

Isle of Arran Community Council
Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 29th August 2023
Meeting held in Ormidale Pavilion

Present: W. Calderwood (chair), J. Graham, J. Henderson, J. Adam, Cllr T. Billings, S Garaway, R McMaster, T Young, P McKinnon, R Haddow and H. Underwood (NAC Local Officer)

Also present J Nichols Minute Secretary

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting,

Apologies for absence were received from Sgt K Blackley and H Boag

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

2. Minutes of last meeting

The minute of the meeting held on the 25th July 2023 was approved.

Proposed by R McMaster and seconded by J Graham

3. Matter arising from the minute

- A meeting was being arranged with Planning to introduce the new manager and provide training for CC members. The initial date was unsuitable to NAC, but an alternative date of Wednesday 4th October will be requested.
- Noted expense forms to be returned at the August meeting..
- Several reports had been noted from successful grant recipients publicising the benefits.

4. Police Report

Sergeant Blackley had provided a written report covering the last month.

‘Since the date of the last meeting there have been:

113 recorded police incidents relating to Arran, resulting in 9 crime reports raised (up to 24/8/23).

Of the 113 incidents:

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

Of the 9 crime reports:

- 2 related to alleged drink and drug driving which were both detected on the same day.
- 3 related to other driving offences.
- 1 related to a report of vandalism to the Machrie Moor Standing Stones and a media appeal for any information on this matter has been broadcast as well as ongoing liaison with Historic Environment Scotland who manage this site.

Nothing to suggest any worrying trends from all the incidents reported with the exception of a slight increase in livestock worrying reports this month.

- Brodick Traffic Disruption update: On site multi-agency meeting scheduled for early September 2023 to look at potential solutions and the cause of congestion which is prevalent after cancelled sailings and busy periods.
- The two biggest events of Arran’s social calendar were held at the start of the month and I can report that both the Arran Show and the Brodick Highland Games passed with no incidents of note. The Local policing team were supported at the Arran show by the North Ayrshire Quad Bike police officers and two Mounted Unit officers as well as PSoS community involvement and NAC Trading Standards who were on hand to offer advice.
- I have continued to attend local community meetings, with a visit to Corrie and Sannox this month where resilience issues were discussed and advice given on how to be better prepared for any emergencies as well as advice on individual household actions. The Arran sub group of the Ayrshire Local Resilience Partnership meet on a regular basis and one of our main aims to have prepared and resilient communities that are ready to work alongside and support emergency services in the event of an emergency. Ready Scotland is a public facing site with guidance and advice on community and personal resilience - <https://ready.scot/>

- There will be an Experienced Drivers Event called “Fit to Drive” aimed at aged 50+ island drivers being held at Brodick Town hall at 1030am on 3rd October with presentations from many agencies including myself, RoSPA, SFRS (CPR demo) and NAC Trading Standards. Posters will be in place at most public areas and doctors surgeries highlighting the event (copy attached – please share) and I’d encourage anyone who is free that day to come along for an informal chat and a cuppa. Flyer enclosed!
- Adverse weather event 19/08/2023. Due to heavy rainfall on 18th into 19th August, the String and Ross roads were closed due to the amount of debris washed over the carriageways and 31 persons, including several children, were evacuated from Glen Rosa Campsite. All were accommodated at Corrie and Sannox Village Hall and there were no reported injuries. Arran police were assisted by Arran MRT, Fire, Ambulance and Coastguard as well as the Coastguard helicopter. My sincere thanks goes to all partner agencies including NAC Roads, and especially for the use of the village hall during this challenging incident.
- Scotland’s First Minister, Humza Yousaf, paid a visit to the island on 23rd August. I was present at all venues he visited and there were no related issues.

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. ‘

Cllr Billings reported that there had been several instances of petty vandalism in Lamlash in the last month.

5. NAC Local Officers report

Helen spoke to a written report (below) that had been previously circulated.

Roads

Planned maintenance work

Work is programmed on Kildonan Road, near Kildonan Farm for October 10-12. A road closure will be required to undertake the works safely. See attached road closure notice.

