

Minutes of Cumbrae Community Council Meeting

14th of January 2021 at 5.00 pm (Via Zoom).

Attendees

CCC - Graham Wallace (Chair), Crawford Gillan, Dr. Charlie Shaw, Sharon Hagan

NAC - Cllr. Alan Hill, Cllr. Cllr. Tom Marshall, Cllr. Alex Gallacher, Cllr. Ian Murdoch.

Constable Joy Hamilton, Police Scotland

Adam Lyons, Largs and Millport Weekly News

Apologies Received - Alex Caldwell, Lisa Christie

The Minutes of the meeting of 12 November 2020 were proposed by Sharon Hagan and seconded by Charlie Shaw.

Police Report

The meeting received an update from Constable Hamilton.

Concerns had been raised about alleged Covid-19 breaches on the island, but only three incidents had been noted by officers since November. She asked that concerned residents raise any concerns officially via Police Scotland's reporting form online or the 101 phone number rather than posting complaints on FaceBook. Constable Hamilton reassured residents that Police were liaising with CalMac about ferry travel and were waiting on an update.

From the start of December to mid-January just one crime report was created by Police Scotland after a car was vandalised.

Between November and December, 19 incidents were recorded on the island with five crime reports created.

Constable Hamilton retired from the meeting due to exigencies of Duty.

Urgent matters arising and matters being pursued.

1. Coronavirus updates

Cllr. Gallagher informed the meeting that the current Covid-19 figures for North Ayrshire showed a slight improvement on previous figures.

Charlie Shaw asked Cllr. Gallagher why the figures for Cumbrae were included with the figures from Largs. Cllr. Gallagher advised that it was simply due to the council Ward area and realistically little could be done at this time but he would certainly raise the matter with Ayrshire and Arran Health Board. It was felt by CCC that by having our figures included with the mainland it was possible that Island figures could be skewed and it had been represented for some time that in general the inclusion of Largs statistics with Cumbrae statistics meant they may not be of suitable accuracy or detail on which to base future planning for the island.

Crawford Gillan stated that as the current infection rate, as indicated, was apparently higher than the initial lockdown figures then it was possible that the ferries could go back to a 2-hourly service. He said that he was in no way advocating this but it did seem the current ferry situation was at odds with the information on the infection being circulated and the fact that during the first lockdown, with an apparently lesser infection rate, the ferries had gone to a reduced timetable. He asked that Cal Mac be contacted regarding this to ensure that any proposed changes were well notified to the community.

The meeting was informed that no information had been received from CalMac regarding any reductions in the ferry service.

It was also highlighted that as an island Cumbrae was perfectly placed to control access via the ferry in order to safeguard the resident population and that any suggestion that lockdown restrictions on the island be lifted or relaxed before the mainland would create a greater risk for the island community as it would result in more public attempting to travel to the island from the mainland.

It was further explained by the Chair that, as a result of the Government reduction in the lifting of lockdown over the Christmas period and the various discussions/reactions to the news recorded on social media outlets by residents of the island CCC had written, for confirmation purposes, to NAC to enquire whether they had entered into any discussions with ScotGov and/or CalMac about allowing travel on days before and after Christmas or whether CalMac had been requested to run ferries on Christmas day. NAC had responded that no such discussions were being held or proposed.

Councillors Updates

Cllr Gallagher stated that he had had a meeting with the Minister for Islands and questioned the proposed £30m Islands Fund. It is not yet allocated and he has asked for our islands/CWB criteria to be used in some measure to influence the criteria. He also got a commitment from ScotGov to do a needs analysis on Cumbrae. The Islands Officer position has gone to shortlist and we hope to have an appointment by the end of February. Cllr. Gallacher asked to be excused from the meeting due to his required attendance at another meeting. He was thanked for his attendance.

Cllr. Marshall informed the meeting that there were some iPads available for schools and if we were aware of any local children in Millport who could be considered for these.

