

# Cumbræ Community Council

Meeting Minutes Thursday 10 January 2019, Garrison House

**Present:** Crawford Gillan, Sharon Hagan, Angie McCallum, Graham Wallace (chair)

**In Attendance:** Michael Bertram (CCDC), PC Michael Emans, Ron Gilchrist (Fairlie), Lesley Stringer (minutes), 7 members of the public

**Apologies:** Phil Lonsdale, Cllr Tom Marshall

**Minutes of the last meeting:** The minutes of the last meeting, held on 13 December 2018, as amended (to include Friends of Millport Town Hall in the groups attending the NAC community building meeting), were proposed by Sharon Hagan and seconded by Crawford Gillan as a true record.

## Matters arising from previous minutes

**1. Cycle path update.** There was nothing to report, as no progress has been made. GW will follow up to see if all landowners on the proposed route have been approached yet by Sustrans.

**2. Planning applications.** Comments on relevant applications to date have been sent to planners. It was noted that Kirkton has been denied consent to provide a year-round storage facility for touring caravans.

**3. Seal carcasses.** PL raised the issue of arranging disposal of a number of decomposing seal carcasses on Kames Bay and Newton sands with NAC but was advised to simply notify the local council office. The very restricted opening hours of the local office make this a very impractical solution. To be followed up further by PL.

**4. Seafront benches.** A number of these were thrown out of place by recent storms, representing a hazard to people and property. They need to be removed or bolted down during the winter.

**ACTION:** CG to pursue with NAC

**5. Flooding in Stuart, Glasgow, Kelburne, College and Kames Streets.** Despite complaints to the council by residents and assurances that works would be carried out to the drains, roads and pavements affected before Christmas, there has still been no action taken by NAC. CG will continue to pursue.

## Brief reports of outside meetings attended

None attended.

## Agenda Items

**1. Police report.** Other than a few warnings about alcohol consumption over the New Year, it has been quiet. The owner of the sheep loose on the coast road has been spoken to about ensuring they are safely fenced off the road. Dog excrement on pavements is a problem, and Police intend to take enforcement action, which could include on-the-spot fines of £40.

**ACTION:** Helen Millar of NAC to be approached to provide signage to warn of offence and penalty

**2. Planning matters.** No new planning applications received since last CCC meeting.

**3. Town Hall update.** Funding applications for the Town Hall feasibility study have secured 88% of the funds needed. There is a shortfall of £2500; an application is being made to the Millport Common Good Fund and a fundraiser is being organised to raise the outstanding amount. The study will take about 3 months and will be followed by a presentation to the community, around March, to share the findings. Everyone is encouraged to talk to any of the Friends of Millport Town Hall so that all ideas and opinions can be heard. Success depends on the viability of the project, and also the support and uptake by the community.

**4. SSEN cable update.** Concerns have been raised about the poor quality of the footpath reinstatement where the cable has been installed between West Haven and Fintry Bay. A 1.2m resurfaced pavement was promised, but only the base layer is currently in place, and there is yellow plastic sheeting visible. It is understood that the completion of the work been delayed until the spring. There are kerbstones missing, damaged or below the level of the road surface, and thus concerns that the new road or pavement could break up and that there will be flooding. GW has approached Stewart Walker of NAC, who has advised that the surfacing of the full length of the footpath is “essentially a goodwill gesture by SSEN and is not being funded by NAC. There is no scope within the SSEN costs for relaying existing kerbs or laying new kerbs...and the Council does not have the power to compel them to carry out remedial kerbing works.” The area is to be assessed by NAC to identify any routine remedial works needed. GW has again urged NAC to take the opportunity, while the SSEN completion work is delayed, to fix the kerbstones and create a finish to a standard that may last a reasonable amount of time.

### Presentations

Angus Campbell, the island’s representative on the Calmac Community Board, gave an update on the Board’s activities. The Board meets quarterly to capture the view of the communities served by Calmac on strategic direction across the service, as distinct from specific route issues that are dealt with by the Ferry Users Groups. Current Board activities include addressing communications during disruptions, fleet deployment & resilience, ticketing and facilities at ports and timetabling. Showcasing local businesses on the ferry is being trialled on the Colonsay route and a community noticeboard to promote local events is under consideration.

