

Isle of Arran Community Council
Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 30th January 2024
Held At Brodick Sports Pavilion

Present: W. Calderwood (chair), J. Graham, T Young , P McKinnon, J. Adam, Sgt K Blackley, S Garaway.

Also present J Nichols Minute Secretary,

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting,

Apologies for absence were received from J. Henderson, R Haddow, Cllr T billings, H Underwood and Patricia Gibson MSP. Following the retirement of Hugh Boag, Arran Banner were awaiting the appointment of a reporter for the Island.

Declarations of interest – There were no declarations of interest.

2. Minutes of Meeting held on 28th November 2023

The minute of the meeting held on the 28th November 2023 was approved.

Proposed by J Graham and seconded by P. McKinnon

3. Matter arising from the minute

- The CC had written a further letter to the Bank of Scotland, but no further update had been received and closure will proceed.

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:

December 2023: 58 recorded police incidents relating to Arran.

January 2024 (up to 29/1/24): 62 recorded police incidents relating to Arran.

Of the combined 120 incidents:

- 6 relate to RTCs: all of which were minor in nature although 2 incidents involved vehicles driving into Corrie Harbour

Of the 7 crimes recorded over the 2 month period:

- 1 relates failing to stop after an RTC.
- 1 relates to a fraud (online)
- 2 relates to minor vandalisms (to motor cars)
- 1 relates to drink driving.
- 1 relates to failing to comply with bail conditions.

Nothing to suggest any worrying trends from all the incidents.

Monthly activities and other information:

- All in all, a relatively quiet couple of months, especially over the Christmas period.
- 2023 saw a rise in recorded incidents (912, up 112 from 800 in 2022) but a dramatic fall in recorded crime seeing 2023 one of the lowest in recent memory (116, down 50 from 168 in 2022).
- There were a couple of potential bogus callers/doorstep traders on the island which were only caught through Arran's social media pages. Once traced, they were genuine and advised of the No Cold Calling Zone. If anyone has unwanted traders at their door then please report it to Trading Standards or the Police. Info article in last week's Arran Banner to highlight this.
- There has been an incident of fishing/scallop taking from within Lamlash Bay's `No Take Zone` (NTZ). Arran boasts the only NTZ in Scotland and I've been working alongside COAST and Marine Compliance Officers to ensure incidents like this don't happen again.
- Interviews commence tomorrow (31/1/24) for this year's summer secondment officers and I'm pleased to say that, as per previous years, Arran will receive its usual quota of an additional 4 officers from elsewhere in Scotland to support me and the Island's permanent policing team.
- Illegal drugs on the island continue to be of particular concern and remain at the top of my local priorities. I'd urge anyone with any information to please submit any information to me or anonymously through Crimestoppers (details below). Any information has the potential to save a life.

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

29/01/24

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



Tom Young queried the position of the Police in relation to the proposed change of responsibilities in respect of parking enforcement from Police Scotland to North Ayrshire Council. Concern was expressed in how changes may affect current parking on some pavements around the villages where there were no easy alternative arrangements apparent.

Sgt Blackley advised that information was still awaited from NAC as to whether the issue will be Decriminalised .

It was not known if anyone will be employed on Arran in relation to enforcement of any changes to parking.

Bill Calderwood agreed to seek clarification from Cllr Billings in this respect

5. NAC Local Officers report

Brodie had submitted a report:

Roads

NAC were catching up with road repairs after colder temperatures had diverted operatives to gritting and storms to reactionary flooding works continuing with clearing roads drainage, off lets, ditches etc along with starting gully emptying programme.

Streetscene

NAC had commenced work to Brathwic Play Park fencing and boarding that had been delayed due to winter gritting of footways.

HWRC/Transfer Station

NAC were still working to clear the backlog of waste from failure of the ferry to sail from before Christmas. This Monday morning it had been closed until 11am as awaiting empty containers from the mainland. No dates confirmed for commercial customers depositing at the HWRC but it was open to domestic customers and neither waste collections for domestic or commercial were affected including special uplifts.

6. Correspondence

“Contact-us” messages received:

- Note received regarding Prior Consultation Regarding Intent to Certify Forests on Arran passed to Ricky.
- Reminder that the sign-up deadline to join the People’s Panel has been extended until close of business on **9 February 2024**.
- Next Arran Housing Task force meetings was scheduled for 13th Feb.
- Arran Locality partnership: The action note arising from the meeting held on 29 November is now available on the CPP Website.

Feedback from Shiskine parents with note of thanks and photo from pupils for the grant received.

- Message to contacts Jim H and Cllr re forthcoming events in Lamlash. Jim Henderson has responded.

- Reminder for opportunity To participate in the consultation, visit the CC website: [Public Consultation for the next Clyde & Hebrides Ferry Services Contract \(CHFS3\)](#). Several members had attended the drop in and closing date for submission is 8th March.

7. Treasurers Report

Julie provided the Treasurers Report of the current position.