Structural maintenance works

The resurfacing work is in progress and is proceeding as per the programme. We have had a few issues with people disregarding the “road closed” signs and trying to drive through the works site. The closures are well signed and are in place to keep everyone safe. We appreciate that some of the diversions are lengthy, particularly whilst we are working near Corrie, but the work is essential. Please be mindful when planning your journeys during this time, look out for the signage and follow signposted diversions.

Unplanned works

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

Landslips/verge failures 19 August 2023

Following heavy rain on the night of Friday 18th August NAC staff and Police Scotland attended four landslips/verge failures on the road network on Saturday 19 August. The roads were made safe and remedial works are being programmed.

Vehicle speed monitoring

Speed and volume monitoring has been undertaken in Lochranza – once the counter is ready to be reinstalled it will be put up in Catacol. Results will be shared in due course.

Streetscene

Verge cutting

Local Officers attended a meeting arranged by Cllr Billings for a very productive discussion on verge cutting policies and from this look to trial some alternative cutting regimes at specific locations around the island.

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.

Emergency Response

NAC staff members supported the evacuation of Glen Rosa Campsite in the early hours of Saturday 19th August. Campers were evacuated by Police Scotland, Scottish Fire and Rescue and Arran Mountain Rescue initially to Corrie Village Hall where volunteers had set up an emergency rest centre and laterally transferred with the help of Stagecoach Arran to Brodick Pier to return to the mainland or supported in continuing their holiday on Arran

It was reported that the road closures in Corrie had been lifted today.

Inspections are being carried out where verge failures are happening.

Ricky McMaster requested that road closure signs could be taken down as roads re-open.

Bob Haddow enquired about when re-lining work would be undertaken between Lamlash and Whiting Bay. Helen advised the new date for this work is now week commencing 18th September.

6. Correspondence

“Contact-us” messages received:

- Mail from someone looking for a short-term house swap. The Secretary has responded.
- Enquiry from local hotel asking about installation of electric charging point. This was directed to the Grants scheme conditions.

Councillor Billings also advised that there may be NAC funding available for Charging Points.

Other correspondence:

- Various notes associated to forestry planning passed to Ricky McMaster, who will follow up.
- Reminder that National Islands Plan consultation closes on 9th October 2023.
- Scottish Affairs Committee - Cost of living roundtable meeting rescheduled to September and invite accepted.
- Reminder for Land Use and Agriculture Just Transition Community Workshop - Arran accepted.
- A Spotlight On... Climate Change. Ricky will attend for farming and Jim has notified availability for ACC.
- Licensing application for new operators at Crofters. Local concerns have been advised to NAC.
- Multiple road closure notices circulated.
- CMPP Newsletter August 2023 received and passed to Peter.
- Next Arran Housing Task Force meeting scheduled for Tue 28th. Bill Calderwood had met with consultants who were conducting a survey to help inform the Task Force.

7. Treasurers Report

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

Admin Account

Balance: £ 972.12p

A payment of £75 was incorrectly paid into CC account by NAC instead of Arran Ferry Committee. I have paid AFC £75 as requested by NAC.

Project Account:- No Transactions

Balance: - £171.08p

Scottish Power Renewables Grant

No Transactions

Balance: - £63,439.68p

Expense forms to be completed for period Sept 2022 – Aug 2023. Payment can be made by cheque or BACS

8 Reports from Sub Committees

8.1 Ferry Committee

- Meeting held 14th August. Attended by Network Operations manager.
- Welcomed additional passenger capacity provided to support Farmers show and Highland games.
- Continue to push CFL to address tailback of traffic into village. Welcome support received from Police and NAC.
- Much discussion on resilience which will be followed up with further meeting proposed with senior management.
- Ongoing issues with Ar Turas booking system and lack of connectivity with other travel systems.
- Unacceptable restriction for farmers to book online trailers.

- Lack of performance numbers available since system installed.
-

Post meeting confirmation had been received of Ardrossan Task Force delay.

Also, ADT and AFC representatives had met with First Minister at short notice when he visited the island and met with several businesses,.

8.2 Patient Participation Group (PPG)

Julie Graham had submitted a report of a meeting of the PPG held 21st August 2023.

I was invited as Community Council representative to attend PPG meeting on 21st August for the first part of their meeting.

