

ISLE OF ARRAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Minute of meeting held on Tuesday 30th May 2023.
Venue Ormidale pavilion from 1800 hrs.

Present: W. Calderwood (chair), J. Graham, J. Henderson, Tom Young, John Adam, R. McMaster, Cllr T. Billings, S. Garraway, P. McKinnon and Sgt K. Blackley.

Apologies for absence received from R. Haddow, H. Boag Arran Banner, H. Underwood NAC local officer and J. Nichols.

1. **Declarations of interest**- there were no declarations of interest recorded.
2. **Minutes of the meeting held on the 25th April** was approved by P. McKinnon and seconded by John Adam.

3. **Police report** was dealt with at this stage as Sgt Blackley had to attend another meeting.

30th May update-

There had been 109 incidents relating to Arran, resulting in 13 crime reports raised.

Of the 109 incidents 5 related to road traffic collisions, all were minor with no serious injuries.

Of the 13 crime reports- 2 related to vandalism, 5 related to traffic offences with 2 drink drivers. 2 related to common assaults and 1 related to theft by housebreaking- one person arrested.

- The four police summer secondees all started at the beginning of the month, working alongside the permanent policing team on the Island.
 - As a result, there has been a marked increase in speed checks, detections of motoring offences (insurance and drink driving etc)
 - Goatfell race, Scottish Islands Peaks race 21-22nd May, Arranfest at the Wineport 27th May. No issues with any of the events.
 - School presentations have continued to be requested and delivered, which has been well received, especially by the Primary and Nursery schools. Topics have included Cycle safety, Road safety and what to do in an emergency.
 - Ferry cancellation-13th May 2023- As a result of adverse weather conditions (fog) approximately 60 people were stranded on the island and were assisted by the local police and Cal-Mac staff, to find alternative accommodation for the evening. Of this number approximately 30 were unable to be accommodated, which required the terminal building to remain open all night, assisted by police and Cal-Mac staff. A brief of the incident is to be held by SG and Cal-Mac to determine where improvements can be made to cover such incidents again.
 - NAC trading standards and officers from Police Scotland will be attending with their 'scam Van' at the Ormidale car park Wednesday 31st May from 1100 until 1500 hrs. Highlighting current scams in operation, offering advice on how to keep safe and to prevent becoming victims of fraud.
 - As is normal, should anyone have any concerns, they can contact officers or drop in at Lamlash Police Station or in confidence contact 'crimestoppers'
 - Finally, reluctantly, Sgt Blackley mentioned the recent announcement from the Scottish Chief officer, when he declared in part of his address that the service was racist. This is now being targeted by the media, which is being challenged by most of the active police departments. The Arran Community Council in response stated unanimously that they had full confidence in the local police.
 - John Adam requested from the Sgt advice on the correct procedure when overtaking persons on bicycles travelling 2 abreast and in groups. The highway code rules are considered not suitable for the Arran roads. Majority of the council expressing that single file was preferable for everyone's safety. However, the Sgt simply advised that patience and overtaking when safe to do so was the most important method. There may be some proactive activities to help inform all road users of safe practice.
4. **Matters arising from the previous minute.**
 - John Adam has circulated appreciation and thoughts for the ACC's support for the Earraghail wind farm objection and we now wait for further developments.
 - Chair attended the launch of the new Coast RV Explorer on Saturday 20th May. Very impressive vessel and met a few of the SG and Officials of NA who attended the launch on Friday 19th.
 - Chair attended the ACVS community engagement meeting to support our grant scheme. No major questions, but the news was welcomed.

- EAS sheet circulated and receipt confirmed by a majority of the council members.
- Several village profiles still to be updated on the website. Most of the council member's photos are now included.
- NAC planning have agreed to provide a training session for CC members and have suggested that this be scheduled to introduce their new planning manager once they are appointed. The ACC may have to re-visit this if after a period of time passes with no further info coming.

5. NAC local officers report.

Helen Underwood submitted her report before leaving on vacation.

Roads- structural Maintenance programme

Resurfacing at Brathwic Terrace / Alma Road is now completed. The 2023/24 programme of maintenance will start in the summer.

Planned maintenance work:

Verge repairs have been successfully undertaken at a number of locations to address local issues with subsidence. Kerbing works to prevent water ingress to private ground has been undertaken in Shiskine.

