

Isle of Arran Community Council
Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 26th September 2023
Meeting held digitally via Zoom

Present: W. Calderwood (chair), J. Graham, J. Henderson, R McMaster, T Young, Steve Garraway, P McKinnon, Sgt K Blackley, and R Haddow.

Also present J Nichols Minute Secretary

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting, As the Sports Pavilion was unable to be used due to power supply issues, the meeting had been re-arranged to be held via Zoom.

Apologies for absence were received from J Adam, Cllr T billings, H Underwood (NAC Local Officer), Patricia Gibson MP and H Boag

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

2. Minutes of Meeting held on 29th August 2023

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

Proposed by T Young and seconded by J Henderson

3. Matter arising from the minute

- Planning training session was confirmed for 4th October at the Lamplash offices. Confirmation of attendees was awaited.
- Bill Calderwood had attended a session on Land use held Brodick Hall.
- Bill attended Arran Locality Planning session and provided overview of ACC grants scheme. No issues raised.
- Bill attended Cost of living session with cross-party group from Westminster.
- Bill attended Arran Islands plan meeting for the community section.
- Bill had participated in NAC affordable housing session. The next meeting will be held in October..
- It was noted that the Licence application for the former Crofters had been approved.

4. Police Report

Sergeant Blackley spoke to a written report he had provided covering the last month.(below)

Since the date of the last meeting there have been:

63 recorded police incidents relating to Arran, resulting in 14 crimes recorded.

Of the 63 incidents:

- 2 related to Road Traffic Collisions although both were minor with no serious injuries.

Of the 14 crimes recorded:

- 6 relates to road traffic offences
- 1 relates to internet fraud
- 1 relates to a drugs detection
- 1 relates to a theft

Nothing to suggest any worrying trends from all the incidents reported with only a notable increase in MRT call outs over the past month.

- Brodick Traffic Disruption update: An on-site multi-agency meeting was held on 5th September 2023 to look at potential solutions to the congestion experienced around the junction into Market Road/Brodick Ferry Terminal which is prevalent after cancelled sailings, busy periods and when sailings are close together. I was not present but a colleague from PSoS Ayrshire Traffic Management attended in my stead and put forward the suggestion the traffic island/refuge near to the entrance to the Douglas Hotel be replaced with a pedestrian activated traffic light crossing. This proposal was not supported however new road markings and signage was agreed upon which should deter queuing traffic from waiting in the area around the pedestrian refuge thereby allowing traffic to continue south past the ferry terminal junction should a queue form. In addition, Calmac have been given approval to move the ticket booth further into their stacking area which should allow more vehicles to wait off the main carriageway. It has been further proposed that the ticket barrier be moved out to the junction of Market Road, and with some additional signage, will hopefully prevent a queue from forming.

If traffic congestion does continue then I'd encourage anyone affected by it to contact NAC to complain about the delays and inconvenience experienced.

- 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 and sign up for the event online. This a very worthwhile event with some interesting talks, presentations and alternative suggestions for those who feel that they are perhaps coming towards the end of their driving career. It is not an event to identify drivers who are perhaps at that stage already as some irresponsible residents have commented on social media which is actively discouraging people from attending.
- Ferry cancellations and stranded passengers. A lot of work has been undertaken to ensure procedures are in place to accommodate stranded persons on the island, this included a `stress test` of the plan on 21/9/23. The result of the planning work puts the police and all other partner agencies in a far better place to both understand what is expected of each organisation in the event of stranded persons and provide the best

service to those affected. A variation on this plan was put into action following the Glen Rosa flooding incident in August.

- The QR code at the bottom of this email takes you to an anonymous short survey where participants are able to make comment on what your local police could be doing better, what they are doing well and gives you the opportunity to give feedback and help shape the future of local policing in Ayrshire and Arran in particular.

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.

Kevin Blackley

Police Sergeant U31 Kevin.blackley@scotland.police.uk

26/09/23

We are #YourPolice. Scan the QR code to take part in our conversation to help shape local policing in Ayrshire.



The CC noted that the 'Fit to Drive' event planned to take place on 3rd October had now been cancelled, due to apparent forecast of low attendance.

It was reported that 9 people had been stranded on Arran last weekend due to ferry cancellations. A scaled response to the problems caused by cancellations had now been introduced based on the scale of the disruption. This includes the use of village halls and the Police have keys for the Outdoor Centre.

5. NAC Local Officers report

Helen was unable to attend the meeting, but had submitted 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 completed. Thank you to all road users for their patience whilst these works were being undertaken.

Lining works

As planned our contractors were on Arran in week of 18 September to address outstanding lining works. Despite the very poor weather they were able to mark out some new disabled persons parking places, line two car parks in Lamlash and mark a number of "SLOW" markings around the island. Another contract will be issued for the items that were not able to be completed.

