

## **DRAFT MINUTES**

Cumbræ Community Council

(meeting held by via Zoom)

8 April 2021 @ 5.00pm

### **1. Present**

Graham Wallace (Chair), Charlie Shaw, Lisa Christie, Sharon Hagan, Crawford Gillan.

- a) Also present - Cllr Ian Murdoch (NAC), Angie McCallum (MTH), Lesley Stringer (NCLPP), Jan Wilkie (CCDC), Patricia Rowley (NAC), Adam Lyon (Largs and Millport News)
- b) Apologies received Cllr. Tom Marshall, Alex Caldwell

**2. Draft Minutes.** The minutes of the previous meeting were proposed by Charlie Shaw and seconded by Graham Wallace.

**(5. Police report)** – (Agenda item moved forward from below to allow the officers to resume their duties)

The meeting was pleased to welcome the local officer Constable Hamilton, Sergeant Fisher, and Inspector Wilson

Constable Hamilton reported 13 issues raised in the last month three of which were covid-19 related, one Crime was recorded involving drugs. These figures were almost a direct comparison with this period last year. Constable Hamilton reported that the town had been reasonably quiet over the Easter period and no issues were brought to the police's attention.

Inspector Wilson advised the meeting that regular interaction with those proposing to travel to the island had been a contributory factor in this.

Given the recorded Crime the Chair enquired whether there was a problem relating to the misuse of drugs on the island and was advised that this was not the case.

### **3. Discussion.**

- a. Millport Flood Prevention Scheme (FPS).

Patricia Rowley from North Ayrshire Council's Flood Team was invited to attend the meeting by the Chair to discuss and update CCC on the recently announced further FPS consultation and concerns that much more planning and action was needed to ensure that the community was made fully aware of the design/scale /duration of the proposed works and that better opportunities be offered to allow for understanding and feedback,

particularly recognising that many in Millport were not able to access the information and questionnaires online.

The meeting was updated regarding the ongoing situation and that NAC was currently working with landscape and heritage regarding the aesthetics of the project and that this would require additional funding applications by NAC to the National Lottery etc.

It was emphasised by all that it was important that the opportunity must be given for the community to be fully engaged in the process and various ways were discussed and suggested as to how best to achieve this.

NAC had, after being requested to do so by CCC, advised they would not be circulating relevant posters/information to every household on the island as they had agreed to do in the last FPS consultation and this was agreed as being unacceptable for such a large scale scheme which will be the largest investment/development that would ever likely be experienced on the island. As a result it was proposed that CCC would approach Millport Support Group and ask that information regarding the forthcoming consultations be included in the next CrocTalk newsletter. This would then be delivered by the MSG volunteers and sufficient copies (1200 +) would be delivered to every door on the island, incl. caravan sites etc., over the weekend of 2<sup>nd</sup> /3<sup>rd</sup> May '21. Given the circumstances it was suggested by CCC that North Ayrshire Council should be willing to meet the fairly minimal printing costs of the CrocTalk Newsletter. It was agreed that this would be followed up with North Ayrshire Council.

The current timescales for the FPS are that the design process/tender documents will be concluded in Autumn 2021 with an aim to start the project build on site during the summer of 2022. It is anticipated that offshore works will be carried out during the summer months as much as possible and that shore-based works and deliveries etc. would seek to minimise disruption to ferry travel and tourism during the holiday season. Patricia Rowley discussed the ongoing plans about the memorial benches along the promenade and that as many relatives as possible would be contacted via press release and written to directly and kept advised and consulted on the way forward.

The NAC Heritage team are looking for ideas on how "Cumbrae heritage" can be incorporated into the flood defences and suggested for example that the Millport coat of arms could be incorporated into the design in some way and this was in discussion with their legal advisors.

