

Cumrae Community Council
Meeting Minutes Thursday 9th May 2019, Garrison House

Present: Crawford Gillan - Chair (CG), Graham Wallace (GW), Alex Caldwell (AC), Lisa Christie (LC), Angie McCallum (AM) and Sandra McIntyre (SMcl).

In Attendance: Cllr. Tom Marshall, Cllr. Ian Murdoch, PC Debbie Beattie, Michael Bertram (MB) (CEO CCDC), 2 members of the public and Fraser Kelly, minute taker.

Apologies: Sharon Hagan and Cllr. Alan Hill

Minutes of the last meeting: The minutes of the last meeting, held on 11th April 2019, were proposed for approval by AC and seconded by LC.

Matters arising from previous minutes:-

Garrison Amusements Update

At the last meeting CCDC was asked to confirm whether or not NAC had given planning approval for the location of the Fun Fair in the Garrison grounds.

The meeting was advised that Historic Environment Scotland had been approached. They opined that this is a matter for the NAC planners to rule on. NAC in turn opined that as the operation has been in situ for over ten years with broadly the same footprint of equipment then no new planning permission is required.

CCC queried whether, as the Fun Fair has operated on several different sites within the Garrison under the current operator that the correct consents may not currently be held.

ACTION: CCC to write to Ian Davidson, NAC to clarify the '10yr rule', what was classed as 'the site' and whether, if both criteria had been met to the satisfaction of NAC Planning Dept, could this, in theory, give CCDC/ GH and the fairground operators carte blanche to further extend the site without any further reference to NAC planners.

STANDING ITEMS

Police Report:-PC Beattie reported that no major incidents had to be dealt with by the police since the last CCC Meeting in April.

Several issues were discussed:

1. Ferry Road Speeding – Police acknowledged that there is an issue and that some drivers are driving at inappropriate, yet lawful, speeds on some of the trickier stretches of the road. Police have had appropriate discussions with some local residents but recognise that problems remain. On broadly the same theme, the Police traffic division alongside NAC and Calmac will be conducting a survey of queuing ferry traffic in both Cumrae and Largs as the tailbacks and congestion can be severe and impact non-ferry road users;

2. Scootabout Scooters – Concerns have been raised about the parking of electric scooters in two car parking spaces on the pavement outside the operator’s shop and the potential impact upon road users. Police are aware but have concluded that, as the law stands, there is nothing they can do to prevent this. Restricting this operator would have a knock on effect upon others and could not be done in isolation;
3. Parking on North Side of the front street – concerns were raised around cars being parked here despite this being prohibited since 1st April. Police are aware and have been both warning drivers and, where necessary, issuing parking tickets;
4. Caravans / Motor Homes on front street / public drinking – concerns were raised around reported incidences of occupants of motor homes and caravans drinking outside their vans on the front street despite the ban on drinking in public. The Police have not seen any examples of this but are alert to the issue and are monitoring to ensure that all caravans are parked legally and there is also no discharging of foul water tanks into the rainwater drains.
ACTION: As there is uncertainty around whether or not drinking in public is banned across the island as a whole or limited to the town, CCC will write to NAC Licensing to seek clarification on the matter.

Town Hall Update

Friends of Millport Town Hall are delighted to announce that it has been confirmed they have been awarded Charitable status. The new Charity Is called Millport Town Hall and is a SCIO.

The major task of fundraising can now begin in earnest and there will be a subsequent application to NAC for the transfer of ownership of the property.

Friends of Millport Town Hall would like to express their gratitude to Cumbrae Community Council for being its Umbrella Body over the past year.

Planning Applications:-

1. Kirkton Caravan Site (Millport Holiday Park) – Appeal against the decision to decline the planning application to be heard on 22/5;
2. Crichton Street – conditionally approved with main condition being that construction must begin within six months of consent and be completed within two years of consent;
3. 52 Glasgow Street –approved unconditionally;
4. 9 Stewart Street – new application submitted to NAC; and
5. 7 Guildford Street – new application submitted to NAC.

Statement from the Chair of CCC in relation to planning matters.

There would appear, following on from comments on Social Media and local press FB pages, to be a misunderstanding, or lack of knowledge, on what a Community Council can offer by way of opinion/ support or concern on in relation to planning matters.

