

## Cumbræ Community Council

### Meeting Minutes Thursday 9 January 2020, Garrison House

**Present:** Graham Wallace (chair), Crawford Gillan, Sharon Hagan, Lisa Christie, Alex Caldwell

**In Attendance:** Cllr. Tom Marshall, Rena McIntyre (CCDC), Denise Fraser (NAC), Police Scotland, members of the public

**Apologies:** None

**Minutes of the last meeting:** The minutes of the last meeting, held on 14 November were proposed by Alex Caldwell and seconded by Crawford Gillan as a true record.

- **Presentations**

- i. Denise Fraser – NAC. Denise introduced herself as the Community Development Worker for the North Coast and stated that she would be available to work with and assist local community groups on the island incl. youth groups, elderly forum etc. It was agreed that a list of relevant groups, together with contacts etc., would be passed to Denise to allow her to get in touch initially to gauge what help is required/could be given.

**Action: SH**

- **Matters arising from previous minutes:**

- i. Christmas Lights: The organisers of the new light display within the Garrison Grounds were thanked and congratulated on a great job. Despite the weather not being ideal (!) a large number of people had turned out for the official “switch on”. The Yuletide event including Santa’s visit, accompanied by his team of elves, to Mapes to hand out Christmas presents from his cosy grotto was also extremely well organised and much appreciated. CCC will request the Garrison building be open to the public next year as the large number of the community that turned up were huddled outside in the cold wind and rain whilst waiting.

**Action: LC**

- ii. Astroturf signage: The signage which NAC undertook to erect on the fencing of the astroturf pitch has not yet appeared. CCC to raise again with NAC.

**Action: LC**

- iii. Bogus Workers: There are continuing reports of bogus callers operating in Millport and Largs. Some advice leaflets have been obtained via trading standards. It was agreed that more publicity material warning of the risks and how to handle cold callers would be obtained and provided to those working with the elderly and vulnerable on the island as well as advisory posters being provided to local shops.

**Action: SH**

- iv. Watersports Centre: No updates have been received since the last meeting.

- v. Visit by HES to CARS: HES had visited the island to inspect how the CARS funded works were proceeding. Progress appears to be satisfactory and it was noted how many projects have now been progressed.

- **Brief Reports of meetings attended and matters being pursued**

- i. IoCTA Meeting: CCC were not represented as no meeting had taken place since the last IOCTA meeting due to the Christmas break. There was no update to be given as the meeting with IoCTA and CCDC on parking issues had not yet taken place.

**Action: GW**

- ii. Rigg Hill Wind Farm: A Community Liaison Forum meeting was attended on Wednesday 27th November 2019 at the Brisbane House Hotel. The meeting was advised that the number of turbines to be included in the development had been reduced from 33 to 10 which reduces the visual impact of the site on surrounding areas. They originally scoped a project of up to 12 turbines in August 2019 however following feedback were now proposing a development of 10 wind turbines @ 40Mw each with each having a tip height of up to 149.9metres. A formal planning application is expected to be submitted to North Ayrshire Council in the first quarter of 2020.

The outcomes of the meeting in relation to the management of the Community Liaison Forum were:-

- The project team will write to all communities with an update on the project, the consultation events and next steps.
- Once our EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) is complete, we will confirm our next Community Liaison Forum with the North Coast communities as we approach application submission. This will be February 2020.
- In advance of the next meeting, we will issue an agenda and response on all the points raised in the previous meetings one week in advance to allow for comments ahead of the CLF.

In relation to the points raised during the meeting:-

- The project team will confirm, once the information is available, where candidate turbines for the proposed development (Vestas / Nordex) are currently deployed elsewhere in the UK to allow the communities to carry out their own research on the specifics.
- The project team have acknowledged receipt of the information shared by Skelmorlie Community Council on the possible existence of a Roman Road and will respond on the points raised in due course.
- The project team have acknowledged receipt of the information shared by Fairlie Community Council on the impacts of infrasound and amplitude modulation and will respond in due course.

A public information event was held on Cumbrae on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2019.

