

# Arran Community Council

Meeting held on  
Tuesday 28 March 2017 at 6.00pm  
At the Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick

**Present:** Bill Calderwood (Chair), Chris Atkins (Secretary), Neil Arthur, Liz Evans, Sergeant Allen Gow, Julie Graham, John Lamont, Gus MacLeod, Peter McMullen, Barry Mochan, Peter Randell, Marilyn Woods

## 1. Welcome / Apologies

Apologies received from Cllr John Bruce, Jim Henderson, Ricky McMaster, Jim Nichols.

## 2. Minutes of Meeting held on 28 February 2017

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved by P Randall and seconded by B Mochan.

## 3. Matters Arising

### 3.1 Planning

As Julie Hannah is leaving NAC, Neil McAteer will take over her responsibilities. It is anticipated that a "Planning Training/Interpretation" update session will occur after the council elections. Jim Miller will organise and for Arran CC the probable date will be some time in May/ June.

### 3.2 Toilets

The previous budget decision regarding Arran remains unaltered. NAC stated that the alleged discrimination against Arran was unfounded. However, they confirmed the £35,000 assigned to retain Ardrossan and Saltcoats, initiated by Councillor Hunter, will come from the Webcast and Hospitality budget. This provoked further concern about fairness and integrity.

N Arthur raised concerns regarding lack of any provision in the West. B Calderwood highlighted a particular concern was the lack of provision at Lochranza compounded by increasing ferry traffic, queued and potential family discomfort whilst awaiting the ferry. There was information from CalMac to offer a toilet facility.

B Calderwood outlined the measures associated with the Arran closures. G MacLeod intimated that those toilets which were not "adopted" by the local community would be closed from 31 March. It was understood B Calderwood would write to NAC seeking information regarding the overall toilet "debacle".

It was hoped that the meetings scheduled for 30 March with C Hester – NAC Community Empowerment Manager – would provide answers to the many questions posed both by the CC and local associations. It is anticipated that the outcomes will be reported at the April meeting.

### 3.3 Ultra-Marathon Event

A meeting of all the interested parties had taken place. The organisers appeared to have planned well. There were no real outstanding issues although due to the early start time there may be minimal early morning impact on road.

## 4. Police Report

Sergeant Gow reported that their approach was to continue to "educate" rather than prosecute. There were minimal speeding tickets issued this month. There had been some increase in drink driving. This perhaps could be attributed to a combination of the reduction in alcohol limits and better weather. No additional bike thefts had been reported.

## 5. Correspondence

### 5.1 Hedges and Verges

Message received from several residents voicing concern on this subject following last year's experience when a private contractor had carried out the work. Gus confirmed the contract will now be physically undertaken by NAC under the supervision of S Bunyan. Biodiversity will be nurtured and, with the exception of road sight lines, trimming of hedge and verge management will be conducted sensitively and at appropriate times. Discussions regards gathering locations of wild flowers from all areas of the island were considered inappropriate at this stage and it was agreed we would let NAC demonstrate how their proposals would work. The supervisor had offered to talk with the correspondents and work in their area as a trial. The CC will review again when appropriate.

### 5.2 Renewals

Insurance and website annual renewals were acknowledged and passed for payment.

### 5.3 Training

There was some interest in training for the CC in terms of LDP Development which may become pertinent as more matters will require comment to NAC.

C Attkins gave a brief report regarding an endeavour to raise awareness of the CC at the High School in conjunction with Bill who also attended. Both C Attkins and B Calderwood hope to attend the next pupil council meeting in April. P Randell has previously involved some school students in the "Thursday Club" and he would hope that this club will continue to keep the link open between the generations.

### 5.3 McLaren Hotel

There was concern in general regarding the site. It is believed that new owners may be seeking prior planning agreement for their plans but no definite purchase or outline proposals can be confirmed.

## 6. Reports from Sub-Committees

### 6.1 Ferries

- Draft report from Ministerial review into Ardrossan Vs Troon now released and links circulated. Await final decision from Minister.
- Recent meeting discussed in detail various inaccurate claims regards reasoning behind removal of Multi journey tickets. AFC are still asking for clarification of various aspects of the proposed process. Cancellations, possible admin charges etc. It is also not clear how this will improve capacity Management.
- As it stands the multi journey ticket will cease 30 March.
- New electronic "Print-at Home" system now expected in July.
- Other topics discussed included reporting and communications.
- Next meeting will look at new vessel design.

### 6.2 Elderly Forum

There were no issues to report.

Positive feedback received on proposals to improve communications

### 6.3 Communication

#### • Digital

"Village" designated email proposed for individual councillors. This was accepted. C Attkins and B Calderwood to organise and individual members to change password.

#### • Non-Digital

M Woods, P Randell met with H Boag (Arran Banner) to explore the possibility of a CC newsletter to inform and educate local inhabitants. Any Banner content, however, would be subject to editorial control.

Local notice board information also discussed but decision taken by M Woods, C Attkins, P Randell and B Calderwood to explore future information dissemination to include potential social media.

### 6.4 Forestry

Public drop-in meeting scheduled for 29 April to further explain Machrie slip possibilities.

## 6.5 Connect Arran

- Scottish Government grant letter forwarded to Kilmory on 27 March.
- Planning application regarding mast etc anticipated shortly and will be supported by CC.
- Lamlash issues remain unresolved but it is anticipated EE may become involved and progress made.

## 6.6 Locality Planning:

Meeting held Thursday 23 March. Updates received on

- Locality Profile for Arran,
- LDP2,
- Question raised by NAC regards CC representation etc. *To be discussed later with Bill/NAC*

## 7. **Response to Scottish Government Planning Review**

- 7.1 P McMullen had circulated responses and no amendments were highlighted. Peter will submit before 4 April deadline

## 8. **NAC Councillor's Report**

No major updates to report as purdah is in place. Cllr submitted apology for his absence.

## 9. **AOCB**

The following is a report from G MacLeod.

### 9.1 Lamlash Cemetery

In response to a question asking who had approved the funding for the badger fencing when toilets were not funded Gus Confirmed NAC have a statutory responsibility for care and maintenance of all cemeteries.

### 9.2 Roads

Revised maintenance plan was presented which reflects a welcome increased spend this year to £764.5k. Proposals reflect latest road survey data and meeting will be arranged to discuss and agree the plans towards end of April early May.

## 10. **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on 25 April 2017.