An issue had been raised with North Ayrshire Council regarding lorries accessing the new housing development in Saint Beya Gardens via Ferry Road. The contractor had been spoken with and this practice will stop.

The planning application that had been submitted by the Garrison for motorhome parking within the grounds had been given granted consent by NAC.

Cllr. Murdoch updated the meeting regarding questions raised about an amenity/ recycling facility on the islands. He stated that's currently there was no budget available for such a scheme and that application and conditions came via the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency. This could be a long and complicated

process which may also require a planning application to North Ayrshire council. There could of course be additional logistical challenges connected with such a scheme.

Brief reports of regular meetings attended.

1. NAC Cumbrae Ferry Meetings.

- i. The consultants' report has been circulated to CCC, the Ferry Users' Group and others for consultation prior to public consultation taking place on proposals for addressing the serious issues.
- ii. Many options were being discussed between the operator, North Ayrshire Council, Transport Scotland, and the Ferry Users' Group including third-party sales eg. local shops and there were proposals in place for a new ticketing system to hopefully be in place by October 2021.
- iii. It was highlighted again that the key issue was that of parking and queuing on either side, for both passengers and vehicles, and that addressing calls for the introduction of pre-booking and/or priority boarding is still outstanding.

2. Cumbrae Ferry Users Group.

- i. As above but again the issue of cashless payments was highlighted and that on some occasions, this could be problematical for some travellers particularly the elderly or young travellers.
- ii. Concerning the carriage of loose goods, for example, tyres, batteries, flowers, etc. This long-running understanding had now been stopped by CalMac.
- iii. The issue of motorhomes had been brought up at FUG with similar comments.

3. Cumbrae Community Group Meeting – No meeting held.

4. Hunterston Parc Liaison Meeting.

- i. No meeting had been held however it was noted that Peel Ports had written to the Liaison Group members to advise of the mooring of two Royal Navy ships, followed by two drill ships, alongside the Hunterston jetty.

5. Hunterston SSG

- i. The re-cladding of Hunterston A is still outstanding but will be carried out in light grey colour which should stand out less than the current white cladding.
- ii. Reactors 3 & 4 have been approved for a further 6 month period of operation from 27/8/2020 & 24/9/2020 respectively at the end of which time the safety case will again need to be examined by ONR if the reactors are to continue to operate.
- iii. Final closure of Hunterston "B" and de-fuelling is due to commence in January 2022.
- iv. NAC is still to make a decision on the new REPPiR (Emergency) proposals for Hunterston including the determination of the DEPZ. Further information available at <https://www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/community-safety/reppir-2019.aspx>

6. North Coast Locality Partnership

- i. Recruitment is underway for the post of Community Development worker within the NCLP area. Reference was made to the work ongoing on Cumbrae in terms of socio-economic renewal.
- ii. The Partnership was updated on the progress on Millport Town Hall project by Lesley Stringer.
- iii. The important work being undertaken by the MSG was discussed and highlighted.
- iv. A copy of the Minutes of the meeting is available online or by request to CCC.

7. loCTA – No report.

Standing Items

1. Police Report – see above.

2. Cumbrae Resilience Team (CRT)

- i. The CRT has received funding from the Ayrshire Civil Contingencies Fund towards its initial set-up costs and CCC will be contributing funding towards the provision of PPE etc.

3. Planning applications

- i. A Planning Application had been lodged for a new build house at 12 Kirkton Road. No action was deemed necessary.
- ii. The Planning Consent for the campervan site in the Garrison grounds, with conditions, was noted.

