

Cumbræ Community Council
Meeting Minutes Thursday 11th April 2019, Garrison House

Present: Crawford Gillan - Chair (CG), Graham Wallace (GW), Alex Caldwell (AC), Lisa Christie (LC) and Sandra McIntyre (SMCI)

In Attendance: Cllr. Tom Marshall, PC Debbie Beattie, Michael Bertram (CCDC), 2 members of the public, 2 Representatives from Largs and Millport Weekly News

Apologies: Angie McCallum and Sharon Hagan

Minutes of the last meeting: The minutes of the last meeting, held on 14th March 2019, were proposed by Graham Wallace and seconded by Sandra McIntyre as a true record.

Matters arising from previous minutes:-

Flooding and Drainage

GW gave an update on the Flooding and Drainage issues previously discussed and advised that the situation will be closely monitored as he had been told that the council did not believe that the position had worsened. Awaiting update.

Dog Fouling and Provision of Bins

Although larger bins have, as requested, been provided by the Council more are required as the small bins are regularly full and overflowing. Cllr Tom Marshall offered to take this forward on behalf of the Community Council and request further bins be provided.

Mud on Highway

Mud had not been cleared by the farmer on the Inner Circle road. It was agreed that another letter would be sent requesting that NAC have this dealt with. Awaiting update.

It was also agreed that a letter be sent to NAC asking what they intend to do re the mud on the highway that is now being generated as a result of cars having to mount the grass verge due to the extremely poor road surface at the top of the brae above Breakough Farm.

Newton Beach Junction Box

It was noted that the junction box at the end of the Newton Sands is still held together with tape, which states live on it, and it was agreed that yet another letter be sent to NAC requesting that it be repaired as a matter of urgency due to the possible danger it posed.

Damaged Benches around the Island

It would appear that repairs are being carried out by NAC to the benches around the island on an ongoing basis. NAC are to be thanked for this. A number of individuals have also taken it upon themselves to carry out repairs to a number of the benches as a gesture of community spirit.

Garrison Hedges / Trees

MB advised that Garrison Trees and Hedges will be discussed at the next CCDC meeting and he shall revert to CCC at our next meeting re the outcome.

Christmas Lights

NAC have been written to by CCC and this point is still under review. An update will be provided in due course.

Fun Fair and Location / Planning

A discussion took place re the local feeling about the location of the Fun Fair at the front of the Garrison grounds and what planning, if any, was required. Mr Newton attended the meeting and, although not required to do so, was very happy to enter in to the discussion and answer any question put to him as openly as he felt possible. MB, CEO of CCDC stated that, as Mr Newton had provided a substantial sum of money to assist with the removal of the mounds at the front of the Garrison, where the Fun Fair is now located, then it was only right that the owners of same could determine which location within the Garrison grounds they wished to use. MB was asked what planning permission was required, if any, for a Fun Fair as the understanding of the CCC was that anything over 28 days required some form of planning. MB has been asked to revert at the next monthly meeting in this regard. Mr Newton advised that, as a business, they had all the required licences/insurances in place, which was acknowledged as being good practice by the CCC committee.

Getting Ready for the Season

It was noted that the beaches had been cleaned and grass cut in time for the Easter weekend which was appreciated by all. LC advised that the Beecology had been given permission to plant some of the raised beds and the flower beds in the Kames Bay Area with flowers and a wild flower grass mix.

BRIEF REPORT OF OUTSIDE MEETINGS ATTENDED AND MATTERS BEING PURSUED

Hunterston Decommissioning

SM advised that she felt it was very clear that Peel Ports were only holding the meeting with all the local Community Councils as it was a condition of them receiving planning consent from NAC. Peel Ports advised that, as yet, they do not have an operator in place to carry out any work at the site therefore felt that any discussion was, at this point in time, hypothetical. They advised that they are in talks with a number of people with regards to what the site may be used for but were reluctant to be drawn on who or what was entailed. Peel Ports requested that the schedule re further meeting be put on hold until an operator has been appointed. This was agreed by all as a sensible approach.

Calmac

There is a survey that all are being encouraged to complete with regards to the operating times of the Largs to Cumbrae ferry. The findings and any resulting amendments to the timetable will be reported in due course.

The summer timetable has been shared on various social media sites.

