

APPROVED MINUTES

Cumrae Community Council

(Meeting held via Zoom)

20th of May 2021 @ 5.00pm

1. Present

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

Also present - Cllr Ian Murdoch NAC, Constable Hamilton. 2 x Members of Public

a) Apologies received Cllr Tom Marshall, Alex Caldwell,

2. Draft Minutes. The minutes of the previous meeting were proposed by Lisa Christie and seconded by Charlie Shaw.

3. Matters Arising

- a) Covid Update. - No pressing issues. The island was beginning to open up more fully to visitors.
- b) Housing Allocations - LC updated the meeting regarding questions that had been received regarding this subject and the allocation of houses at St Beya Gardens. Mr. Ken Gibson MSP had been contacted regarding this and reported that the response from NAC was that it had “robustly” followed its allocation policy which has the power to design a policy it believes suits the needs of local people. In this case, we would agree it does not. However, changing that policy is a matter for NAC’s 33 local councillors, four of whom represent Millport, as part of the North Coast and Cumraes Ward. Mr. Gibson will be speaking to the new Housing Minister regarding several island related issues, ranging from preventing the sale of good housing for holiday homes, funds to convert derelict island properties and more resources for new builds plus, a policy which gives priority to islanders - across Scotland - in allocation policy. The latter could require legislation, as it would reduce the autonomy local authorities currently have, as mentioned above.
- c) Recycling / Bulk waste Facility – Serious concerns were once again raised about the lack of such facilities on the island and again it seemed that the residents of Cumrae were at a disadvantage in this area compared to other NAC residents. CG stated that the cost of the special lift had doubled over recent years by around 15% per annum. The cost of additional collection items had doubled in recent weeks to £5 per item. Cllr Murdoch reiterated the NAC position that there was no intention of them providing bulk waste disposal for the island. On this basis and in the interim period it was requested by CCC that consideration should be given for reduced rates for the special lift to, in some small way, compensate the not inconsiderable cost of having to go by ferry to the Haylie Brae site in Largs. NAC Enforcement Officers had issued 4 x Fixed penalty notices concerning litter offences.

4. Police report

Constable Hamilton reported 25 issues raised in the last month a similar amount to this period last year. 3 x Motorhomes had been moved on for a variety of reasons in recent weeks. CCC again raised the issue of cars on the island that were allegedly being driven or parked on the roadside without relevant documentation.

Several complaints had been received from local residents. CCC had been advising the 'complainants' to contact the police directly via online reporting or by phoning 101 but agreed that they would continue to highlight the matter to the police. PC Hamilton outlined the powers that were available to the police in relation to these matters and that officers would have to have 'probable cause' before they could do anything. CCC would report back to the complainants and ask them to provide further information.

5. Brief Reports of Meetings Attended

- a) NAC Ferry Users Meeting - No meeting had taken place.
- b) FUG - A Zoom meeting had been held by this group on 27th April. It was reported back that Calmac had indicated that cash payments may once again be accepted at Largs from May. It was believed that this was not yet happening.

Reference had been made to the provision of a temporary slip for the FPS works and GW stated that in CCC's earlier discussions with NAC about this proposal it had been emphasised that if a slip is to be constructed to facilitate the delivery of the FPS contract etc. then it was essential that it be retained by the community for use by the community and to assist with future island resilience.

The meeting reiterated once again the urgent need for online booking, priority travel to be urgently introduced and that this was seen as an essential requirement to meet the resident community's travel needs. Councillor Murdoch again strongly supported the requirement for priority boarding/pre-booking

- d) Hunterston Parc - No meeting had taken place since the last CCC.
- e) Hunterston SSG – No Meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for 3rd June 2021. Update received that both reactors were now back up running as could be evidenced by the noise coming from them over the last few days. The reactors would be shut down permanently in January 2022 and decommissioning would commence.
- f) North Coast Locality Planning Partnership - No meeting had been held.

6) Standing Items

- a) Planning Applications - No current applications of note.
- b) Licensing Applications – CAR Applications have been submitted to SEPA for 3 large Fish Farm developments surrounding Cumbrae - at Kilchattan Bay, Little Cumbrae and near the Lion Rock. All 3 applications show that Cumbrae will be impacted on by the dispersal of chemicals and waste products etc. from the fish farms with beaches at Newton Sands, Kames Bay, Balloch Bay, Fintry Bay, Bell Bay etc all particularly heavily affected. The CAR applications are open for consultation until 28 May. CCC is working with other local North Coast CCs (Largs CC, Fairlie CC, Skelmorlie CC, West Kilbride CC as well as, on this occasion, representatives from the Isle of Bute and FoFoC, Clyde Porpoise etc.) to lodge responses to the applications.
- c) Roads -
- d) Cycle paths - 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 back, to provide a start date for any work. 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 others. CCC again reiterated their concerns over the foot-dragging of SWECO, Sustrans and North Ayrshire Council and also the very real possibility, with massively increasing tourist numbers to the island, of a serious incident involving a cyclists. Cllr Murdoch stated that he fully supported a safe cycle path for the island.

e) CCRT & MSG. No relevant update at this time.

f) Millport Town Hall - The Town Hall is now owned by Millport Town Hall Charity. Invitations to tender for the site works have been responded to and a short list of contractors drawn up. Once full tenders have been received then a panel will decide on the most suitable contractor to complete the work. Fundraising is ongoing as costs have inevitably risen due to Covid-19 delays plus revenue costs for equipment, staff and fit out are next on the list.

