

# Isle of Arran Community Council

## MINUTES

Meeting held on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> August 2010

**Present** were: Campbell Laing, Chair, Alison Prince, Secretary, Gillean Langley, Willie Kelso, Charles Currie, John Inglis, Brenda Stewart, Ian McCallum, Richard McMaster, Cllr Margie Currie

**Apologies** from Harry Davidson and Bob McKay of Strathclyde Police

**Campbell Laing**, who is retiring from the Community Council, was presented with a token and thanked very much for his ten years of devoted work. Gillean Langley is also retiring, and she, too, was thanked.

**Minutes of the last meeting** were agreed to be correct.

### **Matters arising:**

Campbell Laing had received agreement from Paul Shiach of NAC that the Community Council elections should be held one week later, in order to allow time for the necessary procedures to take place.

Willie Kelso asked if the quoted price of £150,000 for repairs to Brodick beach was correct, as the proposed area to be treated was now less than originally envisaged. The secretary will write to NAC and ask for the cost per metre to be confirmed.

Margie Currie said Angus Bodie is the new NAC Roads officer, and would like to meet ACC members at some point. This was welcomed.

**Mary Pritchard of Isle of Arran Homes** (IOAH) gave a brief report on the Corrie Quarry housing development. Houses will be allocated by IOAH, with 83% of houses being for Arran dwellers (22 out of the 24). One house will go to a person with strong island connections, the remaining one elsewhere. Four are 1-bedroom amenity houses, for which there is the strongest demand. However, 1-bedroom houses are no cheaper to build than 2-bedroom units, so in future the policy will be to build 'above basic occupant need', which will allow more flexibility. Margie Currie pointed out that there would be need for teacher accommodation now that the school houses had been sold off. Willie Currie questioned the need for this, suggesting that teachers could afford to pay commercial prices, but it was pointed out that £78,000 p.a. is now the income level required in order to get a mortgage on Arran – possibly the highest in Scotland.

### **Correspondence:**

Campbell Laing had a letter from Jenny Meade, announcing her retirement. He read a letter from a visitor about litter on beaches and the smell of rotting seaweed at Blackwaterfoot. The secretary will reply.

Alison Prince had two letters from Elma Murray of NAC, the first about the proposed treatment for Brodick beach. Margie Currie confirmed that the sand to go in the geotextile bags would be locally sourced. The second letter, in response to ACC's concerns about inadequate communication with the Council, said there was no record of an unanswered letter to Campbell Laing.

The local island officers had both indicated that they were willing to attend ACC meetings, though neither of them was free on Tuesday evenings during the summer season.

Magnox North had written to propose a 'near surface' spent graphite disposal facility at Hunterston power station. They were keen to make this site available to other producers of the same waste substance. Margie Currie said NAC were opposed to any expansion of the facility to include other waste. The secretary will write to NAC in agreement with their stance on this matter.

## **Housing**

John Inglis had been to a housing 'Expo' in Inverness and was impressed by the 'stunning' variety of innovative designs and building techniques, including such effective insulation that no central heating was needed. Margie Currie said there had been a change of attitude at NAC, and applicants should be aware that innovative approaches are now being considered, including the use of non-standard materials such as turf for roofs

John Inglis gave an update on Sannox Church. A potential buyer is now in the field but there has been no deal between him and the church authorities, who are still keen on the original plan. Quotes for dry rot treatment have turned out to be less expensive than feared.

## **Planning**

Charles Currie reported that a Shiskine application in the site of the Water Board house had been turned down

## **AOCB**

Alison Prince said the Riding for the Disabled Association had with regret abandoned their plans to build a covered indoor centre, due to the extreme bureaucratic difficulties raised by the national RDA.

Margie Currie said the Lady Jean would be 90 years old this November. An account at the Bank of Scotland in Brodick has been opened for donations for a carved seat, to be made by Tim Pomeroy and placed in the Castle gardens.

Willie Kelso stressed the need for repainting of the white lines on car parking areas. He raised the question of Council workers doing routine jobs on a Sunday to benefit from the higher wage rates.

Richard McMaster asked why we still had an Access Officer, when funding was so short. Margie Currie said the current officer worked extremely hard, doing an essential job, and pointed out that the encouragement of walking, cycling and exploring the environment was an enshrined Government ethic.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, 28<sup>th</sup> September 2010, at 7.30 pm in the Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick