

Isle of Arran Community Council
Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 25th April 2023
Meeting held in Ormidale Pavilion

Present: W. Calderwood (chair), J. Graham, S Garaway, J. Henderson, J. Adam, T Young, P McKinnon, H. Underwood (NAC Local Officer), and Sgt K Blackley

Also present J. Nichols Minute Secretary, H Boag Arran Banner

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting,

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr T. Billings, R Haddow and R McMaster

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

2. Minutes of Meeting held on 28th March 2023

The minute of the meeting held on the 28th March was approved.

Proposed by T Young and seconded by J Graham

3. Matters arising from the minute

3.1 Website is now up and running. Some information is still required from members.

3.2 Insurance has been paid for next year. The website cost had also been paid.

3.3 Earraghail energy development.

A response has been submitted to Argyll and Bute.

3.4 It was confirmed that no feedback had been provided in relation to SSEN overhead lines. The deadline had now passed.

3.5 There had been no progress in relation to Brodick Bowling facilities. The Improvements Group were supportive, but were unable to help financially.

3.6 ACC had attended "Free for All" event arranged by ACVS. Jim Henderson provided a report of the successful day.

3.7 Peter McKinnon confirmed there were no plans for HPMA in our area and no action was required.

3.8 The 1st grant application had now been received.

4. Police Report

Sgt Blackley spoke to his written report, which had been circulated.

61 recorded police incidents relating to Arran, resulting in 4 crime reports raised.

Of the 61 incidents:

- 7 related to Road Traffic Collisions although all were fairly minor with no serious injuries.
- 1 crime of violence recorded.
- 2 crimes of dishonesty recorded.

Of the 4 crime reports:

- 1 related to a road traffic offence, 2 thefts and a Breach of the Peace.

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

- NAC Licensing staff have been on the island twice this month for random licenced premises checks. All visits have flagged up some minor faults, but these should be rectified by their next visit. More visits are planned.

- Rat Race's `Arran Ultra` was held on 1st and 2nd April. A very good organised event with no issues reported to the police, as was the Ormidale 10k last weekend.
- The four police summer secondees start next week and will be resident on the island until the end of October. Over the coming weeks and months, there will be an obvious increase in visibility, additional licensed premises visits and speed checks. If there are any areas of concern which you, or persons in your community, wish to highlight to me then suggestions are always welcome.

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

The NAC Officer spoke to a written report (below).

Roads

Structural Maintenance Programme

Resurfacing at Brathwic Terrace/Alma Road commenced as (re)programmed on 17 April 2023 – works progressing well with surfacing planned for Weds/Thurs this week.

Planned maintenance work

Planned works at the junction of Auchencairn/Knockenkelly have been completed. Verge repairs are planned for a number of locations to address subsidence.

Unplanned works

Work is ongoing in Brodick to repair damage to the road surface caused by water leaks eroding the substructure of the road.

Bridge repairs at Pirnmill:

In view of the continued concerns, I've now visited the site on a couple of occasions including with the Engineer from the mainland who is responsible for the works. On the most recent visit I was pleased to see that the northern compound was smaller and tidier than on an earlier inspection, resulting in more space outside the shop and restaurant. The additional signage requested by The Lighthouse has been provided and I also noted a clear sign for the shop. This most recent visit confirmed that these actions had been progressed by the contractor and in addition I can report that BT have completed their works. This is a significant step and will now enable the contractor to move forward with the bridge reconstruction works. Unfortunately work on the public road network is often by its very nature disruptive. We recognise this and work hard to minimise these impacts wherever possible. People can contact me at the Arran Local Office on 01770 600338 where I will try to help and/or liaise with mainland colleagues. If they prefer to speak directly to the team responsible for the works then the best way to reach them is email contactus@north-ayrshire.gov.uk or by phone 01294 310000 asking for the structures team.

Streetscene

Play Equipment Upgrade

The play equipment upgrade was completed in time for the play parks to open for the Easter weekend.

Cleansing

Dog Waste Bins

We will be replacing some of the older dog waste bins with new litter bins for litter and dog waste disposal.
Verge cutting

We will be starting verge cutting shortly. The tractor is a slow-moving vehicle, please be patient and take care, particularly when passing.

Community Litter Picking

We have litter picking equipment (hi vis jackets and litter pickers) available for use by community groups. Enquiries should be directed to the Arran Local Office 01770 600338.

Bill Calderwood enquired if it might be possible for NAC to fund running costs for digital speed warning signs in villages, if the villages were able to provide the capital cost of purchase.

Julie Graham reported that work is still to start on the sea wall in Lochranza.