Local Authorities are obliged by law to decide planning applications in accordance with the development plan for the area. The LDP sets out overarching, key policies, planning policies and proposals by topic.

North Ayrshire Council have agreed a suite of policies and proposals which gives North Ayrshire the best ingredients for high quality new development, as well as for protection and enhancement of our natural assets. Over the life of the Plan, expect to see further positive changes to the quality and attractiveness of our places, to achieve our vision for 'A Better Life' for our residents and visitors."

Coming to a reasoned judgement on these matters lies at the heart of the planning authority's discretionary power to approve, refuse or modify applications under the law and within a framework of national policy guidance. The community council's key task is helping to provide an informed local context within which appropriate decisions can be made in the public interest. The legitimate public interest in planning extends beyond those most directly affected by a proposal, to a wider community of interest in the wise development of the local environment.

It is my view that the Community Council cannot be in a position to say yah or nay to any application that would appear to fall outside the legal framework of the LDP or work outside any statutory or legislative framework that is in place at the relevant time.

BRIEF REPORT OF OUTSIDE MEETINGS ATTENDED AND MATTERS BEING PURSUED

No meetings this month.

AGENDA ITEMS

- I. Ferry Road Speeding covered in Police Report;
- II. Hunterston "B" – SSG update – The reactor has now been shut for a year as a result of cracking in the reactor structure. A major update meeting will be chaired by the ONR on 3rd June to which the main parties, including all 33 local councillors, will be invited. SSG will then host a further meeting on 6th June to which the public will be invited to attend although only in the capacity of observers. Operator, EDF, is said to be hoping to restart Reactor 4 on the 14th of May but there is no indication at this stage that the ONR will consent to this. Updates to follow;
- III. Clyde Marine Plan Consultation – Cumbrae sits at the heart of an area where material developments are being proposed including the potential decommissioning of oil rigs and other marine structures at Hunterston. It is vital that local people familiarise themselves with these proposals and a link to the consultation summary document is on the CCC Facebook page. A public meeting is to be held in the Brisbane Centre, Largs on 11th May 6pm-9pm. A meeting will be held at the FSC in Millport on 25th May with

timings to be advised via Facebook & Twitter. The deadline for submissions on the plan is 27th May;

- IV. Grounds Maintenance Participatory Budgeting – Ideas are invited from the public for how the budget is to be allocated. Feedback cards are available until the end of May to fill out in Millport Library. Alternatively, find the online survey at (www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/yourenvironment);
- V. National Islands Plan and Island Communities Impact Assessments – The Scottish Government is working on a bill that aims to improve outcomes for island communities as part of general policy decision making with a key focus on understanding the impact on islands arising from the likes of fuel and transport costs as well as broader economic and social policymaking. TM cited the example of Arran where Calmac has come under considerable criticism for the inadequacy of its main ferry service between Ardrossan and Brodick. Further details and a questionnaire can be found on the Scottish Government website (<https://consult.gov.scot/agriculture-and-rural-communities/national-islands-plan/>);
- VI. Millport FPS – Flood Prevention Scheme proposals will be going to the NAC Cabinet for approval on 15th May. If passed then public consultation will again take place in August with the objective of commencing construction in August 2021 and completion in March 2023. Some 200 people attended the public workshops in Millport with 29 providing formal feedback. Contrary to some press reports that suggested a higher number, the Marina development that is expected to follow completion of the FPS is expected to provide an approx. initial 80 berths. It was noted that feedback on the marina proposals was received from 50 people; The meeting was told that due to the importance of the FPS and the pier to the community - and as the FPS is, and probably always will be, the biggest project ever to impact on the island - NAC had been asked by us to ensure that whenever updates were posted on the NAC website we were also sent a copy of the uploaded information to the CCC email address in order that we in turn could alert the community. Unfortunately this request was refused.
The meeting agreed that due to the importance of the FPS and its impacts on the community we would again request that this direct notification be provided to the CCC whenever updates were to be posted on NAC's website in respect of the FPS.
Action - CCC to again write to Arthur Cowley (NAC) about this request.
- VII. Pier repair works update: works on the concrete section of the pier were expected to be completed in March but the timetable has slipped and is now expected to conclude by the end of June. It was commented that this will prevent anyone landing at the pier until the works are completed with the resultant economic impact this may have as the landing steps will be

closed to public access during the works. **ACTION:** CCC GW to write to NAC to seek reassurances on the timetable;