Treasurers Report for Community Council Meeting Tuesday 30th January 2024

Admin Account

Balance: £1200.00p

Project Account:- No Transactions

Balance: - £171.08p

Scottish Power Renewables Grant

No Transactions

Bank Balance: - £32,920.46p

Money to set aside:- £12,756.00p

Balance:- £20,164.46p

8 Reports from Sub Committees

a. Ferries:

- Actions followed up on disrupted sailings.
- Lack of progress to establish plans for Irish berth resilience.
- Recent release of summer timetable.
- Request to submit Winter timetable request for North route only.
- Traffic tailback solutions still uncertain with Kiosk move now uncertain.
- Also pushed for update on outstanding Ar Turas ticketing system issues.
- AFC will respond to CHFS3 consultation and also follow up for road and rail connectivity.
- Task force work continues ahead of expected meeting with Minister in February.

It was reported that Calmac had not provided carrying numbers since the new ticketing system was introduced in April 23.

The Caledonian Isles is not expected to return until 7th March 2024 earliest.

9. NAC Councillors Report

Cllr Billings had provided a written report, which had been previously circulated.

Arran Island Plan

The steering group has met several times to sift through all the information gathered in the events towards the end of last year and to set out a programme of work for 2024. It is clear that many people are starting to see the benefits of the Island Plan and are getting involved in the ongoing work. This is exciting progress and the aim in 2024 is to build on what has been achieved.

From what people have told us, the main themes for the year should be:

- **Skills** – appoint a skills coordinator and implement the recommendations of the Arran Skills Report
- **Decarbonisation** - actively working towards Arran as a Net Zero island.
- **Transport** - upgrading of island transport to more closely meet the needs of both islanders and visitors.
- **Digitalisation** - to explore upgrading digital infrastructure, developing an Arran 'data model' to capture key metrics to support future planning, development and funding.

These are in addition to the ongoing housing task force work.

The three elements of the island plan (economy, community, environment) will be involved in these strands of work. We will be holding a workshop on Tuesday 23rd April at 6pm (venue tbc). This will be a public gathering so that this programme can be presented and discussed, and to establish the work groups required for each of these themes to be taken forward.

At that event the Island Plan web site will be launched. The site will have information about who is doing what and how islanders can get involved. It will be an important tool in broadcasting the Island Plan work and enabling everyone to be involved.

Arran Housing Task Force

At the meeting in December there was presentation of the data sets used to inform the housing survey report. The full report is due to be presented to the group later in February. To take forward the findings of the report there will need to be further work on action points coming from the report. It was agreed that 3 small sub groups would be set up which would enable more detailed discussions to take place on

Research – Examine affordable housing across Scotland, review Scottish Government policies/guidance, etc.

Funding – Investigate funding options for affordable housing on Arran.

Supply – Explore options to supply affordable housing on Arran such as off-site construction.

The groups will report back to the main Task Force with their findings and to agree actions.

Local Development Plan

There is still time for the Arran Community Council to develop a Local Place Plan for Arran. The first Local Plan was approved at the recent meeting of the Planning Committee. It was

submitted by West Kilbride Community Council and clearly sets out the issues and aspirations of that area. Further information is available from North Ayrshire Council's planning department. A copy of West Kilbride Local Place Plan can be found on the agenda for the Planning Committee held on 24th Jan 2024

Council Tax on 2nd Homes

At the next meeting of North Ayrshire Council there will be debate and decision on the levels of council tax for second homes (Meeting on Wednesday 14th February). I have received correspondence from a number of people to express their views on this topic. If anybody would like to let me know what they think about the issue please do get in touch. The stated reason for imposing a 100% supplement on to the council tax for 2nd homes is to discourage people from having second homes thereby releasing them on to the housing market for those without homes to buy. My view is that the additional tax will not achieve that aim and has the potential to harm the tourism industry that relies on active 2nd home owners and self-catering holiday lets. However, if a tax supplement is added then the additional money raised on Arran should be used on Arran to help address the affordable housing needs as identified in the Arran housing report.

North Ayrshire Council Budget

Councillors will be setting the budget for the year 2024/5 at the council meeting on Wednesday 28th February. We already know that this will be a challenging meeting given the budget decisions coming from the Scottish government. The papers for this meeting will be published on Thursday 22nd February and I encourage you to read them to see what is being proposed. I would welcome any comments about the proposals so that it can guide by input to the debates on the day.

One further thing to mention is the impending enforcement of pavement parking. I did ask that the area in front of the Burlington was given an exemption but the request was not accepted. Cars currently Park with one set of wheels on the pavement along there still leaving plenty of room on the pavement. If the Whiting Bay reps would like to discuss further and possibly reapply please ask them to get in touch. Same would apply for any other areas.

Timothy Billings

10 AOCB

Peter McKinnon reminded the CC that several years ago a suggestion had been made to various organisations and community groups to have a flag bearing a design that could possibly be used as a symbol for the Island. This had previously been discussed at several Island forums but had not led to progression of this suggestion. Discussion indicated that there is still no interest for CC to pursue.

Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 27th February 2024 @ 6pm

Ormidale Pavilion