

Isle of Arran Community Council

Minutes

Meeting held 28th June 2016

Those present: Ricky McMaster (Chair), Bill Calderwood (Vice Chair), Jim Henderson, Neil Arthur, Marilyn Woods, John Lamont, Peter McMullen, Daniel Bowles, Colin McKenzie, Barry Mochan, and Sgt Dodds

1. Welcome / Apologies

Apologies: Liz Evans, Hazel Gardiner, Gus McLeod, Cllr John Bruce, Jim Nichols and Hugh Boag.

2. Minutes from Meeting 7th June 2016.

With amendments to attendees and note regarding the description of the area at Merkland the minutes were proposed by Neil Arthur, seconded, Jim Henderson.

3. Matters Arising:

- Public Toilet Facilities on Arran:

It is noted that NAC are preparing info on the various premises in advance of further council discussions. It is proposed to have NAC representative attend a meeting with representatives from the villages impacted when this info is available. It was also proposed and agreed that it would be beneficial if we had a single point of contact with whom NAC could communicate rather than every village make contact with similar concerns and questions. It was agreed that the CC should be that SPC.

- Forestry Info: This has been followed up and will continue to be monitored.

4. Police Report

- Sgt Dodds provided a report on the ArranMan event. There were no major problems although he was aware of concerns from resident's regards communications from the organiser, parking arrangements which were considered overly restrictive and not as published. The CC reinforced the earlier concerns on the way this event was being organised and asked that if it is to be repeated next year that all details must be agreed well in advance (60 days) and communicated to all residents. Confirmation that the event would be held must be communicated much earlier than has been the practice and a template should be prepared with all the conditions which the organiser would need to comply with be agreed with local groups including the emergency services and health representatives. Questions were also asked regards the contribution which the organiser made to the impacted communities and supporting organisations. The perception was that the major benefactor from this event was the organiser whilst local businesses and the islands residents were inconvenienced. It was generally agreed that it was not acceptable for the organiser to seek support from our emergency services and not make any contribution to their funding.
- Other topics covered were:
 - Speeding. With the benefit of new equipment the local police have been monitoring several locations and have issued warnings to drivers who have been exceeding the limits. The distribution of these incidents shows an even split between residents and visitors.
 - They have also been checking noise levels from vehicles and again have issued tickets to owners.

- The speed restriction sign at the entrance to Brodick from the Museum which was knocked down was requested to be replaced before the next term starts.
- The situation at the bend in Lamlash near the Co-op was again highlighted as a major safety concern and it was asked if possible that NAC follow up on earlier discussions to mark the area with a warning. It was confirmed that it is illegal to park opposite a corner at any location.
- Cyclists' road manners were also identified as a safety concern for other road users. It was agreed that we should ask CalMac if they could consider including this item as part of the safety announcements on board.

5. Correspondence

Messages received via "Contactus" were circulated to members.

- Letter regarding withdrawal of Red Cross patient transport services. Awaiting final statement from the various groups involved in this but interim response confirmed service was not viable and could not be supported beyond the end of June. As this is not a statutory service there is little we can do directly but health manager and others are looking at alternatives.

Other messages:

- Acknowledgment from Patricia Gibson MP of copy minutes and offering assistance if required on any topic.
- Invitation to participate in Housing consultation. - Colin attending
- Letter from Ayrshire Police services regarding Armed Policing in Ayrshire. Agreed we will acknowledge receipt.

6. Reports

Ferry Committee

- a. AGM took place with three members of the public plus press in attendance. Chair gave an update of items which had been handled over the year including discussions and input to new ferries, new terminal, Ardrossan task force and new CHFS contract review. Since there were no new nominations for the post of independent Traveller rep Neil Arthur was re-appointed. No questions were raised from the public and no other business was raised for the AGM.
- b. Monthly Business meeting followed the AGM
 - i. Minutes were approved and will be posted on our website when signed.
 - ii. Discussions around the new ferry design and new terminal at Brodick and the Ardrossan task force confirmed that things will progress as before with the new Transport Minister's support for the previously stated positions. It was agreed that he should be invited to visit Arran to discuss various items with relevant groups.
 - iii. A request to have the revised schedule winter schedule introduced is now with Transport Scotland.
 - iv. The port manager provided updates on various points including cyclists impacting on the volume available for cars and it was agreed that CalMac will add a warning on the website to inform cyclists of the need to inform the ports at least 24 hrs in advance. Most of the other suggestions are under the control of transport Scotland and not within the power for CalMac to introduce. Arrangements for those who request access to lifts will be reviewed and a trial is under way to try and accommodate those with real needs.
 - v. Passenger numbers for the period from 25th March to 31st May showed that passengers numbers for the Ardrossan route versus same period last year were up +9%, Cars +7% and Coaches + 14%. The Lochranza route showing 15% increase for passengers, 20% for cars, 60% for coaches. So RET is having an impact.

Connect Arran

- NA provided update on the possible alternative broadband solution for the areas not immediately covered by the BT roll-out. ConnectArran continue to facilitate without being considered as agents for the company and progress is being made.
- Pilot 4G rollout is progressing slowly with negotiations with the operators continuing. Kilmory community are keen to have their system installed ASAP.

Dog Fouling

MW and JL presented the updated flyer they had prepared which was welcomed by everyone. Appreciation was recorded for their work and it was agreed to cover the cost of printing them at the price negotiated by JL. NAC have been notified of locations for the signage agreed and they will arrange to have them installed when available. Several villages indicated they had no requirement for them.

Environment

R McM summarised the proposed Southend Land Management Proposal which has no adverse impact and it was agreed he would indicate our support at the next meeting of the panel.

Elderly Forum

DB attended the recent EF meeting and report two items for our information.

- Perceived lack of trades skills and inability to get tradesmen to attend domestic small needs.
- An incident where would-be passengers had been unable to travel on the bus service due to a single large group of visitors having already taken up all the available capacity. It was agreed that accommodation providers or group organisers should be encouraged to advise the bus company ahead of their travel.

7. Feedback from Locality Planning mtg held 20th June.

R. McM. gave a summary of the meeting. Concerns were voiced regards the structure and how local the representation would be chosen. Nominations for the two places had closed and a meeting was to be scheduled to consider the 8 applications. First meeting of group is scheduled for September.

9. AOB.

G McL had submitted updates for the meeting in his absence covering:

- The road works at Lagg which will be completed tomorrow and then the final tie-ins at Pirnmill.
- NAC are still hopeful to get the last 900 sqm of patching on the Brodick side of the string summit done in the next couple of weeks, Traffic lights only for this section.
- Arran Man went OK from a council perspective.
- Verge cutting is temporarily halted due to sub-contractors machine breakdown. Note that section 4.1 of the Local Biodiversity Action Plan for North Ayrshire 2015 to 2018 addresses the need to manage roadside verges with a management plan to be in place by the end of 2018, this will help clarify the priorities and timing re verge cutting.
- The works at the pier are now about 2 weeks ahead of schedule and the next change to traffic management will happen on the 19th of July with the new bus stances becoming operational and a new pedestrian queuing layout in place.

MW asked for more discussion on Camper Vans and how we should handle this challenge as the press coverage was considered unhelpful.
It was agreed that this would be discussed at our next meeting if proposals or new info was presented.

10. Date of the next meeting 28th July 2016 @ 7.00pm.