Concern was expressed at the CCC meeting about this proposed development on the following basis:

- Potential risks to health arising from the size and power output of the turbines and it is requested that full consideration be given to all existing research available in respect of turbines of this output level.
- The proximity of the turbines to residential dwellings.
- The impact of the turbines on the landscape (and the Clyde Muirshiel Park) as well as the cumulative impact on the landscape, particularly when taken in conjunction with all of the other wind farms fully visible from Cumbrae. These turbines are, as are the other turbines situated on the Ayrshire coast, most visible from Cumbrae and from the sea.

**Action: GW**

- **Standing Items:**

- i. Police Report: There have been no major incidents since the last report was received. The increasing problem of dog fouling is covered below.

It was agreed to request that a brief written report be submitted to CCC ahead of the monthly meeting if the PC is unable to attend.

- ii. Planning Applications: No applications requiring the input of CCC had been received.
- iii. Roads Issues: It was noted that the potholes on Kames St. had been infilled but it was thought generally that these repairs are temporary and will not last long. Serious and potentially dangerous flooding is again being experienced on Ferry Road (at the rear of Fairhaven), on the coast road at the corner north of the ferry slip, at several locations on the west side and at the Targets. The road surface is again breaking up and distorting at Balloch Bay. Finally water has been identified as coming up through the road surface and causing it to break up near to the Figgitoch Farm road end. Details and photos to be sent to NAC.

**Action: GW**

- iv. Hunterston update: As reported to the last CCC meeting Hunterston Reactor 4 was authorised by ONR to be brought back online for 4 months from August 2019. It was taken offline again as planned in December to allow further monitoring/safety checks to be made of the cracking in the graphite core. EDF propose that it be restarted on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2020 subject to ONR approval.

Hunterston Reactor 3 has been out of commission, due to safety concerns (graphite reactor core cracking), since March 2018 and subject to ONR authorisation EDF propose to bring it online in February 2020.

Hunterston B is currently operating 13 years after its original planned shutdown date and EDF propose that it operate until 2023 i.e. 16 years after its original designed lifespan.

Safety Case Assessment and REPPiR (*The Radiation (Emergency Preparedness and Public Information) Regulations*) 2019: The DEPZ (*Detailed Emergency Planning Zone*) and OEPZ (*Outline EPZ*) in case of an incident occurring at Hunterston which could/does cause a radiation leak etc. are currently being reassessed by NAC, based on advice and input by the owner/operator EDF. Millport is currently situated within the OEPZ but (just) outside of the 2.4 km DEPZ. Within the DEPZ every household is stocked with iodine tablets and there is a detailed alert/evacuation procedure in place. In the OEPZ there is more general reference to emergency procedures. It is noted that no specific reference is made to how Cumbrae would be evacuated etc. in the event of an emergency. The proposed revised emergency plan **reduces** the DEPZ from 2.4 km to 1 km. Concern was expressed about:

- a. the reduction in the safety zone, particularly at a time when safety shutdowns are occurring on a regular basis due to the increasing level of cracking being identified in the graphite core
- b. the lack of any information concerning the means of treating the residents of Millport in the case of an emergency
- c. the lack of any reference to the means of safe evacuation of Millport should such an emergency arise. The need to reduce the DEPZ at this time, given that the station will close in 3 years, is also questioned. These concerns are to be relayed to NAC.

**Action: GW**

- v. Cycle Paths  
No progress to report on the cycle path proposed between FSC and the ferry slip. CCC will continue to liaise with NAC and other agencies on this important issue.  
**Action: GW**

- vi. Millport Town Hall: There have been three recent successful funding applications:
- Scottish Land Fund - £51,271
  - Architectural Heritage Fund - £20,000
  - Hugh Fraser Foundation - £20,000

Some of these funds will enable the development of the concept design through to more detailed plans for planning permission submission.

A successful submission through the Sheriff's Court has seen the alienation of the site from the Millport Common Good Fund. The deadline for the decision from North Ayrshire Council with regards to the transfer of the Town Hall to the ownership of Millport Town Hall Charity has now been reached.