Unplanned works:

Several meetings have been held to determine remedial works for ongoing issues with subsidence on main road, near Rowanbank, Brodick. Works being programmed.

Heras fencing at Monamore bridge has been replaced following vandalism.

Fencing has been provided to ensure the footbridge remains open until longer term repairs are organised.

Road closure of the Ross Road has been extended to allow works to be undertaken. Works are planned to commence early June, During the works the road will remain closed to all traffic including cycles.

Structural weight limits of 18 tonne are proposed following bridge assessments at Catacol and Dougarie.

North Ayrshire Council are actively seeking input from operators of HGV's who may be affected by the restriction. Comments to be sent to Andrew Crawford contactus@north-ayrshire.gov.uk

The members voiced concern of the impact this will impose on the local area and gave a list of services that would be affected including refuse, village supplies, distillery waste, farming and general repairs to infrastructure etc. CC to respond to NAC.

Green space maintenance-

The team are now well into the summer cutting regime. Weed spraying undertaking out of normal working hours to minimise disruption. Bedding plants are scheduled to arrive early part of June, for summer displays. Positive feed back about the new play equipment has been received. Following requests for additional seating at Brodick Shore Play area, a picnic bench and two new benches have been agreed and will be installed during the summer period.

John Adam raised a question about play areas in Pirnmill, especially the ones at rear of the village shops. It was explained that all areas had been inspected and the area behind the shops was not included. John accepted that the play equipment would be maintained.

S. Garraway asked of the playpark in Blackwaterfoot, which had been provided as a donation made by a local contractor. T. Billings offered to investigate this matter.

Dog waste bins.

Some of the older dog waste bins would be replaced with new litter bins, for combined litter and dog waste disposal.

Verge cutting

Verge cutting will begin shortly. The tractor is a slow-moving vehicle drivers need to be patient and take care when overtaking.

Litter picking.

The evidence of litter is high at the moment. Despite the staff efforts it remains a problem. There is available hi vis jackets and litter pickers for any community groups. Enquiries can be made with the local office 600338.

Matters arising from the last minute not recorded above.

Lochransa sea wall- The Marine licence is in place, tender to be placed soon, with start scheduled for this summer period.

Pirnmill- extent of re-surfacing associated with the bridge replacement will extend to the area of the bridge and immediate tie ins only.

Tormore - Bridge work has been completed and surfacing laid last week.

6. Correspondence

- Chair received a letter from a Lochranza resident requesting information related to ACC response for the planning application at Shore Road which was introduced as an FOI request. However, following a check, we were informed that Community Councils are not included in this legislation. It was decided by officers, in the interest of transparency that we would respond covering the points made in the letter.
- The Chair reminded members that any communication purporting to be sent on behalf of the ACC must be agreed and sent via the Secretary or Chair. Individual members are free to communicate with any outside body as individuals but should not claim to be corresponding on behalf of the ACC without prior agreement.
- The next locality meeting is scheduled for Thursday 1st June from 16:45 in Brodick Hall.
- Weight restriction being imposed on two bridges on the C147 at Dougarie and Catacol as noted in the Local officer's report.
- J. Graham received a message concerning proposed work at Lochranza Castle as representative of Lochranza. The High-level inspection team will be visiting the Castle in July. They are visiting on the 14th June to make plans and begin work on the 3rd week of July. During this period scaffolding and mobile work platforms will be in use and restrictions may be put in place.
- Chair attended a promotional event organised by the Oban Times / Arran Banner to promote advertising options. It was considered that the ACC do not make use of this media often enough to justify the cost benefits.

7. Treasurers report-

Admin account balance	£1,116.00
Project account balance	£ 171.08
Grant account	£47,490.20

Zoom licence annual renewal due for the sum of £119.90 - last year it was £115.10 the renewal was approved following adoption by R. McMaster and was unanimous.