**The meeting highlighted the need for as many people as possible to get involved, to look at the NAC Flood Prevention documents on the NAC Millport Flood Prevention Scheme website, to complete the feedback forms and to attend the online presentations and Q&A sessions (21<sup>st</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> April) was emphasised.**

**Questionnaires and a returns box will be available at The Garrison from 26<sup>th</sup> April. The Consultation closes on 24 May. The available information can be accessed via these links: <https://www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/community-safety/flooding/millport-coastal-fps.aspx> and <http://northayrshire.community/millport-coastal-flood-protection-scheme-scheme-notification/35074/>**

#### **4. Matters Arising**

- a. Covid-19 - Covered earlier in the meeting via the police report.
- b. Dog fouling - The process for reporting this had been posted on numerous social local social media sites and there was no update on the situation at this time.
- c. Housing allocations - CCC had written to both MPs MSP's and Cllrs but no reply had been received at this time.

#### **5. (Police Report.)**

See Above.

#### **6. Brief Reports of regular meetings attended**

- a. NAC Ferry Meeting - No meeting had taken place since the last CCC.
- b. Cumbrae Ferry Users Group - No meeting at taken place since the last CCC. The NAC Ferry User's Consultation ends on the 29th of May and Leslie Stringer advised the meeting that she was asking North Ayrshire Council to try and encourage online submission.
- c. Hunterston Parc Liaison Meeting - No meeting had taken place since the last CCC. Cllr Ian Murdoch updated the meeting regarding the drill ships and stated that North Ayrshire Council was asking for a full investigation to be conducted and raised the community concerns from both Millport and Fairlie residents. CCC had earlier written to NAC etc. asking that they ensure NAC be fully involved in the enquiry and that the serious consequences for the island if the ships had grounded be fully taken into account in any inquiry.
- d. Hunterston SSG – The meeting was advised that Reactor 4 had been brought back online on 26 March and that Reactor 3 was expected to be online again shortly. After this further approved period of operation (approx. 6 months) both reactors will be shut down for good and de-commissioning of Hunterston “B” will commence.
- e. Locality Planning Partnership - Nothing to report at this time.

## 7. Standing Items

- a. Police Report - Moved to start of meeting.
- b. Planning update - Rigghill Wind Farm had been refused permission by NAC Planning Committee as a result of the development's non-compliance with several of the LDP's key policies. The application for the proposed Fish Farm development at a site at Millstone Point, Arran was also refused on the same basis.
- c. Licensing applications. - None.
- d. Roads - Balloch Bay repairs were ongoing. It was reported to the meeting that the gully cleaning machine had been over to the islands. It was once again stated by the Community Council that several drains particularly in the Bute Terrace, College Street, and Ferry Road areas still had significant blockages causing flooding in the vicinity. Cllr. Murdoch also commented on the state of the island roads and that although he had not been able to come over to the island due to covered restrictions he was certainly aware that a blitz was required on potholes all over North Ayrshire.
- e. Cycle Path/s - Once again another month has passed when no update had been received by the Community Council on any intention or plan, following on from a very successful community consultation a couple of years ago, to provide a date for the start of any design or ground works. The Isle of Cumbrae is one of Scotland's premier cycle destinations and is continually lauded as such by the local tourist association, North Ayrshire Council, the Coig and many others. CCC again reiterated their concerns and frustrations over the foot-dragging of North Ayrshire Council in addressing this key issue and yet again highlighted the increasing possibility of a serious incident involving a cyclist or walker resulting from the increasing tourist numbers visiting the island and more particularly the ever-increasing number of cars, buses and commercial vehicles using this stretch of road.
- f. CCRT - No relevant update at this time.
- g. MSG - “ “ “ “
- h. Millport Town Hall - Angela McCallum reported that she was delighted to announce that, 3 years and 3 months after their initial meeting, on the 19th of April 2021 the keys for the Town Hall would be handed over to the FMTH Trustees. Angie recorded thanks on behalf of MTH to Cumbrae Community Council for their assistance in getting this project off the ground. She advised that £1,936,000 of a £2 million target so far been raised and it was anticipated that building work on the project would start early summer 2021. Cllr Ian Murdoch offered his congratulations to everyone who was or had been involved in the project to date.

i. CCDC Update - CCDC reported that the Crocodile Rock toilets were now open and that following a donation from Millport Support Group a facility was being installed to enable payments to be taken by bank card. The remainder of the toilets operated by CCDC would continue to be coin pay facilities. Work to the bomb shelter toilets as an accessible toilet in the Garrison grounds was ongoing. Suggestions have been made to CCDC regarding adult changing facilities for less able visitors to be installed in the bomb shelter toilet.

