

Isle of Arran Community Council
Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 27th June 2023
Meeting held in Ormidale Pavilion

Present: W. Calderwood (chair), J. Graham, J. Henderson, J. Adam, H. Underwood (NAC Local Officer), Cllr T. Billings, R Haddow, R McMaster, and Sgt K Blackley
Also present Ruth Betley (Senior Manager North Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership), J Nichols Minute Secretary, H Boag Arran Banner
The Chair welcomed all to the meeting,
Apologies for absence were received from T Young, P McKinnon, S Garraway
Declarations of interest – There were no declarations of interest recorded.

2. Minutes of Meeting held on 30th May 2023

The minute of the meeting held on the 30th May 2023 was approved.
Proposed by J Graham and seconded by J Adam

3. Matters arising from the minute

- 3.1 In response to correspondence relating to bridge restrictions C147 Dougarie and Catacol Bridges, NAC had replied that they had sent out an additional email to hauliers.
NAC will look at other ways to mitigate the loading on the bridges, without resorting to the 18-tonne limit.
NAC will also be setting up a programme of regular levelling surveys, which will be used to monitor the deflections on each bridge span.
Further information as background to the above had been shared with some of the main HGV users. This information follows below.

‘The two bridges were assessed in 1996 and both passed the assessment at that time. However, it was recently decided to re-assess the bridges and both failed that assessment.
North Ayrshire Council are acutely aware that there are no alternative routes, and we are trying to minimise the impact that weight restrictions will have on your activities, which is why we are contacting you to establish what can be done to minimise the impact.
We are looking at temporary strengthening measures, which will alleviate the problem, but they will take time to implement.
In conjunction with the temporary strengthening measures, we are looking at measures to minimise the impact of weight restrictions and to alleviate the time that weight restrictions are placed on the bridges.
The signing plans initially sent out were meant to illustrate the proposed measures as part of a consultation with road users that operate HGV’s to determine the impact of the restriction, and how the impact can be minimised, before we impose a weight restriction.
Part of the consultation involves identifying the exact nature of vehicles using the bridges. It is possible, depending upon axle configurations, that exemptions could be granted.
Temporary strengthening is planned for financial year 23/24. Replacement of the two bridges will take considerably longer to achieve. Once the temporary strengthening is in place, it may be possible to remove the weight limit on the bridges. We intend to reduce each bridge to a single carriageway, to lower the load capable of being on the bridges, and we expect the width

reduction to remain in place, even if weight restrictions are removed, until the bridges are replaced.

We will consult with affected parties by email to establish how they are impacted.

Once we are aware of individual requirements and can establish what impact a weight restriction will have, we are happy to meet with individual businesses to discuss how we proceed. Full details of the proposals will be provided once we have firmed up plans. We do not anticipate group meetings because individual businesses are likely to have different needs and potentially conflicting interests.'

Bill Calderwood had established that there was nothing imminent, Some hauliers had contacted the CC, and a request has been made for the CC to be involved in any discussions.

3.2 Grant discussions: A meeting will be held shortly to review the lessons learned from the applications process to date.

3.3 Kilmory and Kildonan village profiles have been updated on website. One location is still outstanding.

4. Police Report

Sgt Blackley provided a verbal report to the meeting.

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

Of the 78 incidents:

- 3 related to Road Traffic Collisions although all were fairly minor with no serious injuries.

Of the 4 crime reports:

- 1 related to a dog bite, 2 thefts and a social media scam.

2 Major events had been held on the Island recently (the PRIDE event and the Folk Festival). No incidents had been reported.

A vehicle had also been over to Arran to give publicity relating to scams.

This had been well attended.

An officer is drawing together information for cyclists which it hoped will be available on the ferry.

There have been several incidents at the ferry caused by motorists queueing at the pier.

Bill Calderwood thanked Police for their support on this matter and advised that the Ferry Committee have written to both CalMac and North Ayrshire and that suggestions have been made to alleviate the problem and clear the backlogs of traffic.

5. NAC Local Officers report

The NAC Officer spoke to a written report (below) that had been provided by Brodie Pearcey.