8. Sub-committee reports.

- First one, regarding the grant applications by Jim Henderson
The subgroup of the ACC met recently to review the four applications for funding support from the ACC's community funding supported by Scottish Power renewables Beinn an Tuirc 3 windfarm. The applications covered a range of programmes.
 - High School cycle club for the sum of £5,000.00
 - Ormidale pavilion for provision of digital services for sum of £2,315.60
 - Whiting Bay memories programme for the sum of £1,753.00
 - Shiskine Parents Council to assist the outdoor children's play area for the sum of £3,000.00.
 Each application was reviewed against the criteria established against the programme set aims and it was agreed that all met the criteria.
Jim requested the council members to recommend the four applications and approve the funding as proposed for a total of £12,068.60.
Jim also presented a draft standard response letter, which was approved subject to the addition of a clause being added detailing a timescale for return of any unused funds at the bottom. Which was proposed by T. Young and seconded by R. McMaster.
All beneficiaries have committed to provide receipts for the proposed works on the success of their plans and to recognise the funding provided by Arran Community Council, supported by Scottish Power Renewables Beinn an Tuirc Windfarm.
ACC will review this initial process and amend where appropriate to ensure a consistent process.
- Second one regarding Ferries by W. Calderwood
The following points cover being the main areas.
 - Arran ferry Committee Annual general meeting will take place on the 12th June at 1900 hrs in the Ormidale pavilion. The ACC require to nominate their representative for the coming year. R. McMaster nominated W. Calderwood to be re-elected, seconded by J. Graham.
 - The position for the Independent Traveller also will be reviewed and is open to any island residents and submissions require to be placed by the 5th June with the AFC chair.

- No progress with the tidal disruptions at Claonaig. This may require further infrastructure improvements, which are not currently planned or licensed.
- Ar Turus introduction was delayed until the 17th May, proving to raise a number of issues.
- R. McMaster raised the requirement of having to declare his date of birth to access the online booking system and subsequent penalty being imposed if one is unable to board their chosen return sailing, for whatever reason. This had been noted and has been questioned.
- Chair reminded members that he is also an independent member of the “Ferries Community Board” in a personal capacity, which is not linked to either the AFC or the ACC. The last meeting took place on the 26th May with Transport Scotland’s Chris Wilcock, CalMac Managing Director Robbie Drummond, and CMAL Chief Executive Kevin Hobbs attending. Board members strongly emphasised the High level of anger and frustration felt by communities across the network. The latest additional disruption during the initial phase of the introduction of the new ticketing system has increased difficulties experienced by communities, businesses and individuals. Urgent action to bring the fleet back to its normal capacity is essential if further damage to Island communities is to be avoided. Board members also expressed concern around the strain placed on front line employees at this time and urged management to support staff as much as they possibly can.
- Frustration was expressed regarding the recent issues affecting the travelling public and sympathy was extended to front line staff, who were not directly responsible and public are asked not to abuse the staff.

9. NAC Councillors report by Timothy Billings

This is a summary of the major issues that I have been concerned with this month.

- Arran Island Plan- Work continues in taking the three strands of the Island Plan forward. Groups are being formed that will help bring together actions on economy, community and environment. This month has seen further results of the Island plan initiative with additional money coming to support significant projects on Arran.
- Arran Locality partnership- Next meeting will be on Thursday as indicated in correspondence. It will be an ‘in person’ meeting which will be an opportunity to hear from and meet up with members of the partnership, including North Ayrshire Council officers.
- North Ayrshire Council – A meeting was held on the 17th May, the main points being. Review of the governance arrangements for the Council. Motions regarding:
 - Criticism of Cal Mac for removing the season ticket available for Cumbrae.
 - Agreement to review and clarify how local representation works in North Ayrshire, including the roles of Community Councils and Locality Partnerships. To work to establish CC’s in all areas of North Ayrshire.
 - Agreement in principle to remove debt relating to school meals.

Planning Committee-

There was a planning meeting on the 25th May. When one item relating to Arran was to start the process for the realignment of the path across the land at Newton Shore, Lochranza. In addition, there were two controversial applications considered.

- Creation of a solar farm on Cumbrae- this was refused on the visual, environmental and economic grounds. Timothy’s motion to refuse was unanimously agreed.
- Details of the cable factory at Hunterston. The application was accepted with a number of amendments regarding noise and transport restrictions. This business was a typical example of the influence that a community council can have. Fairley CC had done a lot of work on this item which highlighted a number of important issues, many of which were supported in the final decision.

Housing Action Task Force.

The task force has met twice with the most recent meeting on Tuesday 30th at which the group mainly discussed the housing consultation that will take place over the coming months. There will be a full report on this shortly which will detail what is to happen and why it is so important for Arran.

10. **A.O.C. Business** the meeting raised nothing further.

11. **Proposed date of the next meeting** will be Tuesday 27th June at 1800 hrs in the Ormidale Pavilion when Ruth Betley will provide a presentation.