

Isle of Arran Community Council
Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 27th February 2024
Held At Ormidale Sports Pavilion - Brodick

Present: W. Calderwood (chair), J. Graham, T Young, J. Adam, S Garraway,
J. Henderson, R Haddow,
Also present J Nichols Minute Secretary, Cllr T billings, H Underwood (NAC)
The Chair welcomed all to the meeting,

Apologies for absence were received from Sgt Blakely, P. McKinnon, R. McMaster,
Patricia Gibson MSP and Colin Smeaton Arran Banner

Declarations of interest – There were no declarations of interest.

2. Minutes of Meeting held on 30th January 2024

The minute of the meeting held on the 30th January 2024 was approved.
Proposed by J Graham and seconded by S. Garraway

3. Matter arising from the minute

- Bank of Scotland No further update had been received and the Bank had now closed..

4. Police Report

Sergeant Blackley was on annual leave and no report was available this month.

5. NAC Local Officers report

Helen spoke to a written report she had submitted in relation to NAC.

- **Roads**

After recent wintery/stormy weather the team is now picking up routine maintenance tasks including ditching, gully emptying and pothole patching. Winter standby continues until early April and so further disruption is possible depending on the early spring weather.

We are receiving pothole reports via the online fault reporting system and these are being added to our programme – thank you to all customers who are engaging via that system. Please note this system is for reporting specific faults such as potholes, damaged signs, blocked ditches etc. Please use https://www.portal.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/site/portal/redirected/nac_contact_us for queries about road conditions, general observations or enquiries.

- **Streetscene**
Fence replacement works at Brathwic Playpark are now complete.
The installation of new picnic benches at Brodick playpark is planned to be undertaken during March.
- **WTS/HWRC**
After the ferry related disruptions during January, we have been able to accept commercial waste at the HWRC since early February, permit holders have been contacted.

Bill Calderwood enquired when the Roads Plan for Arran would be available. Helen advised that this would be after the NAC Budget Setting takes place tomorrow. This was confirmed by Cllr Billings, who confirmed that the way the roads requirements are established is based on needs following categorisation. The NAC Budget is not compiled on the basis of Arran receiving a fixed amount and the remainder of NAC the balance.

Bill stressed the importance of seeing the outline plan as a matter of urgency. It was confirmed the repairs for the Ross Road came from the NAC overall budget for Roads.

Steve Garraway requested that NAC should have a Road Engineer to inspect and determine resurfacing and needs.

Bill Calderwood requested early site of the Roads Plan in order that a meeting might be held. Concern was expressed that the expenditure on Roads last year may not have been value for money.

Helen confirmed that larger scale work had been carried out on the Sting and at Lochranza. White lining work at Whiting Bay remains to be completed.

In terms of surface dressing, Helen confirmed that 2 areas treated had failed and the contractor will be returning. Some of the work on the String is the responsibility of the Contractor, which is the subject of a meeting to be held shortly.

Helen confirmed that drainage/ditching requirements should be reported on the NAC Roads system.

It was noted that NAC have implemented a 'Beat the Street' initiative.

It was reported that NAC had identified the 2 worst points of Coastal erosion in North Ayrshire as Millport and Garnock Valley. Cllr Billings was requested to speak to NAC in relation to the recent NAC investments on Cumbrae for reinforcement of rock armour to slow coastal erosion.

6. Correspondence

"Contact-us" messages received:

- Road closure notices circulated.
- Reminder for opportunity to participate in the consultation, please visit our website: [Public Consultation for the next Clyde & Hebrides Ferry Services Contract \(CHFS3\)](#). Several members have attended the drop in and closing date for submission is 8th March.

General:

- VisitArran are organising a tourism conference. 5th March CC have a seat.
- Student asking for interview participants for PhD on community alcohol partnerships (CAPs).
- David Hammond appointed as Executive Director of Communities.
- Invite to contribute to NAC Community Transport Study.

7. Treasurers Report

Julie provided the Treasurers Report of the current position.

Treasurers Report for Community Council Meeting Tuesday 27th February 2024

Admin Account

No transactions

Balance: £1200.00p

Project Account:- No Transactions

Balance: - £171.08p

Scottish Power Renewables Grant

Bank Balance: - £32,920.46p

Transactions from January Grant

Arran Rainbows	£500.00	
Lamlash Com Hub	£1000.00	still waiting bank details.
COAST	£ 6293.00	still waiting bank details.
<u>Projected Balance:-</u>	£25,127.46	

Money to set aside:-

2024	£8256.00
2025	£10,793.00

Next Grant payment expected ~May 2024

Bill Calderwood reported that the renewal of the Zoom Licence cost would now be ~£150. This was proposed for payment by Tom Young and seconded by Steve Garraway.

8 Reports from Sub Committees

a. Ferries:

- Main topic was discussion around Service3 resilience.
- Submitted request for Winter 24/25 timetable for north route.
- Request to submit Winter timetable request for North route only.
- AFC will response to CHFS3 consultation prepared.
- Messages sent to Transport Minister requesting meeting.

- Submitted examples of Ar Turas “fails” it has been investigated and sourced to system error which has been fixed. Further updates planned to improve other issues.
- Failure of Fenders at Arran berth highlighted and request for prompt return to Ardrossan.
- Brodick and Ardrossan staff had attended Troon to help “emergency” diversion.
- Advised that AOM has moved and interim manager in place.
- Next community Board meeting scheduled for 8th March.

9. NAC Councillors Report

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

Ferry Issues

Clearly the main representative body on Arran for ferry matters is the Arran Ferry Committee. However, as a local councillor I have been trying to use my influence to help support the decisions of the Ferry Committee. To this end I took a motion to the meeting of North Ayrshire Council on 14th February asking for the council’s support for the Ferry Committee’s approach to helping mitigate the impacts of our current ferry situation. The council has given its formal approach. I should also note that the Chief Executive and the Council Leader are already taking every opportunity they have to raise the Arran ferry situation with the Scottish government.

Following that meeting I spoke with Graham Simpson MSP, the shadow for the transport minister, who said that he would use his regular meeting with the transport minister to highlight the seriousness of this situation and the Ferry Committee’s requests to help address the issues.

This was also taken up by a number of newspapers and the BBC. During my conversations with the press, I emphasised the positive impact that the suggested mitigations could provide and that Arran remains a wonderful place to visit.

Arran Housing Task Force

The draft of the full report was presented to the group. There is some further work still to do before it is ready for publication, however, the report will form the basis of the next steps.

The next steps will be done by the three working groups:

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.

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 meeting of North Ayrshire Council on Wednesday 14th February it was agreed that before any decision was made regarding the imposition of a council tax penalty on 2nd homes as full island impact assessment is required. The purpose will be to better understand the possible impacts (both positive and negative) on the island's social and economic factors. The impact assessment will include a public consultation.

North Ayrshire Council Budget

Councillors will be setting the budget for the year 2024/5 at the council meeting on Wednesday 28th February. The agenda for this meeting have been published and the list of proposals (including the required savings) are set out in the papers. If anyone has any questions or comments that they would like me to take to the meeting, please let me know.

Bill Calderwood noted that the Arran Plan seemed to have taken over from the LDP.

The current position in relation to possible grant funding in respect of development of public convenience facilities required further clarification. It was noted that extremely short timescales were proposed for the application process.

10 AOCB

Nil

Date of Next Meeting:

Tuesday 26th March 2024 @ 6pm

Ormidale Pavilion