The hard-standing area for motorhomes in the Garrison nearing completion and it was hoped that the facility would be ready in time for the main Summer season.

CCC has for some years promoted and been keen to see a proper facility provided for motorhomes visiting the island to avoid them having to park on the front street of the town. It was agreed that it would be a great shame to spend so much money on the facility and for people to then not use it and that every effort must now be made to ensure that full use is made of the facility at Garrison House. Crawford Gillan said it would be terrible if the brand-new motorhome parking was not used during the busy summer ahead and that CCDC/Garrison House should not get some recompense for their expenditure rather than everyone parking elsewhere.

Jan Wilkie, stated all efforts would be made to ensure visitors knew about the new facility, and CCDC would create a flyer to put on camper websites and that will hopefully get the word out once the site was in a position to open.

It was pointed out that measures need to be considered and put in place at the earliest to discourage motorhomes from parking up on the front street, including encouragement to use recognised pitches and consideration of Byelaws and other forms of regulation. Whilst not trying to prevent or discourage campervans (or campers) from visiting the island it should be expected that such visitors should treat the island and its residents with respect by following the guidance given in the Scottish Outdoor Access Code (<https://www.outdooraccess-scotland.scot/>) and the codes of practice of their own representative bodies such as CAMPA (<https://www.campa.org.uk/>) and use the organised pitches provided in the Garrison to enable Garrison House to recover its costs.

j. Millport FPS/Millport Marina – The latest position in respect of the Millport FPS is covered at item 3. above.

Pier and Harbour - As previously notified NAC are pursuing the erection of a security fence to prevent access to the wooden pier and prior to issuing the contract had requested a note from pier and harbour users of repairs/improvements required to the masonry pier/harbour/jetties. A long list had been provided to NAC and subsequent discussions held with officials highlighting the need for such items as access ladders,

fendering, mooring rings, step repairs, stonework/pointing work, jetty repairs, removal of dangerous underwater obstructions etc. to be addressed. The work is yet to start.

### **8. Agenda Items.**

- a. Recycling - No real progress has been made regarding the previous requests for the provision of a community waste facility on the island similar to that available to residents on the mainland and on Arran. This provision will continue to be pursued with NAC by the Community Council and any evidence of fly-tipping, which appears to be worsening, would be forwarded to North Ayrshire Council. A suitable and readily accessible site will have to be identified.
- b. CCC Accounts - Pending
- c. None

### **9. NAC: Councillors, Updates**

- a. Cllr Murdoch updated the meeting that the procurement of bedding plants was underway and that it was intended that North Ayrshire Council would be planting out the flower beds this year.

### **10. AOCB**

- a) Islands' Officer - Sarah Baird has recently been appointed by NAC as the new Islands Officer for Arran and Cumbrae. She had already held initial meetings with some of the island's groups and these would continue with a view to identifying relevant actions for the islands 10-year socio-economic plan.
- b) Hunterston Hustings – The meeting was advised that all local candidates standing in the forthcoming election had been invited to attend an online hustings to discuss their views on/proposals for future development at Hunterston. The meeting is to be held on Wednesday 21 April at 7.00 pm and is open to the public.
- d) Parking problems – Parking issues had been identified at the junction of George Street and Craig en Ros Road. This was believed to be temporary due to work being completed at the Sanctuary care home. It was agreed that attention continue to be paid and action taken should the problem persist.

### **11. Next Meeting** – Thurs 13<sup>th</sup> May 2021 @ 5.00 pm via Zoom