Roads

Planned maintenance work

Jet-patching started Monday 18 June and the programme will run for 3 weeks. It can be difficult for the jetpatcher to work on our road network and so small delays may occur. If you meet the vehicle

in operation when travelling on the road network, please be patient; operatives will get you on your way as soon as they can.

Unplanned works

Several meetings have been held recently to determine and agree remedial works for the ongoing issues with subsidence on Main Road, Brodick near Rowanbank. We are now waiting on materials being delivered after which works will be programmed.

Streetscene

Green space maintenance

The team are now well into the summer cutting regime. Weed spraying is being undertaken out of normal working hours to minimise disruption. Bedding plants have been set out for summer displays.

Verge cutting

Verge cutting is in progress. We are aware that growth rates this year are high and this has resulted in a lot of requests for cutting of specific roads/areas which cannot all be actioned immediately. If you meet our verge cutting teams whilst travelling on the road network please be patient and take care, particularly when passing.

27/06/23 Ongoing and outstanding repairs

Works exiting Brodick - Lamlash

Yes we are aware of the works to the water main and have issued the relevant permit to carry out works until the 30th June with the stipulation to have an operative in attendance at ferry time to help alleviate any issues specifically to allow all arriving traffic to leave market road so traffic leaving the ferry does not get backed up with the knock on effect of delaying the ferry, which has been place when I have been passed a couple of times last week.

I agree that the passenger only ferries certainly may have exasperated this issue on Friday causing issues on that day that perhaps should have been delt with by Cal Mac, I believe on the whole the traffic has been managed well by the contractor although they did appear to be absent when I passed on Saturday and Sunday so any further permits will be issued with a stipulation to cover attendance even when works are not actively underway over weekends.

Repairs on main road exiting Brodick towards school:

We are awaiting to receive a plate from the mainland to repair the issue at the school caused by a BT cable being historically placed through one of our sandstone culverts unfortunately the delay was due to BT not accepting responsibility and Helen will chase up the reported Scottish Water defective structure which should hopefully be repaired promptly.

Helen advised that the Jet Patcher would now be working on the Island. This may involve no parking notices going up in the sections where patching would take place.

The white lining machine is due to be operating on Arran next week, and all white lining requirements have been built into the plan.

In relation to verge cutting, it was reported that growth rates were particularly high this year. Road safety would be the priority in relation to the programme of cutting.

It was reported that NAC do not intend to replace existing flashing signs, but are awaiting the SG to report back to them.

Bob Haddow queried the position relating to the Ross Road closure, which had been in place since August 2022.

Julie Graham queried when radar speed monitors were going to recommence to use in Lochranza and Catacol. Helen to check.

6. Correspondence

6.1 "Contact-us" messages received:

6.1.1 Note received asking for any assistance to contact a friend

6.1.1.1 Mail rec'd regarding scattering ashes. Referred to NAC

6.2 Other correspondence:

6.2.1 Various road closure notes circulated.

6.2.2 Invitation to contribute to - Exploring the Socio-economic Impacts of MPA and PMF Fisheries Management Measures – Community Research Drop in Sessions. Awaiting response from Peter.

6.2.3 Applications for the new Communities and Place grant open on Wednesday 21st June. For further information. [Applications for grant funding set to open on June 21 \(north-ayrshire.gov.uk\)](http://Applicationsforgrantfunding.settoopen.on.june.21.north-ayrshire.gov.uk)

6.2.4 Attended recent locality partnership meeting. Minutes to be published.

6.2.5 Attended islands plan community sub group meeting which was well attended. Further session to be planned.

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
Scottish Power Renewables Grant	
2023 Grant Payment	£28018.08
June Payment	£12068.60
Balance	£63439.68

8. Overview of Arran Health Services and Plans

Ruth Betley, Senior Manager North Ayrshire Health and Social Work Partnership gave a comprehensive presentation relating to the current provision of health and social work services on Arran.

This presentation was against the background of a Review of Services held in 2017. A further review will now be undertaken to establish the current and future needs for Arran, and Ruth will be seeking the assistance of Arran CC to help in the planning of sessions to ensure the Arran residents have the opportunity to be part of review process.

The presentation covered range of issues including primary care and the social work services on Arran, and the way services are provided currently, and the potential to look at the way in which services may be provided. Some pilot schemes are being trialled at community settings on Arran.