4. Licensing applications – None received.

5. Roads issues

- i. The issues of potholes at Downcraig corner was raised and it was asked as to why the contractor had repaired the surface at the bottom of Ferry Road to the White House but hadn't continued on the particularly bad stretch between the White House and to just past the Water Sports Centre ?
- ii. The resurfacing works in college Street and Kames Street had been completed to a high standard. The meeting noted that the reinstatement of the drains in College Street appears to have made a significant difference to the flooding at the Newton/ Garrison corner.
- iii. It was felt that if similar attention was paid to the drains in Bute Terrace and Ferry Road then the substantial flooding caused by the lack of attention to this issue could be resolved.
- iv. The issue of dog fouling was again raised. A reminder was given that concerned residents should be directed towards the NAC's reporting app to make a complaint.

Cllr. Murdoch advised the meeting that North Ayrshire Council does have the ability to enforce the regulations but like this time little seems to be done. The matter of the dog wardens was once again covered and that they had visited the Island on previous occasions and issued fixed penalty notices and would issue fines to any offenders. Could be third-party complaints and does not necessarily have to be witnessed by the dog warden team.

Cllr. Hill suggested that perhaps with community involvement, visible signs of offending could be highlighted with, by example, small flags. This was a good way of showing the scale of the problem.

Cllr. Hill was not an advocate of even more signage placed on lamp posts etc. which was agreed with.

6. Cycle Path/s

- i. Nothing further had been heard from NAC on this issue and it was agreed that a further chase-up letter should be sent to the NAC Access Officer for an update.

7. Millport Town Hall

- i. A successful application was made to the Islands Green Recovery Programme which resulted in a grant of £20,750 for the purchase of roof mounted photovoltaic panels to assist in reducing running costs and improving the sustainability of the Town Hall. An important focus of this project is to support green recovery and carbon emission reductions.
- ii. The professional team are working hard during difficult times towards an imminent submission of building warrant application and local volunteers and tradesmen are pulling together to help make this project a reality.

8. CCDC Update

- i. It is hoped that the campervan site will be ready by March subject to the limitations of Covid-19.
- ii. The Crocodile Rock toilets are currently being refurbished and a “pay as you go” system will be installed.
- iii. A funding bid has been submitted for stonework/mortar repairs to the Garrison and hopefully a successful outcome will be notified before April.

9. Flood protection scheme/ Millport Marina

- i. The FPS is due to progress according to the timescales/actions presented at our previous meetings. Following the announcement of the signing of the Ayrshire Growth Deal, and the specific inclusion of the Millport Community Marina proposal in the list of funded projects, a request emphasising the need to push on now with the necessary work to progress the marina development proposals will be submitted to NAC.
- ii. It is noted that with FPS completion timetabled for 2013 it will be necessary to move quickly in order to have a final scheme in place and ready to go when the FPS is completed.

Agenda Items

1. Millport Support Group

- i. The MSG had maintained regular meetings and was continuing to provide a wide range of support to the community in response to Covid-19.

2. Watersports Centre

- i. CCC had facilitated a number of meetings pulling together members of the community, island groups, NAC officials and elected members in order to establish a group which could go on to examine and report back on the feasibility of the community becoming involved in the future operation of the site of the centre and its assets.
- ii. Cllr. Hill stated that a feasibility study was being looked at by the group alongside channels of available funding. North Ayrshire council was assisting the group with a business plan which was hoped to be available by the end of February. Cllr. Hill advised the meeting that CCDC board had agreed to act as an incubator and facilitator for the project.

3. End of year accounts

Carried over.

AOCB

1. Cumbræ community garden.

- i. There had been well-publicised issues surrounding access to the community garden along with entitlement questions. CCC was very disappointed that such a dispute had arisen between the parties leading to the gates having been padlocked. The Community Council wished it to be recorded that they sincerely hoped that the matter could be resolved as quickly as possible as the community garden was a very important and valued facility for the community.

2. Community Council Elections

- ii. It was noted that as a result of the ongoing Covid-19 situation further communication had been received from NAC advising that Community Council elections had again been postponed and would not now take place in April 2021 as previously notified.

No other matters were intimated and the meeting was duly closed at 18:44hrs.

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 11th Feb 2021 @ 5 pm via Online Zoom