

Cumrae Community Council

Meeting Minutes Thursday 9 April 2020, Online Meeting, 6.00 pm

Present: Graham Wallace (chair), Crawford Gillan, Sharon Hagan, Lisa Christie, Charlie Shaw

Apologies: Alex Caldwell

Minutes of the last meeting: The minutes of the last meeting, held on 12 March 2020 were held over for approval at the next meeting of the CCC.

- **Presentations**

None

- **Matters arising from previous minutes:**

- Astroturf signage: The access gates to the astroturf football pitch have been locked by NAC as a result of Govt. restrictions on use of playparks etc.
- Bogus Workers/Scams: There are continuing reports of bogus callers/workers operating in Millport and Largs and new online scams are appearing several now capitalising on the Coronavirus outbreak. Due to the current restrictions on gatherings etc. every effort will be made to highlight these via social media/newsletters etc. and the Millport Support Group will also highlight their existence when possible in CROC news etc.
- Public phone boxes: I respect of the proposal to close all of the phone boxes on Cumrae, after discussion it was agreed representation be made to retain those at the Harbour, Newton Beach and the Ferry Slip. **Action: LC**
- VE Day Celebrations/Festivals: It was noted that to date the following festivals had been cancelled – Happy Daze, Scooter Rally, VE Day Celebrations, Country Music Festival. It seems extremely unlikely that other events incl. the Cumrae Queen and Classic Car event will now take place.

- **Standing Items:**

- CCDC Update: The Garrison is closed for the foreseeable future. The public toilets have been closed down. A new fund- raising campaign, including govt. and publicly raised funding, is currently being developed/pursued.
- Planning Applications:
 - Solar Farm – Comsol Energy Ltd has applied to have Conditions 6 (removal of development if no longer in use) and 10 (alterations required to improve the Inner Circle road prior to any works starting on site) amended. It was noted that they were also requesting that the s.75 be amended to delay the payment of the bond required to be deposited before works commenced. After discussion it was agreed that the existing Conditions 6 & 10, as agreed by NAC Planning Committee, should be retained in their existing form as they were sufficiently clear and precise. It was also agreed that there was no reason for the the s.75 agreement to be amended. A response to this effect will be sent to NAC/Planning. **Action: GW**
 - George Hotel – The owner of the George has applied to change the use of the hotel to attended apartments and a bar/restaurant. Alterations to the building and beer garden, roof dormer extensions and the formation of a pavement terraced area are also proposed. After discussion it was agreed that the loss of the islands last hotel was regretted but that it was recognised that apartments were now popular for tourists. The exterior refurbishment of the hotel in

conjunction with CARS was welcomed as it currently appears run down. Concern was expressed at the proposed use of public roads and other public areas of ground belonging to NAC and NAC as the Harbour authority, particularly as the future development proposals for the pier and harbour are not yet in place and the requirements for access to develop the FPS and the Marina are as yet unclear – but will undoubtedly involve the existing pier and harbour in some form. It was agreed to write to NAC Planning on this basis.

Action: GW

- iii. Gin Distillery – The establishment of a new manufacturing business on the island was welcomed and, provided all legislative requirements are met in respect of the installation and operation of the distillery are met, there were no objections from the meeting.
- iii. Roads Issues: The dangerous state of the pavement/prom near the Crosshouse where previous storm damage had occurred was discussed and it was agreed that better fencing/protection of the area to prevent pedestrian access was required pending the repair works being completed and a letter to be sent to NAC highlighting this. **Action: CS**
- iv. Hunterston update:
 - a. Details of when ONR will allow Reactors 3 & 4 to be brought back into service by EDF are still awaited.
 - b. Safety Case Assessment and REPPiR (*The Radiation (Emergency Preparedness and Public Information) Regulations*) 2019: The revised REPPiR2019 has not yet been approved by NAC and the council is seeking further information/assurances based on community concerns. CCC has now been asked to input to the Contingency Planning process for the island.
Action: CG
 - c. PeelPorts will now have to complete a full EIA in respect of the proposed marine yard/de-commissioning yard works which NAC had previously determined no EIA was required for.
- v. Cycle Paths

The request for an update on the current progress on the cycle path proposal between FSC and the ferry slip is still awaited. **Action: GW**
- vi. Millport Town Hall - The application for planning permission is progressing. The asset transfer decision from North Ayrshire Council is still overdue and is being pursued.

Increased competition due to the number of groups trying to help themselves against diminishing funding sources continues as a major challenge and will become inevitably become more difficult as a result of the current coronavirus pandemic.
- vii. Millport FPS/Millport Marina/Pier: The Millport FPS continues to be promoted by NAC with support from ScotGov. The formal consultation and consent process has commenced and all of the relevant documents are available online (links posted on CCC and Millport Coastal Flood Protection FB pages) <http://northayrshire.community/millport-coastal-flood-protection-scheme/25423/?fbclid=IwAR04rn3iX2kRM-XTAhyZI98-NCj448GCVrxDSQwZl5PKpqL04Z6zseQpgEQ>, The proposed marina development is still receiving support from NAC and included within the NAC Ayrshire Growth Deal Strategy for the development of marine tourism. **Action: GW**

- **Agenda Items:**
 - i. **Coronavirus impacts.** The Coronavirus pandemic was discussed and the severity of its impact on the island's residents and businesses recognised. It was also noted that the residents of Cumbrae were potentially well placed to avoid the virus if people followed the government guidance on non-essential travel etc. CCC had provided a notice to deter ferry travel (with agreement from other island organisations) to Calmac. CCC is being represented on the Millport Support Group and it was noted that the Group had established itself very quickly and was responding well to assisting those with need in Millport. The MSG liaises with the NAC Hub in Largs but its advantage is its local knowledge within the community gained through the number of local volunteers that have stepped forward to help out.
 - ii. **Ferry Services:** The revised (reduced) ferry timetable was noted and Calmac thanked for trying to deter and limit the number of visitors to the island. Restricting the numbers of those travelling both to and from the island was recognised as being essential to prevent the spread of coronavirus on Cumbrae.
 - iii. **Bus Service:** It was noted that all bus services to/from the ferry had now ceased.
 - iv. **Paths for All:** It was noted at short notice that funding was available to "spruce up community paths" but that applications had to be submitted by 13 April. In the circumstances, and in light of the efforts being put into supporting the community in response to Coronavirus it was agreed this was not a priority at this time.

- **AOCB:**
 - i. CCC working together with the Millport Support Group and CCDC has submitted an EOI for funding from the Scottish Government's Supporting Communities Fund (administered through HIE) to assist communities in dealing with the impacts of Coronavirus. **Action: GW**
 - ii. Community Council election was due to be held on Cumbrae in October/November but NAC have advised that due to Covid-19 these will be postponed until Spring 2021.

Date and time of next meeting

The next meeting of the CCC will be held online via Zoom on Thursday 21 May 2020 at 6.00 pm. An invitation to join the Zoom meeting will be sent out by email to the community councillors.