- VIII. CCC Grants for Local Groups and Individuals – CCC has funds available through the SSE Micro Grant Scheme. Applications should be made to the Community Council email inbox. The closing date and application process will have to be announced at the next CCC meeting. The prescribed process will be advertised in due course to the community through social media and local advertising;
- IX. Christmas Lights – CCC received a detailed letter from NAC around proposals for the Christmas lights and there is work to be done to drive this forward. **ACTION:** CG will arrange a meeting with Gary Wilson of NAC to agree an appropriate way forward;
- X. Roads Update – Various complaints have been raised around the state of road repair, particularly on Marine Parade at Farland Point, the junction of Ferry Road and the Shore Road at Balloch Bay and at a couple of locations on the Inner Circle. The flooding issues on the West side of the island are obviously not as marked as they have been due to drier weather and it is felt that we should wait to follow up with NAC once wetter weather returns and we can assess the impact. It is also noted that there are ongoing issues with Calmac and NAC on the state of the roadway at the Cumbrae Slip. To be discussed further at next CCC meeting;
- XI. St Beya Housing Consultant Meeting – A meeting will be held in the DA Hall on 20/6/2019 4pm – 6pm in the DA Hall. **ACTION:** Details of the meeting to be posted on CCC Facebook page;
- XII. Victorian Festival – This inaugural event received a very positive write up in the Largs & Millport Weekly News and it was noted that there had been a good number of family-friendly events. The organisers have indicated a desire to repeat this next year although perhaps on a different weekend. We will await further updates;
- XIII. Street Lighting – It is hoped that NAC will resolve the issue of 24/7 street lighting one way or another in the coming weeks. Updates to be provided as necessary;
- XIV. Flowers on benches – Complaints have again been made about dead and plastic flowers left attached to memorial benches around the town with the use of plastic ties and plastic wrapping to secure the flowers causing particular concern. CCC members recognise that memorials of this nature are an emotional and sensitive issue but ask islanders and visitors alike to remove flowers and plastic seven days after placing in order to prevent a build up of unsightly waste;

XV. Community Issues:

Cycling paths – There is evidently uncertainty around which stretches of the South Side Pavements in the Town are shared between cyclists and pedestrians. **ACTION:** CG to approach NAC to clarify the rights of cyclists to pavement use in the Town.

Bins on Promenade – Both Councillors agreed to speak to Streetscene to obtain further bins for use on the Promenade.

Street Plants – LC advised that Beecology has agreed to adopt the 7 black planters located between the Newton and the Crocodile Rock. Each can hold up to 25 plants. Streetscene has thus far refused to provide plants but Cllr Marshall has agreed to speak to Streetscene to resolve this.

NAC Councillors' Update.

Cllr Murdoch advised that the new CEO of NAC is already having an impact and is working to implement changes to the management structure that are expected to produce savings of c£400k pa.

It was suggested that we again invite Mr Hatton to the island to meet with the Community Council.

AOCB

- I. Attention was drawn to an application to NAC dated 22/4/2019 for a street trader's licence on the corner of Bute Terrace and College Street. It is not clear who has submitted this and for what purpose so greater clarity will be requested from NAC;
- II. The next meeting of the Hunterston Liaison Committee is to be held at Hunterston on 10th September at 2pm. Further details to follow;
- III. The Scottish Government has launched a consultation on the future governance of Short-Term Lets via the likes of AirBnB. Consultation is open for responses until 19 July 2019. Link – (<https://consult.gov.scot/housing-services-policy-unit/short-term-lets/>);
- IV. Plastic Free Community LC will give monthly updates on this worthwhile matter therefore going forward it will be under Standing Items.

Questions from the floor.

No questions were put forward.

The meeting was closed and a vote of thanks given to the Chair.

Date of next meeting: 5pm Thursday 13 June 2019, at Garrison House, Millport