

Cumbrae Community Council

Meeting Minutes Thursday 14 March 2019, Garrison House

Present: Graham Wallace (Chair), Alex Caldwell, Lisa Christie, Angie McCallum, Sandra McIntyre

In Attendance: Cllr. Tom Marshall, PC Joy Hamilton, Michael Bertram (CCDC), Three representatives from Dawn Fresh Fish Farms, Kirstin Paterson (Xmas Lights) and 4 members of the public

Apologies: Crawford Gillan, Sharon Hagan, Cllr Iain Murdoch

The meeting offered its condolences to Sharon on the untimely loss of her brother.

Minutes of the last meeting: The minutes of the last meeting, held on 14 February 2019, were proposed by Lisa Christie and seconded by Angie McCallum as a true record.

Matters arising from previous minutes

To accommodate visitors the agenda order was changed

Presentations:

Police Report The reported crimes and incidents were at the same level for this period as in 2018.

Dawnfresh Fish Farms: Three representatives attended the meeting and it was emphasised this was a meet and greet exercise as there is only a request in currently for a scoping exercise. If things progress to a planning application then Dawnfresh will conduct a formal consultation with Cumbrae and arrange for information drop in sessions etc.

NB. Cllr Tom Marshall abstained from input to this discussion due to his position on the Planning Committee.

The Farming Director, Alison Hitchings, explained that Danwnfresh are the largest trout farmer in the UK, producing 4 to 5 thousand tons per year. Half of this is exported and half serves the UK market. They have 1 seawater location, 3 freshwater lochs and 3 hatcheries. If the three proposed sites around the Cumbraes are developed there will be around 12 skilled and unskilled employment opportunities. It was noted that there is an active seal colony at Millport and it was stated that a full Environmental Impact Assessment would be undertaken for each site. SEPA regs ask for sea bed sampling under cages and baseline data is collected with regards to sea lice. It is possible to remove these with a jet stream of water without chemicals.

A question was raised as to how a food production site would fare near to a possible decommissioning site at Hunterston, the reply was that the proposals for Hunterston were being observed. Emphasis was made to the fact that any chemical, feed or fish and environment protection issues were highly regulated by both SEPA and other accreditation schemes.

Questions for the future were raised as to the possible name/brand of the fish and also any implications that may arise for what are the busiest sailing channels in Scotland and some of the busiest in the UK (EKOS Report).

Christmas Lights

Kirstin Paterson attended to discuss the possibility of Christmas lights to the seafront for the future. Currently this is being considered using the umbrella of the Festivals Committee for any potential funding applications. Permission will be sought to erect lights on the five street light posts outside Garrison House, using NAC power for LED lights. This will be in conjunction with additional lighting displays in the sunken gardens and it is also hoped to run power around the gardens. The lights would be as from 1st December.

Action: *CCC to contact Gary Wilson at NAC regarding the electrical connectivity to the street lights and use of street light posts for displays. It was also suggested that NAC would be able to help advise on sourcing lights, costs etc.*

Matters Arising from the Minutes:

- i. Flooding and Drainage Issues: Regarding the flooding at the West side of the Island, NAC have replied to say it is no worse. CCC have countered this by way of reply stating it is demonstrably worse and are also still waiting for a response on the College Street flooding.

Action: *CCC to pursue a reply and also to pass on to CCDC the contact details for the PR rep of SSEN regarding a broken pipe at Fintry Bay serving the toilets.*

- ii. Dog Fouling and provision of bins: This item is held over to the next meeting.

Action: *Sharon to follow up*

- iii. Mud on Highway: A letter has been sent by NAC to the landowner of the farmland on the inner circle where the mud is on the Highway. If no remedial action taken enforcement will follow.

- iv. Vermin issues and provision of bins: It was noted that some new larger bins had been provided but as others had been removed there is still a need for more provision. Vermin issues will continue without sufficient bins.

Action: *Sharon to follow up.*

- v. Overgrown shrubbery at Marine Parade: It is believed this issue on the house side pavement to FSC has now been addressed but a problem on the shore side still exists.

Action: *CCC to follow up.*

- vi. SSEN Cable Update: The cable is now laid between Bute and Cumbrae. It has been brought ashore at Bell Bay with connection anticipated in the next month or so.

Brief reports of outside meetings attended and matters being pursued:

- i. North Coast Locality Partnership (13.03.19) At this meeting CCDC, the Elderly forum and FMTH were successful in achieving funding. The next meeting will be held in June on Cumbrae and Financial Inclusion will be the main topic. It was noted that Cumbrae

still needs a representative for this sub-group. As much attendance/involvement as possible by Cumbrae groups and public is to be encouraged.

Action: CCC invited to attend.

- ii. Friends of the Clyde Meeting re Decom (21.02.19) This large meeting mainly concentrated around the claim that proper process and procedures had not been followed particularly concerning the lack of a full EIA for the proposal/s. It seems support may now be coming from the Scottish Government for an EIA to be carried out.
- iii. CCC/CCDC/FMTH/IOCTA meeting: The Island groups got together to discuss their thoughts on how best to present a united front to NAC at the upcoming Community Facilities meeting. Discussions centred around ideas for the best possible future use of existing community facilities to provide a sustainable future.
- iv. Cumbrae Community Facilities Meeting (06.03.9) The groups as in iii. above, joined with NAC representatives to discuss the community facilities. It was stated by NAC that they were using an upwards approach from the Island rather than them directing from the top down. It was noted that the Town Hall Project and CCDC are linked together. CCDC stated they want to lessen their reliance on public services for income. They are looking at Cumbrae being promoted as a wedding venue with a whole Island package. Discussions continued as to provision for car, caravan and camper van parking within Garrison grounds. It was noted this would necessitate a bye law to create restrictions for seafront parking as previously investigated with NAC by CCC.