Community Engagement work is taking place in all areas of Scotland

There are two Engagement Officers for North Ayrshire Sam Hodgkinson and Michael McLellan. They have engaged with communities both on the mainland and Cumbrae since April 2023.

The main point of discussion was the New Locality Model proposed to refresh and revive HSCP Locality Planning.

The Locality Review Group will have responsibility for reviewing feedback from conversations and identifying areas for action on Arran. The two engagement officers identified that there were similar concerns in all areas they have visited.

Priorities of Concern Arran

Mental Health and Wellbeing all age groups

People with complex care needs including school age community with learning disabilities.

Social Isolation and Recovery from the Covid Experience.

Poverty and Cost of Living

Pride community

Prevention, early intervention and recovery from drugs and alcohol related harms and deaths

Transport and Ferries (Funding has been secured for two cars with wheelchair access for use by Arran Voluntary drivers)

Community Engagement for Arran Community

Face to Face Engagement sessions be held in all areas of Arran led by Locality Review Group with Engagement Team Officers present.

These meetings may be held to coincide with local coffee mornings, Eco Savvy etc. to encourage as many members as possible of community to attend. PPG to identify venues and times to best suit their local community. It is hoped to have meetings concluded by end of 2023.

The Arran Initial Agreement -Design workshop postponed from 23rd August to 6th September which I will attend.

9. NAC Councillors Report

Councillor Billings spoke to a written report he had submitted .

Arran Island Plan

I attended two island events during the month to promote the island plan – so as well as speaking to lots of people about the Island Plan concept I have to fun days out!

The next meeting of the steering group is next week. As well as planning the next steps we will be discussing the Island Plan review currently being carried out by the Scottish government. The purpose of the review is for them to find out what has been happening, what progress has been made, what still needs to be done and to refresh the National Islands Plan. Public consultation events organised by the Scottish government will be taking place on Arran during September, however, the dates have not yet been set. As soon as details are available the events will be publicised.

Participatory Budgeting

The next round of PB has just opened, with applications sought for 3 funds. Details can be found on this website - <https://northayrshire.community/get-involved/participatory-budgeting-in-north-ayrshire/>

Committee Work

Planning Committee

On appeal the Committee granted permission for the food stall in Lamlash. This had been refused by the planning officers but the Committee considered that it would be reasonable to grant permission for the limited use of the site near to Lamlash tennis courts for a food van.

Other items for consideration included two cases which had been refused mostly because of the design of the proposed changes. There were some interesting discussions about how design and aesthetics contribute to the overall feel of an area – this is an important concept in place-making (which is one of the fundamental planning principles). One of the appeals was granted on the grounds that the surrounding buildings had been changed so much over the years that it was no longer possible to consider them as a unified whole. However, the other was refused as it would have been the only building in the area to vary significantly from its surroundings.

Integration Joint Board

The IJB considered a range of issues and reports including:

Dental Services – there was a report on dental services across Ayrshire and Arran. Overall, the level of NHS services has seen a decline but there is a new contract due November 2023 which it is hoped will encourage more dentists to offer NHS services. The committee was told that the recruitment of a new NHS dentist for Arran is progressing having reached a ‘preferred candidate’ stage.

Health and Social Care finances are projected to be overspend by several £m by the end of the year. There are plans in place to address these overspends which will be reported to the next IJB meeting.

Housing Action Task Force

The Task Force met this morning – a verbal report will be given at the meeting of the main points.

Visitor Levy

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 today. However, I don’t consider that the council’s response to the consultation reflects what I heard when I attended an Arran consultation event on the topic. Therefore, I will be seeking changes to the Council’s response to better reflect what Arran’s businesses and visitor gifting schemes are saying.

The consultation is open until Friday 15th September and you can participate using this link:

<https://yourviews.parliament.scot/lghp/visitor-levy-bill/>

Arran Locality Partnership Meeting

This will take place on 21st September 2023 in Brodick Hall starting at 4.45. Everybody is welcome to come along.

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

- Care At Home
NAC are commencing a trial using self-employed care-at -home workers. 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 26th September 2023 @ 6pm

Ormidale Pavilion