

Fairlie Community Council – Monday 05/04/2021, h. 07:30pm, Zoom meeting

Attending:

FCC: Rita Holmes (Chair); Marco Piva (minutes taker); Alan Holden; David Nairn; Karla Tully; David Telford; Ian Hunter

NAC: Cllr. Ian Murdoch

Police: PS Donald Fisher

Press: Calum Corral (Largs & Millport News)

6 MoP

Apologies: Tom Marshall (NA Councillor)

Approval of March minutes: proposed by DT, seconded by AHo

1. Coastal path update

Claire Fitzsimmons of NAC (the person in charge for the project) was invited but unable to participate; she sent an update stating that the works North of Ferry Row are now done; MoP Ailsa Henderson (resident of Ferry Row) confirms having been told that works will not be continued in the foreseeable future due to lack of funding

The plans for the continuation of the path in front of Ferry Row will remain unchanged KT, having spoken to Cllr Alan Hill, confirms that the part in front of Ferry Row remains in the plan, dependant on funding (which is lacking now)

Police report PS Donald Fisher, who is replacing PS Sharon Kerr, introduces himself.

Report for the period between 01/03/2021 and 05/04/2021, as forwarded by PC Dominic Murphy and read by PS Fisher: incidents signalled 32 (compared to 25 in the same period in 2020); crimes identified 3 (compared to 2 in 2020), as follows: 1 adult male reported for possession of drugs; 1 fraud perpetrated over the phone (enquiries on the matter are ongoing); 1 adult male reported following a road traffic collision near Hunterston Roundabout

PS Fisher mentions that a visible Police presence will continue

MoP Margaret Symington: any news about the vandalism on parked cars that happened on Christmas Eve and again about 1 month ago?

PS Fisher: not yet

IH: any information on the car that rolled over at Hunterston Roundabout today (05/04)?

PS Fisher: there was no injury to people, only damage to the vehicle

KT Have there been more reports concerning neighbours during lockdown?

PS Fisher: yes, about people coming and going and guidelines not being followed.

Many reports were anonymous, via e-mail, and therefore harder to investigate

2. Possible closure of Village Hall and Library

MoP Clive Shephard, member of Community Association and of the NA Committee for Community Associations; NAC have started proposing closures about 15 years ago, the Association resisted and still does. Pandemic interrupted consultations; majority in favour of maintaining Village Hall and Library. NAC in charge of maintenance of VillHall and of running Library. Community Centres have proven positive as community hubs during lockdown. New

plan drafted in the last couple of months: Fairlie would keep the Library, but the NAC lease of the Hall would be withdrawn (a new one would be produced for the Library only). A consultation is ongoing on the NAC website, public are strongly advised to contribute their opinion. The new plan is an improvement on previous ones but the danger of closure is still existent; NAC are short on money and there is virtually no allowance in the budget. Consultation lasts 3 years, savings may be made in the next two years. This year, the NAC Chief Executive will not pay the usual rent fee for the VillHall for Elections day (£20 per hour). This is being challenged.

IM Closures have been opposed. Consultation is ongoing; seeing the state of the finances, things may change. Will take a look at the issue with the rent fees for Election Day.

Councillor's Update IM has noticed and reported a number of potholes in various locations in Fairlie in the last few days; Pier Rd seems to be in the worst conditions. Car parks seems to have been overlooked, especially the South one.

3. Riggill Wind Turbines Application update

Application was refused unanimously; 3 people spoke before the Planning Committee, incl. IM.

IM: community benefit was mentioned during the meeting. Have been to meetings in the past to discuss the topic, answer was not satisfactory, objected

RH as the application was refused on 10 different issues, it's possible that they won't appeal

DT thinks that they probably will anyway

4. Hunterston SSG update

Both reactors are now offline for core checks (15% samples). If predictions on rate of cracking is correct, they will apply to generate power for 6 more months. HuntB will be definitively offline not after 7th January 2022, when defueling and decommissioning will start.

A spent fuel rod was found in HuntA; presently in an empty vault, normally would be transported to Sellafield.

AHo: probably there is no safely shielded container available to transport it at the moment; they will need to get one and apply for permission to transportation to Sellafield. It may take some time, but it will not be an issue.

MoP Jackie Pearson: re cracking survey, is there a tolerance?

It is unclear. To refuse restarting, the predictions need to be "really wrong"; the safety margin is ample according to ONR.

Jackie Pearson: the target for tolerable cracking seems to be constantly moving; is there a cutoff point?

RH It isn't known.

AHo control rods will be looked at as well

IM: the limit for cracks rose, step by step, from about 70 to over 1,300

KT Are there other sites with similar issues re cracks?

AHo Hinkley, Torness. ACR stations. Cracks increase with use of station

KT Hunterston and Hinkley are among the oldest stations running, since 1976

AHo Hinkley has same issues; should be closing in 2023

MoP how will be getting our electricity after the stations close?