Action: CCC to revisit their discussions with NAC regarding parking bye laws.

(e) Standing Items:

Police Report: As above

Planning Applications:

- i. **Firth View Caravan Site Extension:** An application has been submitted for a smaller extension (18 vans) than the previous application (34 vans) which had been refused because of non-compliance with the Local Development Plan.

Action: It was agreed that CCC respond to the NAC Planners stating they expect it to be determined once again in line with the LDP and in line with the findings of the Report of Handling for the previous application for this site/use.

- ii. **Dawnfresh Fish Farms – Scoping Requests:** It was noted these scoping requests had been submitted to NAC and that Dawnfresh have advised CCC that full EIA's will be carried out for each site.

- iii. **Oil Rig Decommissioning - Hunterston Liaison Meeting:** It was noted that when planning consent was granted for the decommissioning site, one of the requirements was that a Liaison Group be established. The first meeting is soon to be held.

Action: CCC to attend.

- iv. **Hunterston Wind Turbine update:** Works will be completed by the end of September for the removal of the final turbine.

- v. **12 Crichton Street:** There has been a further application to infill the gap site with a house. A previous application was withdrawn after comments by HES and NAC concerning the design and proposed 3rd storey. The property is apparently now delisted but is within the conservation area. It is still proposed to be 3 storeys but with amendments in size/design following discussions with the planners. It was noted that although this breaks the traditional 2 storey roof line the site has been derelict for a very long time.

Action: Response to Planning that application should be determined taking into account LDP and location within a conservation area.

- vi. **Stables Block, Garrison:** Retrospective planning has been applied to convert a gr.fl. and first fl. flat into one dwelling.

(f) **Agenda Items:**

- i. **Filling of CCC Vacancy and appointment of Secretary:** CCC would like to welcome Crawford Gillan to the position of Chair and to Sandra McIntyre as Co-opted Community Councillor and Secretary.

- ii. **Town Hall/FMTH Update :** A fundraising RACE NIGHT event took place on March 9th and an astonishing £4064 was raised. Thanks need to be extended to everyone who took part, those who helped on the day, to Rena McIntyre for her incredible energy and organisational skill, to Cumbrae Community Development Company for printing the Race Night leaflets, to the ladies who sold the raffle tickets, to the local pubs and businesses who helped with sponsorship and donations, to the Co-op and Max Sharp for their auction donations. It was a real community effort showing the support for the Town Hall Project.

The feasibility study is nearing its conclusion with major surveys undertaken for the building and Architects employed to look at adaptations for flexible and multi-purpose use. There will be a Community Presentation Event on Saturday 30 March in the DA Hall at 11 am. The community will be given the findings and invited for their thoughts and ideas.

FMTH are grateful for the acceptance of their bid to the Millport Common Good Fund to cover a shortfall in the feasibility costs.

- iii. **Update for Flood Prevention Scheme/Save the Pier:** The latest consultation was successful with many attendees. It is hoped that all will have filled in both feedback questionnaires for the FPS and the Marina proposal. It seems to be the case that the community of Cumbrae is being listened to with design features to lessen the impact of the defences being incorporated in the proposals and growing support and potential funding for a Marina. The main push here would be for a community run facility which, to be as economic as possible, would require to have approx.. 80 berths initially but with growth potential. The design is still to be worked up but the ability to take in larger boats, such as The Waverley, is still being pursued.

- iv. **Newton Beach. Junction Box, Sand on road/Beach, sand level:** The faulty junction box has already been reported to NAC but no action has yet been taken. The children

who moved the sand from the pavements back to the beach were thanked. Concerns were raised that this should be a job that NAC undertake and also that the high level of sand on the beach up to the wall was pushed back as has been necessary in previous years it would prevent sand being washed/blown up on to the road.

Action: CCC to write to NAC on these matters.

- v. **Damaged Benches around the Island:** There is a group of people who are interested in sorting out the old ruined benches. CCC has written to NAC for permission for them to repair/maintain the benches and requested that the necessary materials be made available to them but disappointingly have not yet received a reply.

Action: CCC to write to NAC on this matter again.

- vi. **Garrison Trees/Hedges:** CCC were pleased the remaining tree threatening to fall on the DA Hall had been felled. Concerns were voiced as to the choice of hedging around the Stable Block joint boundary with Garrison House as leylandii hedging can have notorious problems and is not indigenous. It was suggested that native hedging be specified in future. A question was raised as to the previously mentioned new trees which were to be planted to replace those felled. Michael Bertram mentioned needing funds for these and a suggestion was made that he discusses this with the Beecology Group.

- vii. **Tourism “The Coig” event:** There is to be a Coig event on Cumbrae on the 27th March with a Heritage workshop in the morning and a Tourism workshop in the afternoon. CCC will attend and have drawn the sessions to the attention of other parties that might have an interest.

(h) NAC: Councillor Updates: Cllr. Tom Marshall had already participated during the meeting. No other Councillors present and no reports received.

(i) AOCB:

- I. The meeting regarding the St Beya Gardens development had to be cancelled due to weather conditions.
- II. A Fuel Poverty meeting is to be held on Friday 15 March and CCC will attend.
- III. Hunterston Cracking – Hunterston has reported that the level of cracking is acceptable as it does not create any distortion.
- IV. There had been an application for a fast food van at Cumbrae Slip. This has been rejected by NAC. CCC would like it noted they are disappointed they were not contacted regarding this matter by NAC .

Date of next meeting: 5pm Thursday 11th April 2019, at Garrison House, Millport