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

Speed and volume monitoring is currently being undertaken in Catacol. Results will be shared in due course.

It was agreed that Bill Calderwood would write to Helen to request further information in relation to white lining and to check the current situation relating to speed monitoring in Lochranza.

Streetscene

Summer bedding will be cleared away during the coming weeks.

We have commenced knotweed spraying on verges, recent wet and windy weather has precluding completing this work which will recommence as and when weather permits. Open space cutting continues and we will be undertaking the last garden tidy visits this week.

Cleansing

Recent weather related ferry disruption is affecting our ability to remove waste and recycling from the Island. We only close the HWRC as a last resort, but it is possible that closures may become necessary if the ferry continues to overnight in Brodick.

6. Correspondence

"Contact-us" messages received

- Mail from resident with copy of letter published in Banner regarding Newton shore.
- Copy of letter from Lochranza resident who has written to NAC regarding Ref North Ayrshire Council Path (Newton Shore Lochranza Right of Way) Diversion order. This is the subject of an official process. ROW is a condition of the approved application.
- Mail highlighting the ongoing uncertainty of the situation at the Brodick Tennis courts / Dog walking opportunity. NAC are working with all parties to try and resolve the matter. Brodick Improvement are also seeking clarification on ownership etc.
- Letter detailing difficulties to acquire housing for a young family wishing to move here. Number of second homes advertising thru Air B&B, empty homes etc. This is being taken up via Housing task force.
- Survey from SFRS regarding recent changes in legislation. CC have responded to advise they have no property responsibilities.

Other correspondence:

- Reminder that National Islands Plan consultation closes on 9th Oct.
- The Arran session is scheduled for 29th Sept.
- Mail received introducing a proposed new wind farm (Crosbie Wind Farm, on an upland area in between the towns of West Kilbride, Dalry and Fairlie in North Ayrshire).
- An application received from a resident to join ACC has been forwarded to NAC. Awaiting verification of compliance with residency conditions.
- The CC have been approached for comment regarding the recent announcement of closure of Bank of Scotland branch in Brodick from 31st January 2024. This will impact many residents, businesses and remove choice for the community. Loss of skilled jobs. It is regrettable that no community consultation has taken place. It was agreed to write to Lloyds and register our concerns.
- Bob Haddow has sent a note highlighting WBDIA are submitting its application for Bathing Water designation for the beach at Sandbraes/Whiting Bay to SEPA this week. ACC agreed to support this application.

7. Treasurers Report

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

Treasurers Report for Community Council Meeting Tuesday 26th September 2023

Admin Account

Expenses paid £759.55p

Balance: £212.57p

Project Account:- No Transactions

Balance: - £171.08p

Scottish Power Renewables Grant

Transactions:-

Arran Brass Band £1239.22p

Whiting Bay Bowling £2000.00p

Arran Chess Club £ 200.00p

Balance: - £60,000.46p

2022/23 Annual accounts prepared and ready to be sent to NAC Auditor.

8 Reports from Sub Committees

1. Reports from sub-committees:

a. Ferries:

- A digital mtg had been held with the Transport Minister Fiona Hyslop to discuss various concerns - communications, resilience, CFLs lack of proactive planning, and winter services.

Monthly AFC meeting held on 11th with Robbie Drumond (CFL Chief Executive) in attendance. Main items covered were:

- Representation from CFL to AFC meetings and lack of community engagement in decision making.

- Failure of new ticketing system and lack of “get well” plans. Examples were provided of failures and Mr Drummond considered that in general the introduction had gone well. This was not accepted with further action requested. CFL cannot provide performance numbers or carrying numbers for several months since changeover which will impact many aspects of commercial and social planning.
- Contingency planning for winter services and period of annual overhaul. More to come on these topics.
- Readiness of Troon to handle disrupted traffic. This was tested following the CI breakdown and several actions noted.
- North end services questioned. Request for full summer period to be covered and expanded winter service. No commitment due to availability of vessels.
- Next meeting scheduled for November due to Arran break.
- Winter timetables have been published and we wait for them to open for booking!
- Follow up meetings being scheduled to discuss winter resilience.

Ricky McMaster reported issues relating to livestock being unable to get off the Island. It was reported that there were now problems trying to get through to Brodick Office by telephone.

9. NAC Councillors Report

Councillor Billings is off the Island until after 2nd October 2023.

10 AOCB

Nil

Date of Next Meeting:

This will include the AGM.

Tuesday 31st October 2023 @ 6pm in Ormidale Pavilion

Note: This will include the AGM with Business meeting to follow.