AHo Windmills, gas turbines

DN NAC doesn't seem to have a climate emergency plan; public should be sensibilised
DT hasn't yet received the offsite emergency plan required under a 2019 law; expiration date for information requests is 8th April. The plan should be available to the public. Will not stop pursuing it.

5. Peel Ports update

Patricia Gibson MP, contacted by FCC asking to intervene re investigation on the accident, sent a letter agreeing that an independent investigation should take place; she asked Marine Accident Investigation Board for clarifications, sending all info available, but isn't expecting an answer before elections

MoP Jackie Pearson (who collected documentation sent to Patricia Gibson): Marine Accident IB said they won't investigate as at the time of the accident the two drillships were not classifiable as ships or vessels. Health and Safety Executive should be in charge

DT Marshall Islands govt are running an independent investigation; H&S Exec seem unwilling to investigate

DN spoke to Marine Scotland re invasive species. As the two drillships are not formally ships, they should be considered deposited structures, which should go through a Marine Licence process including habitat appraisal. Marine Scot do NOT consider them deposited structures but ships. Suggestion to insist for a Marine Scot marine licence process. They are less than 100 metres away from native oysters and seagrass; Peel are ignoring their own biosecurity plans

RH has been constantly complaining officially re noise and vibration

DN received an anonymous letter through his door from a Primary School child asking him to do something to stop vibrations, which are harmful to people (and porpoises). NAC has a plan to work on fighting stress and anxiety in young people; those ships (or deposited structures, whatever they are) are creating a lot of stress in young people (and not only in young people).

DT should we be considering sending a solicitor's letter?

IM got involved in issue on 23/12/20, before ships arrived; on 24/12, received a letter from Peel announcing arrival of ships. FCC raised concerns 2 weeks before the incident. Asked NAC for a full enquiry, was told that incident happened at sea so it's not NAC jurisdiction. Contesting this as incident started at the jetty, which is part of Hunterston Park and therefore of NA. Made a motion (seconded by Alan Hill) to call Marine Accident Investigation to investigate on suitability of pier; it was accepted.

IM at last week's NAC meeting, asked what has been done for environment after declaring climate change state of emergency, and why NA biodiversity officer is only part time

IM wrote letter (receiving written support from 2 Cllrs incl Alan Hill and verbal support from 1 more) asking to investigate pollution level created by drillships; as formally they are not ships, they are part of NA and they are producing emissions. Letter received on 24/12/20 stated vessels would be idle, present "for a layup period only" and generators would be used "only for occasional maintenance". Mains power was promised to be installed, hasn't.

DT Kenny Gibson MSP wrote a letter to Peel asking for clarifications

Jackie Pearson Since the incident, part of the main engines have been on 24/7. Not acceptable in an area declared under climate emergency in 2019. Do Peel have the authority, in their lease, to use the jetty as they are? Diesel fire generators running 24/7/

RH Need to find out if it's still considered an operational port

DN will upload Jackie Pearson's letter on the FCC website and share it on social media. What about the Largs & Millport News?

Callum Corral (press): What has been said tonight will be reported. Tell people complaining of migraines and health issues to get in touch, we will report

Next Peel Port liaison committee meeting 20/04

6. Landslip onto railway at Southannan: update

Seems to have been repaired; trains are running, albeit almost empty due to lockdown

7. A78 update

KT asked for an update re pedestrian crossing; was asked for volunteers to do a letter drop, still needs to be finalised. Crossing is going ahead; no results from the independent safety survey yet; bus stop shouldn't be moved, but this has not been officially confirmed. Initial date set was late March, no further date mentioned

AOB

Hunterston hustings

DN organising hustings re Hunterston to find out what everybody's positions are. Being a Green Party member, thinks there would be a conflict of interest if he chaired it so Claire or Caroline of FoFoC will. Meeting with them on 07/04 to organise hustings. Date proposed 21/04

MoP Ailsa Henderson: have organised hustings some time ago; to call it a hustings, all candidates must be present (not sure re list candidates). It can indeed be kept restricted to a specific set of issues as long as the candidates are made aware of this and the chair proactively stops any questions re other issues

DN if candidates can't be present, they can send a statement or a representative can be present

IM can leave a small window to talk about industry and tourism

DN offers IM to chair; IM declines, but will be present

Cumrae Ferry access options: consultation

IM 3 options for Largs, 2 for Cumrae. Largs option may alter Fort Str circulation and make Bath Str one-way; would heavily disrupt traffic in Largs. Suggestion to examine all options. Suggests priority lanes and booking system

MoP Jackie Pearson in climate emergency, why make provisions for cars? Rather have an electric/hydrogen bus on Cumrae, allowing car access to Cumrae only to residents and disabled

IM advises to take part in consultation making this point, reminding of parking issues in Largs

Speeding traffic

DN notices more and more speeders, especially around Pier Rd

The next FCC meeting is on Monday 3rd of May 2021 at 07:30 pm via Zoom (link for MoPs will be provided on request; MoPs present at this meeting and those who have already expressed their interest will receive it)