

**Cumrae Community Council
Meeting Minutes Thursday 12th September 2019, Garrison House, Millport**

- 1) **PRESENT:** Crawford Gillan - Chair (CG), Angie McCallum (AM) Lisa Christie (LC), Sharon Hagan (SH), Alex Caldwell (AC), Sandra McIntyre (SM)

IN ATTENDANCE: Stewart Kennedy CCDC, Margaret Kennedy IoCTA, members of the public (MOP's).

APOLOGIES: Graham Wallace

- 2) **MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:** The minutes of the last meeting, held on 11th July 2019, were proposed for approval by SH and seconded by LC

3) **MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:-**

Community Concerns Drop Box –

CG wrote to Paul Brennan re Happy Daze weekend. The response was that occasional noise is not seen as a nuisance. Consensus of opinion was that there has to be a fair balance struck but CG will write again for further clarity on such matters. **CG**

Tombstoning

The danger of this practice was discussed, the cost and danger to others if a rescue had to be undertaken etc., however it is not illegal. The Police and Coastguard will monitor the situation.

Drinking in the street

Drinking in the street is difficult to police but will be looked at proactively by the local constables.

4) **BRIEF REPORT OF OUTSIDE MEETINGS ATTENDED AND MATTERS BEING PURSUED:**

Estates Meeting

Estates Meeting was attended and Minutes will be circulated in due course.

West Coast Waters – CG

CG & SM had attended a short presentation in the Garrison a couple of days ago regarding WCW. This was also attended by IoCTA, CCDC and FSC. The projects had been developed by The West Coast Marine Tourism Collaboration. The scoping initiative was being funded by HIE and covered the entire west coast from The Clyde and Kintyre to Wester Ross and The Hebrides. They were mapping what tourism experiences were available at individual locations. It was agreed at that meeting, by those in attendance, that it was something that Cumrae should, and wanted to be involved in. A round table discussion took place as to what Cumrae could do to highlight the event and the island. It was agreed that a small working group from the organisations present should be convened to take the matter forward. CG agreed to represent CCC on the group.

Christmas Lights – AM

Kirsten Patterson has been working on improving the Christmas Lights display for some time and a joint meeting with the various NAC departments involved was arranged in an attempt to solve the

outstanding issues. The meeting was attended by Connected Communities, Streetscene, Roads as well as Kirsten, CCC, and Festivals Committee representation.

NAC were very supportive and agreed to operate a one-door approach to assist Kirsten in progressing the new lights provision.

A bid for funding has been submitted to the Common Good Fund.

CCC has offered continuing support.

IoCTA - CG

- Yuletide event will be held on the Saturday 7th Dec around 4pm, which will combine with the switching on of the Christmas lights. A grant has been applied for the new Christmas lights from North Ayrshire Council. Kirsten has spent considerable time on this exercise and CG confirmed that the Community Council have been trying to obtain support for some time.
- Ferry Users Group: Going forward IoCTA will be sending a rep to attend these meetings. SH attended the last meeting and advised that Traffic Management is being looked at. 3 plans were put forward to NAC. There will be a public consultation in due course. **SH**
- September Weekend: 5,000 leaflets produced detailing all events relevant to the weekend and will be distributed. The late buses will leave from the pier head at 9pm, 9.30pm and 10pm. IoCTA are looking for good photographs of the September Weekends for the website. **IoCTA**
- The ongoing issue with Motor Homes was discussed re the disposal of wastewater etc. and parking on the highway. It was agreed that there needs to be a one voice approach to this from the community. There may need to be a bylaw passed to stop Motor Homes parking on the front street. CG will contact NAC, CCDCC IoCTA to arrange a meeting for this to be taken forward. **CG**
- Wild Camping is fast becoming an issue with the increase in litter and human waste being left behind when the people move on. This is not only disgusting but a potential danger to health. IoCTA will be asked to add something to their website re the best practice when Wild Camping on the Island. **CG**

5) STANDING ITEMS:

Police Report:

Police Scotland Officer was not in attendance due to operational requirements.

CCC to write to PolScot and invite the new Inspector (Alison Wilson) to CCC, or if more suitable, to meet with members of CCC out with their monthly meeting.

Town Hall:

North Ayrshire Council has doubled its Community Investment Fund grant from £100,000 to £200,000 which is great news. The Town Hall has also passed Stage One of their Scot Gov Regeneration bid for £700,000 and Stage Two is due to be submitted at the beginning of October.

A visit to the island by the actor Bill Paterson was a huge success and it was featured on STV News. The publicity gained has prompted an interview on BBC Radio Scotland which is to be recorded on 19 September.

A Millport Fundraiser is set for Friday October 4th - a 70's Disco with live music as well. Town Hall Patron, Garry Wilson, has donated a free pair of Easyjet tickets, valid for flights anywhere on their network to be auctioned at this event.

Planning applications:

No new applications in the last month

Beecology

LC gave a brief update on Beecology progress within the community.

Annual stats:

- 15 public beach cleans were organised with many more *ad lib* between members.
- 135 community trees, gifted from The Woodland Trust, were planted at Cumbrae Parish Church.
- 7 planters along the prom were filled with annual and perennial plants.
- 2 bee colonies were welcomed to the community apiary with the possibility of Cumbrae honey being produced next year.

