big Energy Savings leaflet and meeting note circulated.
- NAC committee for local government and Regeneration have asked for feedback on the Community Empowerment (Scotland) bill.
- Health and Social Care Partnership Strategic Plan circulated.

14/10/7 Ferry Committee Report

A written report was received. The following being the main points of interest to the ACC.

1. Chair requesting minutes are distributed sooner.
2. The procurement process for 2 new vessels has begun one for Arran the other for the Uig triangle. No plans available to date but vessels will be 100M in length with 3.4 draught capable of carrying 100 cars.
3. Once the new vessel is delivered to Arran it will become the No 1 ferry with the Caledonian Isles replacing the Isle of Arran.
4. There are no plans to reduce the time of the crossing-55 mins.
5. By 2018 the ferry plan will have a two-boat service all year round.
6. A press release is being planned for December, which the ACC will be consulted on.
7. Consultation on the new ferry design - sheet circulated seeking submissions for key points to be considered in the design of the new vessel being ordered for the Arran route which should be returned by the 3rd of November.
8. Brodick Harbour - tender process has started, works to commence May 2015 with completion date of November 2016. North Ayrshire injected £1.2 million.

9. Part of the contract conditions state that local contractors be employed.
10. Demand management sheet showing sailings which will be managed for high vehicles to optimise capacity
11. Negotiations are still being carried out for Cal Mac to consider the 2-boat service starting from early April'15. However although there will be a 2-boat service from 2018 at present budget restrictions apply to extension for April'15.
12. Lochranza ferry and bus timetable being adjusted to allow passengers on the ferry to link up with bus for the Brodick ferry summer 2015.
13. For convenience a book of 6 tickets will be available from the 3rd November but any tickets purchased in advance will not be valid after the 2nd April.
15. Wemyss Bay will be out of action for 4 months from February. Although the Bute ferries will be using Gourock, it was confirmed that Gourock remains the port of refuge for Arran.
It was Next summer peak sailings will be run on the MV Caledonian Isles with the mezzanine decks down to maximise car capacity.
A form was distributed seeking submissions for key points to be considered in the design of the new vessel being ordered for the Arran route which should be returned by the 3rd of November.

14/10/8 Cllr Bruce's Report

NAC Budget process is now complete. Funds are tight.

14/10/9 Any Other Competent Business

14/10/09/1 Several members had attended the recent Amenities meeting representing our respective village associations.

A report was provided on the discussions:

Previous meeting minutes had identified several actions all of which had been addressed by NAC or relevant bodies.

Several items such as beech cleaning, dog fouling, public toilets continued to require attention or actions.

It was recognised that the meeting was considered of value and that it was a good opportunity to give village representatives an opportunity to discuss concerns with the elected officer and NAC local staff.

Points of note were the ongoing cemetery inspections and it was explained that not all lair owners kept the council informed when Lair Ownership changed, for instance when the current lair owner dies.

A question had been asked about recording the inscriptions on older damaged headstones. NAC explained that there is a Memorial Inscriptions Book in the Council Offices which was done in 1985 when every stone inscription was recorded, the Museum also has a copy.

Removal of the large glass bins was discussed and a list of proposed sites will be circulated and comments welcomed.

Roads: funding is being confirmed for next year and when the budget is clear NAC will seek local views and agreement for the works to be undertaken.

New low level buses: The new stock for the island is now in construction and will be delivered as available. Service to be operated by Stagecoach under contract from SPT.

Various other local issues were discussed and minutes will be distributed by NAC to the invitees.

Next amenities meeting will be in approx. 6 months.

14/10/09/2 Smith Report

Secretary proposed we submit a response to Smith commission for Scotland's future political structure and devolved powers.

ACC is a non-political organisation and as we had not consulted with our local associations any views expressed could only be personal views. Individual representations were welcomed by the commission via their website.

It was agreed that only if / when devolved powers were to be shown to impact the community and these had been consulted on by the groups could we consider submitting a response.

14/10/11 Diary dates to record.

Forestry Mtg.	7 th November
Elderly Forum Mtg.	12 th November
Resilience Mtg.	25 th November

14/10/12 Date of the Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on the 18th of November in the Ormidale Pavilion.