

Isle of Arran Community Council

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 31st January 2023 Meeting held in Ormidale Pavilion

Present: W. Calderwood (chair) J. Graham, P McKinnon, Cllr T. Billings, R. McMaster, S Garaway, J. Henderson, R Haddow, T Young and Sgt K Blackley
Also present J. Nichols Minute Secretary.

1. The Chair welcomed all to the meeting.

Apologies for absence were received from H. Underwood (NAC Local Officer, H Boag and J. Adam,

Declarations of interest – There were no declarations of interest recorded.

2. Minutes of Meeting held on 29th November 2022

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

Proposed by J. Henderson and seconded by J Graham

3. Matters arising from the minute

3,1 Web-designer has been confirmed and work started. 3 responses had resulted in a viable option. A development Link had now been provided to Bill Calderwood.

Grant information and Minutes had been put on the site.

A demonstration of the features to date was given after the meeting.

3.2 Cllr Billings had followed up on school speeding signs and had reported the signs were installed, alongside many other similar signs in North Ayrshire as part of a government initiative around 10+ years ago. Unfortunately they have outlived their lifespan and are obsolete. NAC had been attempting to obtain parts for these and other similar signs to be repaired, but were now in a position where the parts necessary are simply not available, and as such repairs cannot be made. NAC do not have any plans to remove these signs at present, as although they do not flash and the speed limit is not enforceable, they are clearly visible, and their presence should act as a deterrent or at least a reminder that this is a school zone.

3.3 An initial update on Roads Fuel Market study from the Competition Markets Authority (CMA) on the road fuel market study can be found on the case page: [Road fuel market study - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/cases/road-fuel-market-study).

Bob Haddow will put a paper to the next CC meeting in relation to the situation on Arran, including reference to any issues of Certas in this regard.

4. Police Report

Sgt Blackley reported that in December, there were 60 recorded incidents relating to Arran, resulting in 5 crime reports raised.

Half the amount of recorded crime compared to the previous month.

Of the 60 incidents, 1 related to a Road Traffic Collision although was minor with no serious injury.

January

76 recorded incidents relating to Arran, resulting in 18 crime reports raised.

A significant rise in recorded crime this month however mainly due to police proactivity on the island, including several drivers prosecuted for offences like no insurance and drink driving.

Of the 76 incidents, 3 related to Road Traffic Collisions although all were fairly minor with no serious injury.

Nothing to suggest any worrying trends from all the incidents reported.

- The recorded crimes for December includes several crimes of dishonesty including a break-in to a dwelling in Brodick, attempt break in, a sneak in theft and theft of a m/v. Due to some good local police work, a male was detected and has been reported to the PF for all these offences. This has resulted in a 6 month prison sentence.
- The issue of drugs on Arran is still takes the highest priority and I accompanied by mainland officers stopped a vehicle at Ardrossan prior to it coming to Arran due to intelligence received. Although a positive result, this unfortunately did not yield a significant quantity of drugs being recovered.
- On a more positive note, on 17th Jan a search warrant was executed at a property in Brodick with the assistance of Ayrshire Proactive Crime Team which resulted in a cannabis cultivation and class B drugs with an estimated street value of £4500, including a large sum of cash, being seized during the raid. A 30 year old male has been reported to the Procurator Fiscal in connection with the discovery.
- December saw several targeted drugs detections one male in particular being reported to the PF for allegedly being concerned in the supply of illegal drugs along with another for an alleged drug driving offence.

Work continues to target the issue.

- North Ayrshire`s Local Policing Plan

As always, if there are any concerns which anyone wishes to raise directly with myself then please feel free to do so at any time by calling or dropping in to Lamlash Station. All information will be treated in the strictest of confidence and any anonymous information can also be submitted via the `Crimestoppers` website or Freephone number 0800 555 111.

5. NAC Local officers report

5.1 Brodie had requested the CC highlight the following after the recent cold spell, and the request for roads to be gritted is the grit bin application forms and condition notes for people to apply if their location meets the criteria, [Winter gritting \(north-ayrshire.gov.uk\)](http://www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk) (The section with the forms is approx. halfway down the page.)

5.2 As reported previously, with effect from of the 1st April reports any road faults may be made via the council website. It is a very quick and effective way to have your concerns recorded. It will also show where others have reported faults too (hopefully cutting down on duplicates)

Report It: <https://www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-road-fault.aspx>

Bill Calderwood undertook to follow up with the Local Officer in regard to white lining between Lamlash and Whiting Bay.