Fuel Poverty

The Scottish Government is currently progressing the Fuel Poverty Bill. The bill sets a target to ensure that no more than 5% of households are fuel poor by 2040, with a clear definition of fuel poverty and the need to state how the target will be achieved. The Bill has to be Island-proofed and the Scottish Government are carrying out an ICIA. The new definition of fuel poverty is likely to result in large decreases in fuel-poor households recorded in Island areas. A consultation event with the Scottish Government and NAC was held 15th March. CCC attended along with local housing association and NAC housing and the SG. Discussion centred around ensuring that the fuel poverty situation on Islands is fully taken into account. Further information can be found at www.gov.scot/publications/draft-fuel-poverty-Scotland-2018/

Marina Working Group Meeting

All attendees were very supportive of the Marina plan. Discussion took place on potential funding/operating models. DTAS are interested in supporting this venture. Further research/design will be undertaken.

Further information re flood prevention can be found on NAC flood prevention page www.gov.scot/publications/draft-fuel-poverty-Scotland-2018

Tourism “the Coig” Event

Wednesday 27th March 2019, DA Hall, HERITAGE WORKSHOP 10:30AM – 12:30PM
Lisa and Crawford CCC

The workshop was not very well attended from locals and included 2 ladies from Fairlie and Alba Experiences (bus tour company) owner from Largs. It started off with some background and info.

‘Coig’ is Gaelic for 5 – there are 5 routes on this tourism initiative:

The Shire; The Shiel; The Arran; The Bute; The Cumbræ
(It’s North Ayrshire’s version of NC500)

After landscape and scenery, heritage and culture is the most popular reason for people to visit Scotland.

-Routes are for walking, cycling or car.

-All on a downloadable app that can work online or offline. ‘Explore Stirling’ app was shown as an example.

-To include audio creations, music, tourism groups, nature areas, shopping, etc.

-Heritage stories from the elderly and opportunity for college students to generate content for the app – inclusive to all ages for production.

There was a brainstorming event where those in attendance had to think of any historical points of interest and ‘hidden gems’ of the island that would be interesting for people to visit and are less well known.

Timescale for app to be up and running is end of June 2019. (Not all features may be completed but app will be live and can be edited through time.)

COIG PROJECT AND MOBILE APP SEMINAR 2PM – 4PM

Lisa and Graham CCC

Better attended than morning session.

Whereverly representative did a presentation of the app platform but still a lack of business owners attending.

Fees / membership for businesses not finalised yet but it was pointed out that most businesses in Millport are small and do not have the scale of those in Arran, for example. Reassurances were given that the fees would be appropriate. App to include business info – opening hours, menus, services, link to booking forms etc Point was raised by Margaret Kennedy of IoCTA about local businesses already paying a fee to local tourist board for advertising, therefore may be reluctant to pay a second or additional membership elsewhere and a query was also raised about how the project might impact on the IoCTA generally.

IOCTA

A new website is being set up.

STANDING ITEMS

Police Report:-

It was reported that there had been two incidents that had to be dealt with by the police since the last CCC Meeting in March.

Town Hall:- Friends of Millport Town Hall Update

A community consultation event was held on Saturday 30th March to present the findings of the feasibility study into whether the regeneration of the Town Hall would prove viable and sustainable. The answer was a resounding yes.

The meeting was well attended and well received and to date there have been 110 offers of voluntary help from residents. Early indications from questionnaires, a survey monkey and Twitter poll, indicate overwhelming support from the community.

Business plans are being finalised for presentation to the Local Authority. An application is currently under consideration with OSCR for the formation of a new SCIO – Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation. Once this has been approved, the asset transfer request will be made to NAC.

Funding strategies are underway to achieve the cost of the project which are in the order of £2 million.

Planning Applications:-

- Kirkton Caravan Site (Millport Holiday Park) – Declined by NAC Planning Department due to non-compliance with Local Development Plan as detailed in the report of handling.
- 52 Glasgow Street – With NAC Planning Department for consideration.

NAC Councillors' Update.

Clr Marshall having participated in the meeting had nothing further to add.

AOCB

- The attempt at a record being recorded as to how many people could be on the Crocodile Rock at any one time was discussed and the safety of such an attempt. It was agreed that the organiser would be spoken to re the Health and Safety issue.

- LC advised that she has taken up a post as Plastics Ambassador to try to reduce the plastic that is used on the Island and, as on Arran, have the Island plastic free over the coming years. Cllr. Marshall offered LC his full support in this matter and was happy to be her 'go to person' at NAC and be named as the council rep on the Plastic Free Steering Group.
- Funding for local initiatives is available from CCC and applications are invited from the community as long as an application from the same organisation/individual has not been submitted within the last 12 months.

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 9th May 2019, at Garrison House, Millport