Results of major funding applications over the next few months will determine if this project can go ahead. Political and financial times are difficult with many funders regrouping and changing their funding strategies.

Support for the project is high and the charity remain optimistic.

- vii. Millport FPS/Millport Marina/Pier: It was noted that the joint (CCC, CCDC, MPHUG, NAC) tour of 4 marinas in the Oban area, including 2 community operated marinas, organised by CCC had taken place in November and had proved extremely worthwhile to all parties. The information gained will be used in progressing the proposals for such a facility in Millport. It was also noted that a report had been approved by NAC Cabinet in November agreeing to progress the Millport FPS and to move forward with obtaining all of the necessary consents. The report also made positive reference to the proposed marina project which has a clear strategic fit within the Ayrshire Growth Deal's marine tourism proposals. The timescale for implementation and completion (late 2023) of the FPS remains the same as previously reported by CCC.

It was reported that at the last meeting of the MPHUG repairs necessary to the harbour and pier had been identified and that these will be reported to NAC. (incl. pointing of stonework on walls and ramp, lights requiring repair – on the pier and the Eileans etc.)

Copies of the NAC Cabinet Report (November 2019), the Summary of the August 2019 FPS Consultation held in Millport and the latest FAQ's on the FPS can all be obtained on the NAC website or by contacting CCC by email – [cumbraeccouncil@gmail.com](mailto:cumbraeccouncil@gmail.com)

**Action: GW**

• **Agenda Items:**

- i. Rigghill Wind Farm: as above.
- ii. Dog Fouling: A great number of complaints have been received about the increase in dog fouling being experienced throughout the town. The police advised that they are aware of the issue and are able to, and will, issue fixed notice penalties (£80 fine) if such incidents are witnessed.  
NAC has enforcement officers who can also issue fixed notice fines for dog fouling and litter dumping and they have undertaken to visit the island on a regular basis to address these issues.

It should also be noted that if a member of the public witnesses an owner not picking up after their dog fouls the pavement etc. they can report it to the NAC Enforcement Team which will then follow up the complaint and take enforcement action against the dog owner/walker. **All such reporting by members of the public will be handled with complete confidentiality.**

**Action: LC**

- iii. The Coig: Contact had been made with The Coig which is a private commercial venture established to encourage businesses within the five specified areas throughout Ayrshire (Cumbrae is No. 5) to invest in The Coig project to increase tourism in the area with the aim of increasing local business opportunities. The Coig has advised that only a limited number of Cumbrae businesses have signed up to date and that they will be arranging local informal gatherings involving IoCTA, CCDC, CCC and the Festival group to share information on how to get involved/benefits/costs etc. in the near future.

**Action: CG/LC**

- iv. Ferry Road: Complaints have again been received concerning cars/commercial vehicles on Ferry Road travelling at inappropriate speeds, given the nature of the road. Particular mention has been made of the sharp corner at Ballochmartin Farm, the corner of the road close to the 30 mph zone sign coming into Millport where the houses start and vehicles park and also where children cross Ferry Road to go to the play park at Ninian Park. These issues will be discussed with NAC.

It was also noted that data collection strips had been placed on the roads in Millport at 3 (?) locations and a request will be submitted to ascertain the purpose and the results.

**Action: GW**

- v. Cemetery Gates: It was noted that, whilst the gate pillars which had been knocked down by a vehicle had now been rebuilt, the gates had not been re-installed. NAC to be approached.

**Action: CG**

- **Councillor's Updates**

Councillor Marshall drew attention to the Crown Estates funding which was being made available for coastal communities but also pointed out that only £88,000 had been allocated to NAC out of a total available of £7m. He was hopeful that some of the Crown Estate funding could be released and made available to Cumbrae.

- **AOCB**

- i. Community Council Training: Noted that a new draft Community Council Office Bearer Toolkit had been developed and that it is available to community councillors for comment.

**Date and time of next meeting and meeting closed**

The next meeting of the CCC will be held on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2020 at 5.00 pm in the Garrison.