Looking forward:

- Another application has been made to The Woodland Trust for 315 saplings to be planted locally in March 2020.
- The intention is to keep the 7 adopted planters on next year and hopefully improvements can be made with having more time to prepare.
- Number of beach cleans to be increased into next year, however efforts are dependent on weather and availability.
- Members of the public can contact Beecology should they wish to arrange their own community litter pick and can be provided with equipment.

LC expressed thanks to NAC for the ongoing assistance with refuse collection at beach cleans, and also to members of the community for supporting the group's projects over the first year.

6) AGENDA ITEMS:

Hunterston Parc

A letter was sent by CCC to Mr Black of Marine Scotland outlining that Cumbrae Community Council share the concerns of and fully support the input of Fairlie Community Council, Friends of the Firth of Clyde and West Kilbride Community Council in calling for a full EIA to be instructed by Marine Scotland. Due to the scale and the potential cumulative impact of these proposals and the associated major works on the environment and the surrounding communities Cumbrae Community Council believes it is essential that a full EIA be produced.

Waste Management Licence (WML) granted to Clydeport Operations Ltd (AKA Peel Ports)

It would appear that this allows Clydeport to treat & keep 250,000 tonnes of unspecified waste on site at any one time. This could include scrap metal, asbestos, PBCs, (Polychlorinated biphenyls) NORM (Naturally-Occurring Radioactive Material) and organic marine matter. The licence uses inconsistent wording, which raises the question of whether 'Disposal' will or will not be allowed at the site. This could open Hunterston to becoming a massive land fill site, potentially containing massive amounts of metals, asbestos and rotting marine matter. In short, the wellbeing and safety of the community, the protection of Southannan Sands SSSI and the sustainability of the marine environment is totally dependent on SEPA making the right decisions in a very short, 30 day, time period between the information coming from the Licence Holder and the 'Asset' arriving.

Wind Turbine

The original intention had been to dismantle the components of the 177m Siemens turbine by crane but technical issues have put paid to this plan. Instead a controlled demolition with explosives will take place on September 19th, weather permitting. Consultation has taken place with Police, North Ayrshire Council and Hunterston Nuclear Station, due to the close proximity of the power plant.

Cumbræ Community Council raised questions about the demolition blast. Information has been received that there will be dust control mitigation while oils, lubricants and contained pressure gasses have already been removed from the turbine. The area will be dampened by water before, during and after the felling operation to contain fibreglass dust. The detonation is planned for Thursday 19th September, weather permitting. If it cannot be done that day, it will be done sometime before 1st October. The detonation should take place between 10am and 4pm. Whilst there is not a breach of planning control, officers have asked that SSE make locals aware.

Millport FPS

The recent community consultation event seems to have been well attended and it was good to note that further consultation had been conducted and concerns addressed or alterations made that were acceptable to residents affected at that location e.g. The Crosshouse.

Roads update

- Road surface on way to ferry at Ballochmartin - CG reiterated that the road surface at the 'S' bends on B896 at Ballochmartin Bay was once again in a dreadful state with the state of collapse of the road now apparent. This stretch had had some previous repair work carried out in the last 5 years but it would appear that those works were not sufficient to ensure the road could cope with the ever-increasing volume of traffic and heavy vehicles. It was felt that the poor state of the road could lead to accidents or vehicles coming off the road at this point.
- CG also raised the issue of the ever narrowing road around the Inner Circle route. Due to non-maintenance of these verges they were now encroaching onto the highway to such an extent that the road was now effectively a single track road. On inspection it appears that there is around 5ft of tarmac under the grass at some points of the circular route. This is in the opinion of the CCC down solely to a lack of a care and attention by the relevant departments at NAC .
- The issue of the flooding at the corner of Glasgow St/College St and also towards the Field Studies Centre on Marine Parade is still ongoing. No effort at all seems to have been made by NAC to remedy the situation. It is now the case that every time it rains even for a relatively short time then of the road floods. The flooding is so severe that it prevents pedestrians using the footpath at both locations.

Action – CCC to write to NAC Roads and express their concerns and ask for a meeting to discuss.

Beaches / Promenade Maintenance

- CG reiterated previously minuted remarks and wished to pass on CCC's thanks and appreciation to the 3 local NAC Streetscene employees who had worked tirelessly with what appeared to be limited support from the mainland, to maintain the island to an acceptable standard for both locals and visitors to the island. It would appear that to the many looking on that the amount of work that is required is hugely greater than this very small team could ever be expected to cope with. It was of particular note that following the June stormy days that the large quantity of seaweed and flotsam that had been deposited on the promenade around the Kames Bay, Crosshouse and Newton beach areas had never been removed and was left to either the vagaries of the wind to redeposit the weed on the beach or, in a couple of instances, MOP's were seen sweeping the dried seaweed off of the prom.
- It was also very apparent that there had been a total lack of any type of beach cleaning throughout the summer season. It was very sad to see that visitors to the BLUE FLAG AWARDED NEWTON BEACH were actually clearing pathways through the weed at numerous points along the beach

to allow their children to get to the waterside. This, in the opinion of CCC, is completely unacceptable. The position of NAC re the non-cleaning at Kames beach is well documented, however this cannot be an excuse for NAC to ignore cleaning of the other non SSSI beaches on the island.

