

Isle of Arran Community Council
Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 25th July 2023
Meeting held in Ormidale Pavilion from 1800hrs.

Present: W. Calderwood (chair), J. Graham, J. Henderson, J. Adam, Cllr T. Billings, S. Garraway, R. McMaster, T. Young, P. McKinnon 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 H. Underwood (NAC Local Officer), R. Haddow
Declarations of interest – There were no declarations of interest recorded.

2. Minutes of Meeting held on 27th June 2023

The minute of the meeting held on the 27th June 2023 was approved.

Proposed by J. Henderson and seconded by J. Adam

3. Matter arising from the minute

- A meeting had been held to discuss various matters and review views on ALP, Islands plan etc. A further meeting to be arranged.

4. Police Report

Sgt Blackley provided a report to the meeting.

Since the date of the last meeting there have been 85 recorded police incidents relating to Arran, resulting in 3 crime reports raised.

Of the 85 incidents:

- 3 related to Road Traffic Collisions although all were fairly minor with no serious injuries. One resulted in a driver being charged due to the manner of driving.

Of the 3 crime reports:

- 1 related to abusive behaviour within a licenced premises
- 1 related to a report of minor vandalism

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

- Ferry traffic disruption, A841 at Market Road. I asked for, and was involved in, a meeting along with representatives from NAC, Calmac and Police Scotland Traffic management. Primarily due to increasing instances of queueing traffic along Brodick front and the inappropriate use of limited police resources for traffic control as a solution. In brief, Calmac agreed to have a look at revising their check in procedures and potentially altering their barrier position as well as booth position. I asked NAC to consider removing the pedestrian refuge (traffic island) and replacing it with a pedestrian activated light crossing. From a personal perspective, this pedestrian refuge is the one physical feature which prevents the free flow of traffic through Brodick once the traffic queue's beyond it. I will continue to push this issue to a satisfactory conclusion.
- An extensive search was conducted on Arran over the space of a week for missing island resident, Mariusz Batyra. Unfortunately Mr Batyra's remains were discovered

in a wooded area on the outskirts of Lamlash in the afternoon of Friday 7th July. There were no suspicious circumstances and a report was submitted to the Procurator Fiscal. The search was heavily supported by Arran MRT, Arran Coastguard and also included sea searches by the Arran Lifeboat. Their assistance, as always, is greatly appreciated.

- Road Policing officers attend and carried out a combined `Close Pass` initiative along with routine vehicle checks predominantly in the Brodick area. Over 120 vehicles were stopped and drivers interacted with. Several fixed penalty notices were issued, including two for driving without any insurance. Their support on the island will continue throughout the year.
- Online current scam advice can be accessed by clicking the following link
[Home - Trading Standards Scotland \(tsscot.co.uk\)](http://tsscot.co.uk).

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 Police 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.

Sgt Blackley advised that his officers would be happy to attend village meetings, which had been felt to be beneficial in Lochranza and Catacol.

5. NAC Local Officers report

Helen was on vacation, but had provided a written report (below)

Roads

Planned maintenance work

Jet-patching work is complete

Structural maintenance works

I would draw your attention to the programme for surface dressing and resurfacing works (attached), with the caveat that works are weather dependant and so the programme is subject to change. Most of the resurfacing work will be undertaken using road closures many of which result in lengthy diversions, so please be mindful when planning your journeys during this time. Individual road closure notices will be published closer to the time (possibly with amended dates), please look out for these, and any subsequent updates to the programme.

Unplanned works

Subsidence on Main Road, Brodick near Rowanbank – we continue to wait on materials being delivered after which works will be programmed.

Vehicle speed monitoring

New posts are required before speed monitoring equipment can be installed. We hope to have the posts in this week with the monitoring equipment following as soon as possible afterwards.

Streetscene

Green space maintenance

Verge cutting is continuing. If you meet our verge cutting team whilst travelling on the road network, please be patient and take care, particularly when passing.

Hedge cutting

We are starting to receive requests for hedge cutting. Few roadside hedges are maintained by NAC. Generally, it is the adjacent landowner who is responsible for hedge maintenance and it is too early in the season for blanket cuts to rural roadside hedges. Again, growth rates in some locations are high and consequently we have undertaken isolated trimming work to ensure that essential traffic signs are visible. Any specific concerns about obscured signs or obstructed footways are best reported via the online system or can be phoned through to the local office.

Peter McKinnon advised that knotweed is again prevalent on roadsides, and is becoming a problem.

CLlr Billings advised that he would be taking up why the work outside Rowanbank has not been completed.

6. Correspondence

6.1 "Contact-us" messages received:

No new messages had been received.

6.1 Other correspondence:

- Patricia Gibson MP highlighted update on fuel pricing:
'CMA sets out plan to help drivers get more competitive fuel prices
I wanted to let you know that today we published the [final report in our Road Fuel Market Study](#).'
- Update on EAS schedule
- Road plans circulated and closure notices for initial work.
- Housing Task Force press releases circulated.
- Notice of new law which would allow local authorities to introduce an additional charge when someone pays for overnight accommodation. [Visitor Levy Bill](#)

7. Treasurers Report

Julie Graham presented the Treasurers report of the finances held by the ACC.

Admin Account

ZOOM paid £143.88p

Balance: £ 972.12p

Project Account:- No Transactions

Balance: - £171.08p

Scottish Power Renewables Grant

2023:- Grant Payment £28,018.08p No Transactions

Balance: - £63,439.68p

Members Expense forms need to be completed for the period September 2022 – August 2023. Expense forms were distributed at the July CC meeting.

Noted that NAC had paid £75 into the account

8 Reports from Sub Committees

8.1 Ferry Committee

Meeting held 24th July.

Still waiting for responses on various topics: Ticketing system, service failures and resilience issues.

Repairs to Arran berth repairs now complete.

MV Alfred will remain on route until at least 24th Aug.

Concerns raised that lack of resilience is damaging confidence for visitors and availability shows reduced demand.

Requests submitted to improve capacity for Annual show and Highland games. Awaiting confirmation.

Continue to push CFL to address tailback of traffic into village.

9. NAC Councillor's Report.

Cllr Billings report was limited this month due to NAC council recess.

- Care At Home
NAC are commencing a **pilot scheme** using self-employed care-at-home workers. Carers- this trial would involve NAC implementing Self Directed Care to facilitate the implementation. It was noted that there would be training and reporting issues to be resolved, including registration and accreditation. NAC would ensure issues like taxation and insurance were in place. Service users would become the employers of the self-employed carers.
- Island Plan There will be stands at the Farmers Show and the Highland Games to publicise the Plan.
- John Lamont MP is visiting next week (he is Undersecretary of State for Scotland) – he is coming to NA for 2 days and spending one of these days on Arran.
- Helen is speaking to people relating to the NAC grass, hedge and verge cutting policy.

10 AOCB

Nil

Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 29th August 2023 @6pm

Venue - Ormidale Pavilion