Julie Graham volunteered to be CC representative for Review of Services which was agreed at meeting.

9 Reports from Sub Committees

9.1 Ferry Committee AGM held prior to business meeting with no members of the public attending.

Minutes have been published from 2022 AGM and all representatives were re-appointed by the relevant groups.

All AFC officers were re-elected at business meeting.

Recent business meeting focussed much of the time around the issues with the new ticketing system.

Many examples of issues were provided. AFC had prepared a list of these and requested solutions be provided ASAP.

Ardrossan Task Force - Progress in the preparation of the papers to hopefully enable the project to go out to tendering July.

MV Alfred - AFC have challenged the timetable and contract capacity. Requested more coverage and maximise passenger capacity improvements. Vessel will continue until at least 27th July with 3x returns Fri-Mon and 2 x returns Tue-Thu.

Traffic management at Brodick again highlighted and NAC are being approached to assist with some changes. Support for solution provide from local police.

CMAL wave analysis data has been completed and is now being reviewed to identify cause and possible solutions.

Claonaig tidal restrictions continue to be challenged.

Issues still exists for Ambulance and medical access and Ruth is working with CalMac. The condition of the medical room on the CI was also highlighted and improvements requested.

CalMac MD and several directors will attend Arran Wednesday 28th for a drop in consultation from 9:00 - 12:00 at Auchrannie. This is the chance to voice your views direct to the management of CalMac.

9.2 Geopark

Ricky McMaster reported that an application has not yet been made in respect of Geopark status for Arran. Cllr Billings advised that a recommendation for investment funding is awaiting Cabinet approval from NAC.

10. NAC Councillors Report

Cllr Billings spoke to a written report he had submitted.

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

Arran Island Plan

There was an initial meeting of the Communities Island Plan Group, which was very positive. The groups have now all met and are starting to bring together the various elements of their work. In addition, they are looking at each groups remit and system of governance.

The Scottish government is about to launch a review of the Island Plan processes, which will include some public engagement – more on this once the details are known.

UK Shared Prosperity Fund

This is new fund set up by the UK government. This is the first year and will act as a pilot for future years. There will be an event on Arran Thursday 6th July in Brodick Library at which more details will be available. In the meantime, see the NAC web site page:

[UK Shared Prosperity Fund \(north-ayrshire.gov.uk\)](http://north-ayrshire.gov.uk)

North Ayrshire Council

There was a meeting of Council on the 21st June 2023. The main points were:

- Approval of the accounts for 2022/23
 - It is of note that there was an underspend of around £1.5m. Therefore, an additional £1m will be added to the road repair fund for 2023/4 and the remainder will be added to the support fund for energy efficiency.
- There was one councillor motion which was to write off the current school meal debt. There was a debate about this as there is a concern that writing off the debt will give the message that you don't need to pay for any school meals as the Council won't chase it up. The Council already has many support systems to ensure that no child goes hungry, and goes well beyond the minimum requirements for child food provision. However, the motion was passed.

Committee Work

Planning Committee – there was a planning meeting and a Local Review Body meeting on 16th June. There were no items relating to Arran

Housing Action Task Force

The Task Force had its most recent meeting in person at the Auchrannie. The main topic was the research project and its remit and scope. A number of suggestions were made on how to ensure that the research is as comprehensive as possible, which is important as the results will be part of the data used to shape future policy. There is a press release due to come out on the work of the Task Force very soon and the research project will starting in July.

Council Tax on Second and Empty Homes

The Scottish government is currently running a consultation on this issue. North Ayrshire Council has developed a response to this which was presented to the Cabinet last week. However, I would like to see a number of changes to the wording of the response that would make it clearer that any additional taxation must be based on knowledge about the impact it will have on all aspects of Arran's housing and economy. Also, that if local authorities were to get additional tax varying powers that they get full flexibility so that the taxation can be focused on specific areas to give positive outcomes and to minimise unintended consequences.

The meeting to discuss this is Tuesday 27th June and link to consultation will be circulated.

Parking on pavements is proposed to become illegal. For unloading goods purposes rule of thumb is there must be one meter of width left on pavement

11 AOCB

Nil

Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 25th July 2023 @6pm

Ormidale Pavilion