Action - CCC to write to NAC Streetscene and ask for a meeting to discuss this situation.

Clyde Marine Plan Consultation

No new updates except an advertisement for a candidate for Chairperson position.

Millport Flood Prevention

A consultation took place re FPS and an update will be provided in due course.

Pier repair works update

Work is still ongoing and massively behind schedule due to the amount of erosion and the resultant voids being much greater than anticipated. The Millport Pier and Harbour Users Group will continue to monitor and feed back to CCC.

CCC Micro Grants

Closing date 1st September 2019. Maximum grant up to £500 per group. CCC will meet after September CCC meeting to discuss award of grants. Date to be confirmed but will be within the next 2 weeks.

7) **NAC COUNCILLORS' UPDATES** -

None available as no Councillors attended the meeting.

8) **AOCB**

VE Day 75

- Friday 8th May 2020, has been designated by the Government as a Bank Holiday to enable as many towns, parishes district, community and other councils, along with individuals, voluntary organisations to join in the VE Day 75 celebrations over the VE Day weekend of the 8th – 10th May 2020. It is set to be one of the biggest commemorations of the end of World War 2 in Europe.
- Pipers playing the tunes Battle's O'er and VE 75 Years
- Ringing out for Peace in churches and cathedrals
- Street parties and celebrations at pubs, clubs, hotels, village greens and halls
- There will be Services of commemoration and celebration in churches, including the reading of a Tribute to the Millions and the playing of the Last Post & Reveille.
- Full details were available at www.veday75.org
- It was unanimously agreed that CCC would wish to support the event and early liaison with other of the islands groups should be arranged as a matter of urgency.

Action CG will speak with RBLs Millport branch and ascertain what arrangements were currently in hand and offer any support we were able to.

Cumrae Water Sports Centre

The information available on this was appeared sparse to say the least. A local campaign group 'Save The Wave' had been highlighting the matter via a high profile Social Media campaign and letters had been communicated to local elected councillors, MP's, MEP's The Scottish Minister for Islands Paul Wheelhouse. It was understood that a Freedom of Information request had been sent to Sport Scotland.

It was suggested that CCC should write to Sports Scotland and ask to have a meeting with the relevant Sport Scotland decision makers. We should make it clear that CCC only wished to be updated as regards the plans for the centre, its staff, and the effect that closure may have on the island.

Action CCC to write to Sport Scotland requesting a meeting

Cycle Path

It was felt that this matter had fallen into the 'Too difficult' tray and that very little seemed to be happening regarding this. Community Consultations had taken place with NAC and the Contractors which were reasonably well attended. It was felt that the issue of the cycle path should again be brought to the fore and questions asked of NAC as to what the intentions were. The community clearly favoured, by a large majority, Option 4 which was, to CG's recollection, the Keppel to Ferry Slip option. It seemed that NAC wished to push on with the Crosshouse to Old Pier Option 1.

It was noted that at the recent Flood Protection presentation the video produced showed a lovely new cycle path following their favoured Option 1.

CG stated that he hoped that the matter wasn't being put on the back burner by NAC simply because they didn't agree with the community consultation results.

Action Cycle path was to be left on the agenda and initially questions could be asked of our NAC Councillors when they attended the next CCC meeting. This could then be escalated to NAC if the answers were not known.

Garrison AstroTurf Signage

Reports of dog-fouling within the AstroTurf pitch have been made to CCC members. It was noted that dog faeces can contain a parasite which causes toxocariasis infection, leading to blindness. CCC to approach Garrison House in relation to having adequate signage on the entrance gates reminding dog owners that their pets are not permitted within children's play areas.

Action: LC to contact Garrison House regarding signage.

Street Furniture

It had been brought to CCC's attention that representatives from NAC had been over and spoken with local shops, restaurants, cafes etc regarding furniture, display boards etc being placed on the pavements and in some cases causing an obstruction for pedestrians. CCC were not sure which NAC department had been over and started the enforcement. It was suggested that it would possibly have been the Licensing Board.

In the absence of NAC Councillors at the meeting we did not have a definitive answer.

A question from the floor by a MOP was what would happen if the obstructions returned over time. CG stated that it would be a matter for NAC to monitor and if persons had cause to raise issues then they should be directed to NAC who, he was sure, would have a record of any actions they had taken on their visits to the island.

Millport Marina Working Group Funding –CG

£1700 had been offered to CCC by NAC & DTAS to carry out initial research exercise to inform future decisions on the marina proposal and how the community as a whole might progress the proposed development. The research will inform how such developments have been undertaken by communities elsewhere and how they were funded, operated and what the pitfalls etc. are.

Following discussion it was agreed that there were several details around the funding that required clarification and the decision would be put on hold until all details were known. This should be completed preferably by the next CCC meeting in October.

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 6.50pm

Date of next meeting: 5pm Thursday 10th October 2019, at Garrison House, Millport