Locally, the Cumbrae Ferry Users Group had pushed for the break in ferry service at 9am to be filled rather than moved to 10 am, but Transport Scotland would not agree to the additional sailing. The change now inconveniences a different group of passengers and it is possible the break time may be returned to 9am - a survey of users is planned. The traffic disruption caused by cars queuing at both Largs and Cumbrae is being looked at by NAC. Priority ferry access for island residents has

been discussed for Cumbrae as well as for the Arran and Mull routes with Calmac & Scottish Government, however the outcome was that Calmac is now considering charging for unused bookings (business owners on the bookable routes often pre-book a block of sailings to ensure they can get on the ferry).

The issue of the very poor road condition at the ferry slip was raised from the floor – it is NAC rather than Calmac who are responsible so the matter will be raised with Stewart Walker of NAC.

ACTION: GW to approach Stewart Walker

## **AOCB**

### **1. DA hall repairs**

Michael Bertram reported that contractors were due to start repairs to the DA hall on the 21<sup>st</sup> January. They're expected to take 2 weeks and it's hoped to have the hall back in action by early February.

### **2. Ferry road footway**

Hedges have been trimmed back by the landowner but leaves and debris are narrowing the carriageway and footway. Responsibility for keeping the footway clear lies with NAC, and CCC has already approached Streetscene who have confirmed they are working at the task of clearing the footway as requested "as resources allow".

### **3. Roadside hedges and bushes Fintry/White Bay**

One of the landowners has completed work to trim back vegetation affecting the road and the other has advised they will do so in the New Year. The NAC roads inspector will check on his next visit to Cumbrae.

### **4. CARS scheme**

CCC has sent feedback on the very high estimates being given for work under the CARS scheme and the onerous conditions for contractors. There have been some amendments to the scheme announced, including increased grants and non-VAT registered companies being allowed to quote for work, but those present felt that these didn't address the main issues preventing uptake of the scheme locally.

### **5. Peel Ports oil rig decommissioning at Hunterston**

On being requested to provide an update Ron Gilchrist reported that Peel Ports haven't as yet submitted a licence application to Marine Scotland. The Friends of the Firth of Clyde (FFC) are opposing the development of the decommissioning site, with concerns about the effect of sand removal, deep piling and toxic waste on the environment and particularly on the Southannan Sands and on marine mammals. They consider there is a lack of clarity about the intended use of the jetty and there are suggestions that Peel Ports intend to use explosives to bring down the large hopper. The group has taken legal counsel to investigate the planning processes etc. and propose presenting their findings and concerns to Cumbrae residents at a public meeting if there is interest.

Independent of FFC, a group is looking at promoting Cumbrae Marine Park - the area encompassing from Hunterston Sands SSSI to Portencross SSSI, across to Garroch Head, Kilchattan Bay and back to Fairlie – as ‘Scotlands Galapagos islands’. The Cumbraes is currently a Marine Consultation Area and there is a possibility of increasing to a Marine Protection Area status like Lamlash Bay where the marine life is now 40% more complex and there are higher densities of scallops, crabs and lobsters and juvenile cod and haddock following the designation.

There is a marine tourism conference, ‘Making Waves’, organised by NAC on 16/01 and the Scottish Marine Conference on 21/22 February that a CCC rep should attend, and which may be a good opportunity for the Save Millport Pier group to influence Scottish Government attendees.

The Peel Ports liaison group was to have been set up in June 2018 as a condition of the planning consent for decommissioning and CCC should have been invited to be one of the key bodies participating.

**ACTION:** RG to organise FFC meeting; CCC reps to register for marine conferences; GW to write to Peel Ports and NAC to follow up CCC representation on liaison group

#### **5. NAC councillor update**

The above additional standing item will be added to the CCC meeting agenda to encourage our elected representatives to attend or at least update the CCC on NAC discussions/issues which will impact on Cumbrae.

#### **6. Community councillor vacancy**

The vacant CCC post will be advertised via social media, posters and in the Largs & Millport Weekly News

**ACTION:** Calum Corral to include a piece in ‘Millport Notes’

**Date of next meeting: 5pm Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2019, at Garrison House, Millport**