

Isle of Arran Community Council

Minute of Meeting and EGM held on Tuesday, 24th November
2008
Council Offices, Lamlash

Those present were:

Campbell Laing (CL) Chair, Alison Prince (AP) Secretary, Harry Davidson (HDn) Treasurer, Cllr Margie Currie (MC), Scott McMurray (SMc), Gillean Langley (GL), Neil Arthur (NA), John Inglis (JI), Ian Small (IS), Brenda Stewart (BS), Jenny Meade (JM), Willie Kelso (WK), Richard McMaster (RMc).

Alec Ulivi (AU) and Andrew Perrie of Strathclyde Police, David Christison (DC), Jennifer Lyon (Arran Banner) and Jim Nichols (ACVS) also attended.

Apologies for absence

Howard Driver (HD)

Youth Facility in Brodick

CL welcomed David Christison, present on behalf the Arran Youth Forum, who gave a report on the progress towards the establishment of a drop-in centre for young persons in Brodick. DC outlined how a group of citizens had been working for over a year to try to provide a facility, which had now progressed to the stage where funds were available to erect a temporary Portacabin building on a site behind the bowling green, near the (Alldays) Co-op in Brodick. Temporary planning permission had been granted, and there will be provision for electricity to the site.

It is intended that the Youth Centre will be controlled by Young People themselves, with assistance from a few adults to handle legal, funding etc issues. A similar model of operation has been established at a centre in Ardrossan, and this model forms the basis to set up the Brodick centre. Currently, the group is seeking charitable status, and a number of responsible adults will be going through the Disclosure (Scotland) process.

It was hoped the building would open early in the New Year. The Centre would include a large room, a computer facility, and a small room for 1-1 discussions. Initially the main use would be for socialising.

Longer term, it is hoped that a Phase II to the project might include a permanent building.

JI drew attention to the £10000 that will shortly be allocated by the Community Council to a project(s) on Arran. DC was aware, and would be researching the criteria.

CL asked about possible alternative sites. DC indicated that the possibility of land behind the tennis courts was being explored. Ormidale Pavilion had been considered, but the Arran Sports Association was not in favour.

IS, who is also chair of the Sports Association, advised that the approach received had been in respect of siting the temporary building, not a permanent building.

MC advised that the Temporary Planning permission ran for a year, and is renewable. A lease was being drawn up by NAC.

IS was against a permanent site in the location of the temporary building, and felt that this was the wrong place for a Drop-in Centre. He felt a more appropriate site would be behind Woolley's Bakery, which was less prone to flooding.

SMc noted that the alternative site suggested was also liable to flooding.

HDn reported that Brodick Improvements Committee was not in favour of the proposed Centre being hidden behind the Bowling Green. AU suggested the location should be suitable, given that a responsible adult would be present.

EGM

The EGM had been convened to amend the constitution of Arran Community Council to:

1. Change the date of future AGM's of ACC from October to November each year and
2. Amended wording to permit any member of the community to act as Minute Secretary for ACC. (Section 4eiii)
3. Minor text alterations to Sections 8d and Section 10
(The detailed wording of the changes are attached to the master Minutes)

These amendments had been agreed with NAC, and were
Proposed Neil Arthur Seconded Gillean Langley
Approved unanimously.

Minutes of the last meeting held 23rd October 2008 were approved, with two amendments:
Page 1 penultimate paragraph to read "fast traffic coming down from Brodick
Page 2 Planning (1st bullet point) Cllr Margie Currie was present at the meeting. Katy Clarke MP was not present.

Appointment of Officers

John Inglis was appointed Vice- Chair of the Committee.

Matters arising

- HDn reported that there were still problems with youths cycling in Whiting Bay after dark, with no lights. This had the potential for a serious accident. AU indicated that the police had not seen the problem themselves, and would discuss the matter with the Sergeant.

Association of Scottish Community Councils (ASCC)

HDn gave a full account of the ASCC Conference 2008 that he had attended with CL.

- The National Secretary had spoken of the apparent reluctance of COSLA to support empowerment of CC's.
- In terms of funding, the majority of CC's are financially supported to a greater degree than that received from North Ayrshire Council.
- With regard to the pilot scheme, the ASCC feels that £10000 is a relatively small sum to be awarded.
- The Asst Chief Constable of Strathclyde spoke of a future plan to gradually shift from responsive policing to community policing.
- HDn would make his fuller brief of the conference available to any AC member who wished to see it.
- There was the need to investigate whether ACC had (or needed) insurance. MC agreed to ascertain if NAC cover CC's.

Correspondence

There was no correspondence to record.

NA advised that he had written to Katy Clark MP and Kenneth Gibson MSP expressing concern that initiatives at national level to free up money for businesses to expand had not yet happened. This could have consequences for Island businesses after Christmas.

Police

- AU reported that there had been 105 incidents, and that 15 reports had been raised.

Health

- Mr Bob Miller, the Head of the Ambulance Service on the mainland was visiting the island to meet CL. It was reported that the personnel on the Island had been increased by 1 paramedic and 4 technicians.

- NA expressed concern that it still appeared that ambulance staff were not always familiar with the topography relating to houses on Arran.

Housing

- JI reported that HIFAR had a meeting scheduled with NAC and the Forestry Commission, to discuss a feasibility study for a site at North Sannox.
- The Rural Housing Conference takes place on 26th February 2009. JI had been the ACC delegate in 2008, and would be attending in 2009.
- NA referred to a recent report in the Arran Voice, giving affordable and social housing plans for Arran. MC spoke of the North Ayrshire Strategic Housing Investment Programme (SHIP) that had been submitted to the Scottish Government. Whilst the figures may seem high, they were indicative only, and were not necessarily the numbers that would eventually be built.
- NA was concerned that £2.3 million raised in Second Home Council Tax may not be spent in the areas that it was raised, Arran being the largest income stream. MC had been assured by the NAC Chief Executive that Arran will receive the money for future developments.

Planning

- In the absence of HD, CL read a written submission from HD. In respect of a proposal to erect 4 semi detached houses at Litchfield, Corrie, a request for a copy of the full plans has been submitted. JI expressed concerns of residents of Corrie Terrace that they may be looked into if this development proceeds. The CC agreed to support an objection on the grounds that 4 additional houses would be overdevelopment of the site.
- An application in respect of Ardsona, Strathwhillan Road was noted.
- In respect to an application under the clachan development scheme regarding a site to the north of Knockenkelly, a counter application has been submitted that will be considered on an earlier date. A decision was deferred until HD has had sight of the plans.
- Contact has been made with NAC Environmental Health concerning the burning of materials at Corrie Quarry.

Ferry Committee

- GL reported that no decision had been taken regarding the use of mv Saturn for next summer. The decision had been deferred, and the Ferry Committee were writing to the Minister expressing concerns re the delay.
- Calmac had confirmed that Gourock continues as port of refuge for the Caledonian Isles.
- MC reported a problem that has been identified with Network Rail regarding one section of the proposed covered walkway from the rail platform to the ferry terminal. Work would still be able to proceed on part of the covered access, but the link to the platform could not go ahead due to the overhead power cables.
- Concern was expressed regarding the long term parking in the newly tarmaced area opposite the Ferry Terminal.

AOCB

- IS reported that Brodick Improvements Committee had to apply for a licence from NAC to put the Christmas lights on the lampposts in Brodick
- MC reported that NAC were still considering the implementation infrastructure for the '20's Plenty' outside schools. Arran will be the last area in Nth Ayrshire to be addressed.
- Suggestions for the SG pilot award of money to Arran CC should be received by 2nd December 2008.

The next normal meeting will be on Tuesday 27th January 2009, at 7.30 pm in the NAC Offices, Lamlash.