6. Correspondence

“Contact-us” messages rec’d:

- a) Message received querying the number of electric vehicle charging points in Lamlash which are restricting parking with current low demand to use the units.

Other correspondence:

- a) Several Road reports had been circulated
- b) Various messages associated to Balmichael water supplies.
- c) Initial discussion Tuesday to discuss housing needs. Further details are awaited.
- d) Patricia Gibson MP had sent the following note today.

‘You may wish to know that I have been pursuing since last year energy support for those off-grid who face extortionate heating bills.

After months of pressing on this matter via raising it in the Chamber and via Written Questions, I am pleased to advise that the UK government has finally set out more detail on its Alternative Fuel Payments (AFP) scheme, with the majority of eligible households due to receive the payment automatically from 6 February.

The scheme will provide households who are not connected to the mains gas grid **and** who use alternative fuels such as biomass, liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) or heating oil, with a payment of £200 towards the additional cost of heating their homes.

This support is over and above the £400 Energy Bills Support Scheme payment but will similarly be paid as an automatic credit on your electricity bills from February 2023.

In instances where people do not receive the payment automatically, such as If your home is either in an area which is mainly connected to the gas grid or not connected to either the gas or the electricity grid, you may have to apply for this payment through the AFP Alternative Fund. This is not yet open but will be available from February 2023 with details to follow.

I am glad this support is finally becoming available, albeit several months late, as I am sure you will be too.

If you become aware of anyone who has difficulty accessing this support – or with any other concerns - please ask them to get in touch with me directly and I will do all I can to assist.’

7. Geopark Project

- a) Ricky McMaster provided a report following a meeting he had attended of a working group to discuss Arrans bid to become a Geopark the main points of discussion were

At present the Geopark working group is part of Arran Access Trust and it had been agreed that the Geopark working group should be independent and form a board.

Which area's would want to be represented on the board

Someone from education, North Ayrshire council, the CC,
landowners, Arran Access Trust, Coast
Heritage Museum Outdoor Activity provider

With additional advisor's from
FLS, Nature Scotland, etc

It was queried if a board member could represent more than one area.

The working group had discussed funding and our bid needs to be in by the end of the summer.

Further information is required in regard to this project, including the funding requirement.

8. Reports from Sub Committees

8.1 Ferry Committee

b) Ferries:

Meeting In January had covered open actions including -

- a. CalMac are still planning to move the check in kiosk at Brodick to help alleviate the traffic queues back into the village at times of disruption.
- b. Repairs and improvements to Winton Pier are still being discussed.
- c. Summer timetables published with booking available on-line.
- d. CI off for annual overhaul and one of the planned relief vessels has technical fault.
- e. MV Isle of Arran providing cover and freight only sailings introduced from Troon by Heb Isles to help capacity.
- f. Extra sailings provided from Lochranza to assist until Freight sailings were introduced.
- g. Winter 2023/24 timetables are being prepared. Requesting additional extended winter sailings from Lochranza
- h. Port manager reported they are still experiencing an Ave 20 no shows per day.
- i. Struan Armitage appointed as Vice Chair following Alastair Dobson's retirement from committee.
- j. Ardrossan Task Force meeting held last week followed by meeting with Transport Minister
- k. Meeting to discuss Project Neptune arranged for several island groups.

c) Arran Locality mtg. - Next mtg 15th March

9. NAC Councillors Report

9.1 Cllr Billings reported progress on a Skills Grant process being developed by NAC.

9.2 It was reported NAC are applying to the SG to take over Road Traffic Management including Parking. He confirmed NAC are not planning to introduce car parking charges on Arran.

9.3 Pit Stop update was noted. Request for details.

9.4 A discussion on the impact of the Cost of Living and Child Poverty will be held on 13th February.

9.5 No decision has been taken yet in regard to the Arran Outdoor Centre. It was agreed that CC members would advise the Secretary of suggestions to inform the NA Councillors of the benefits to the community and to the youth of NA of the Centre remaining operational.

10. AOCB

10.1 It was reported that NAC had set up an Arran Housing Task Force in relation to affordable housing.

10.2 Correspondence received today in relation to Forestry has been circulated, and comments invited.

Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 28th February 2023 @ 6pm

Ormidale Pavilion.