“Hard work, exciting work – it will all be worth it !”

g) CCDC – No update from CCDC due to the change of meeting date. CCC was aware CrocRock toilets were now open. Bomb Shelter toilets were not quite complete and the motorhome area in the Garrison was expecting its first visitors in early June. CCC again reiterated that it hoped that NAC would as quickly as possible make a positive commitment to the issue of motorhome parking on the ‘front street’ and introduce relevant restrictions and, more immediately, advisory notices at the CalMac offices along the lines of those provided on routes to Mull, Tiree, Islay etc. Now that the CCDC had provided safe parking for motorhomes at considerable expense it would be a shame if due to slippage by NAC that income was not forthcoming for CCDC. It was felt that this was exactly the type of initiative that NAC, Councillors and Executive members had been heavily promoting under NAC’s Community Wealth Building scheme.

h) Millport Flood Protection Scheme – 3 x ‘presentation/information’ sessions had been conducted by NAC over the last few weeks. Serious concerns were voiced at the meeting regarding the initial planning/implementation of the consultation process and the lack of any serious attempt to involve the whole community by NAC/the consultants. It was pointed out that if the Community Council had not taken the initiative to promote the consultation and had not subsequently requested the Millport Support Group to assist by promoting the events - and to request an additional evening event - via the CrocTalk, which was delivered to every household on the island by unpaid volunteers, very few people in Millport would have known anything about the latest proposals in respect of the FPS project or been in a position to make their contributions/responses/input known. A lengthy discussion/debate ensued as to the timeliness, content, visualisations and it was agreed that a program of updates be provided to the community and that greater effort needed to be made by NAC and its consultants to immediately provide clear information, visualisations, 3-D modelling, display boards in the town and the previously promised list of other schemes already implemented which would assist in providing a better understanding of how the finished product might appear. CCC was fully supportive of the comments made and of further attempts being undertaken to improve the public information and involvement given the massive scale of the project and the huge impact it will have on the island – both during and after construction. Cllr Murdoch also expressed his support of the comments made by the resident that had detailed many shortcomings in the process of consultation to date.

7. Agenda Items.

- a) Millport Cemetery - It's saddening to hear about people being distressed after being up to visit graves. People who are paying their respects to loved ones want to know that their resting place is being looked after. It's so important that we keep it maintained to a high standard. CCC implore NAC to make good the recent issues highlighted to them by relatives of those buried there. The continued procrastination by NAC is again especially highlighted in relation to the cemetery gates. Some time ago the stone pillars and gates at Millport Cemetery were damaged when we believe, a works vehicle collided with them. They lay unrepaired for a considerable period before NAC restored and modified the stone pillars. Rather oddly the gates, whose presence date back to 1933, were not replaced. This did start to cause consternation in the community and after several enquiries directly by relatives and friends, the matter was raised with the Community Council who subsequently drew the community's concerns to NAC. A spokesperson for them confirmed that a decision had been made not to replace the gates at Millport Cemetery due to budgetary constraints and that, in their opinion, the gates served no real purpose. That was reported back at February 2020 Community Council meeting and was met by the councillors and attending members of the public with amazement and incredulity. A decision was made to continue to pursue the matter with NAC representatives. CCC agreed that it is absolutely vital that people paying their respects know that their loved ones chosen resting place is being well looked after. We all realise that local authority budgets are being stretched like never before but we firmly and sincerely believe that our Cemetery is a very important part of our wee community and it's important that it is maintained to a high standard. NAC needs to revisit their decision making concerning the Cemetery gates and utilise their ten-year capital improvement programme to support the infrastructure of our Cemetery."

8. NAC Councillors' Update. None

9. AOCB

- a) A question was raised as to rumours circulating regarding the sale of land at the Cathedral with the believed intention of building 'glamping' pods. GW advised the meeting that as far as he was aware that at this time no planning application had been lodged with NAC for the development of the site and no other confirmed details were to hand and as such CCC was not in a position to make any comment at this time.
- b) Flower Beds – Following on from CCC's previous enquiries Cllr Murdoch again informed the meeting that he had made contact with the relevant department at NAC and it was still his understanding that planting was scheduled for early June.

10. Next Meeting – Thurs 10th June 2021 @ 5.00pm via Zoom