John Adam was concerned regarding the completion date for the bridge at Pirnmil. This is being monitored.

6. Correspondence

“Contact-us” messages received:

- A request for information on memorial bench had been directed to NAC.

Other correspondence:

- The Chair had attended a preview of the new NHS short term staff accommodation facility at Glenartney in Brodick. This was very impressive and provides accommodation for 13 separate rooms with 12 ensuite. Two lounges and large dining and kitchen facility. This should help to attract staff who support the islands residents.
- The Local NHS manager has offered to come to the June CC meeting to update us on developments and patient participation changes. I trust this is agreeable.
- Patricia Gibson MP had provided an update on the Emergency services mast updates, which shows Lochranza the remaining site to agree planning details. All sites on island are expected to be installed by end of year if approved. See enclosed note on EAS's to explain the background.
- Various road notes circulated and welcomed the resurfacing at Alma and Brathwic.
- Locality partnership members training was being arranged for June in Cunningham house.
- Public workshop on Arran Landscapes with focus on southern part of Arran. 25th Apr from 4-6pm publicised in local press.
- Informal Digital session on LDP3 being scheduled for 25th May.
- NHS Board's public consultation is open until 19th May 2023 – more information on the proposal and how to give your feedback can be found at <https://jointheconversation-nhsaaa.co.uk/hub-page/sact-public-consultation>.

7. Treasurers Report

Julie Graham presented a report of the finances held by the CC.

Balances held were:

Admin account £1116

Project Account £171.08

Grant Fund £47490.20

8. Reports from Sub Committees

8.1 Ferry Committee

- a) Meeting supported by CalMac's Head of operations.
- b) Closed off many actions which had arisen following February's meeting related to Communications and the experience during the failure of the Hebridean Isles.
- c) Good discussion on the recent experiences for ambulance access to the ferry and also travel for emergency appointments and return travel. NHS to speak with FL operations to review procedures.
- d) Questioned the return of the Caledonian Isles and immediate re-deployment of the IoA.
- e) New ticketing system introduction has been delayed until 16th May this will also delay introduction of "Advanced Standby" process which will be a new feature for Arran customers.
- f) Frequency of tidal restrictions at Claonaig highlighted and request to have them reviewed.
- g) MV Catriona certification has been amended to allow it to carry traffic to/from Largs if required. This had previously been refused but AFC challenged this, and MCA have now approved Hybrid vessels to be updated. Other Clyde vessels still being reviewed.
- h) Glen Sannox delays circulated and Ardrossan Task Force minutes from Jan meeting now published. Minutes from March meeting will be published when approved by chairs.
- i) Proposed introduction of MV Alfred into the CFL fleet as a resilience vessel was discussed and further details will require completion of berthing trials. Pentalina has not had a passenger certification and required further work before she could return to service.
- j) Construction of new toilet facilities is commencing at Claonaig.

9. NAC Councillors Report

Cllr Billings provided a written report he had submitted to the meeting.

1 – The published roads programme does have some flexibility to it. There is due to be some additional money added to the roads repair programme that can be used as needed for areas that have deteriorated since the main programme was set out.

2 – There is an annual assessment of the state of the roads in Arran. In addition, when Brodie and Helen go out and about, they use cameras to continually assess the state of the roads which they can feed into and update the annual assessment. This means that any additional money can be directed to the areas that are most in need.

3 – Work has started on some of the patch repairs. Also, the tar recycling machine is in the process of being repaired which means that hot repairs will be possible, and that rather than just filling in holes, areas around the holes can be integrated into the repairs making them more robust.

4 – The Ross Road land slip has gone out to tender and work should start soon.

5 – The bridge replacement in Pirnmill is still ongoing. There was a site visit a couple of weeks ago with Helen, the project manager and the contractors. The works plan was revised with the contractors which should get work going again whilst they wait (still) for BT to move their cable. Also, it was agreed to tidy up the works site.

It was good to have this discussion as it showed how proactive our local council officers are in trying to get the most out of the limited budget they have. They are also continually following up and chasing up issues to get things moving.

I have also had a discussion with Helen about the cabling in Murray Crescent. She has been very proactive in working with Broadband Partners to get the most satisfactory placement of poles. The Council does not have any powers to stop or prevent Broadway Partners from doing their work because BP is a utility company with statutory powers. However, Helen has used her influence to get agreements on pole placements and ensured that what legal processes there are have been followed – once again a credit to Arran!

8.2 Housing Task Force

The next meeting of the task force is scheduled for May.

9 AOCB

Nil

Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 30th May 2023 @6pm

Ormidale Pavilion.