

## APPROVED MINUTES

Cumbræ Community Council

(Meeting held via Zoom)

14<sup>th</sup> October 2021 @ 5.00pm

### 1. Present

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

Also present: Cllr. Tom Marshall, Cllr Ian Murdoch, Jan Wilkie (CCDCO, Adam Lyon (L&M) plus 2 members of the public.

Apologies received: Alex Caldwell

2. **Draft Minutes.** The minutes of the previous meeting held on 9 September 2021 were proposed by Crawford Gillan and seconded by Lisa Christie.

### 3. Police Report

None presented at meeting.

*A written report was provided post meeting:*

*09/09 – 14/10/21*

*Previous Year*

*Number of incidents in total - 21*

*Number of incidents in total – 18*

*Number of Crimes identified – 4*

*Number of Crimes identified – 6*

*During the period of 9 September 2021 till 14 October 2021 there were 21 incidents in total, resulting in 4 crime reports.*

*The incidents included serious road traffic collision, incidents general complaints/assist in nature. (6 under complaint code, 8 under assist member of public, 2 Missing Persons code, 1 alarm code , 1 assault code , 1 vandalism code, RTC 1 code , 1 Vandalism code).*

*1 person arrested/reported for assault*

*1 person reported for disturbance 1 person issued Recorded Police Warning for complaint offence.*

### 4. Matters Arising

- a. Fly-tipping, Recycling/ Bulk Waste Facility:- CCC will continue to pursue this with the Council. It has been raised many times by CCC and Cllr. Murdoch with NAC with no result. Issue now to be referred to Cllr. Gallagher as Islands Portfolio holder to request he also take the matter forward on behalf of the island community. **Action** – CCC to pursue with Cllr. Gallagher/NAC.
- b. Japanese Knotweed:- Following further contact with NAC regarding the spread of Japanese Knotweed resulting from further verge trimming work having been undertaken unsatisfactory responses had been received. It was agreed that NAC should take this serious, and potentially criminal, issue on board and co-ordinate the necessary action on behalf of the community to ensure the control/eradication of the Japanese Knotweed on the island both on its own land, and through liaison with private owners, elsewhere on the island. CCC will seek an urgent meeting with David Hammond & Wallace Turpie of NAC to take this matter forward. Additional photos and location details will be provided to NAC. **Action** – Chair to contact David Hammond to arrange meeting.

### 5. Brief Reports of Meetings Attended

- a. Cumbræ Ferry Users Group

There had been no FUG meeting since CCC last met however discussion took place around the current issues with the Loch Shira. It was noted that the suspension of the dangerous goods runs raised serious concerns about the supply of heating oil to the island.

Cllr. Marshall stated the current ferry situation was unacceptable and that local groups needed to do more to push CalMac and the ScotGov for solutions including looking at alternative operators etc.

The Chair pointed out that the community expects NAC to take a lead role as our local elected body/authority in assisting the community to resolve the many serious and interlinked problems with the ferry service. It has been identified over a number of years that there are a wide range of issues leading to the current unacceptable situation in respect of the ferry service which involve ScotGov, Transport Scotland, CMal, CalMac and NAC and that it is unrealistic to expect volunteers within such a small community to be able to access and/or influence these bodies let alone bring them all round the table at the same time as is obviously required for a co-ordinated plan of action to be developed which will provide “joined up” solutions to fit Cumbrae’s needs. CCC is looking to NAC as the organisation best placed to bring the various bodies to the table on the community’s behalf to enable the wide range of problems associated with its lifeline ferry service to be identified, recorded and resolved by the various agencies working together. The issues which affect the service are all interlinked and in many cases unique to Cumbrae and for solutions to be found this has to be recognised.

CCC has also raised the serious issues experienced with the island’s ferry service with the Islands Officer during the consultations being undertaken in respect of the island’s proposed 10 year socio/economic/environmental plan all with a view to the plan recognising and addressing the situation. It was further pointed out that a key failing is that whilst CalMac works on the basis of “one size fits all” there are many differences and unique features that need to be addressed on the Cumbrae service.

Cllr. Murdoch stated he would pursue these matters and pursue the organisation of a meeting involving all of the key players.

The issue of non-compliance with face mask wearing regulations on the ferry including crew members not wearing masks, and the difficulties being experienced as a result of how cleaning breaks were being managed was also discussed.

It was agreed that all of these points be tabled by CCC at the next FUG meeting.

b. Hunterston SSG

It was noted that the Hun “B” reactors (3 & 4) are to shut down permanently in January 2022. EDF will then commence de-fuelling which will take 3 – 4 years and this will be followed by the long-term de-commissioning of the reactors/site. NAC have given consent for the Hun. “B” Intermediate Level Waste (ILW) to go into the Hun. “A” store. ONR will scrutinise proposals for safety and security.

Voting members of the SSG (incl. CCC) are still opposing any attempt to bring radioactive waste from elsewhere to Hunterston. This follows attempts by NDA to designate Hunterston as a Regional Radwaste store for all of Central and Southern Scotland.

Hun “B” is currently recruiting for 40 posts and plans to start a number of apprentices.

Decommissioning of Hun “A” will carry on until 2030 and reactor dismantling start in 2035.

The weather cladding (the highly visible white covering) replacement has again been delayed due to the NDA.

The next meeting is on 2 December 2021.

c. Peel Ports Liaison Meeting

It was noted that the drillship (DS4) would be leaving Hunterston jetty on 17<sup>th</sup> October. There is currently no date known for the departure of the remaining drillship.

Peel Ports has re-visited its original Hunterston Parc plan (which was subject of consultation on the island some 2-3 years ago) and, following responses received, is now pursuing a “green plan” for the site. An MOU has been signed with NAC the detail of which is not known but apparently includes reference to large scale funding and support to Peel Ports proposals from ScotGov, NAC and the AGD.

A revised master plan has been produced which was released for consultation but with only a month to submit feedback. The plan includes proposed developments by XLCC and the cryogenic energy storage proposal as outlined in previous CCC minutes. Copies of presentations and the master plan are available on request to CCC. [cumbraeccouncil@gmail.com](mailto:cumbraeccouncil@gmail.com)

d. *North Coast Locality Planning Partnership – no meeting*

e. *Cumbræ Community Group Meeting – no meeting.*

## 6. **Standing Items**

### a. Planning Applications:-

Chalets on Cathedral Ground, College Street - The Planning Committee of NAC had granted the planning consent subject to conditions following a call-in procedure. There was disappointment expressed that, given the number of objections and the call-in procedure, no site visit had been arranged and that limited photos were used to represent the impact on the surrounding area/cathedral.

Cllr. Marshall expressed concern about the number and growth of holiday/ letting properties on the island and stated that any future applications would need careful consideration in light of the many impacts on the resident community.

This led to discussion on the issues around the ability of the island's infrastructure to cope and the increasing burden of providing the services and facilities required for such large numbers of tourists falling on a small resident population. Questions were raised/discussed in respect of what benefit different forms of tourism brought to the island versus the overall impacts on residents. Similar discussions had taken place during the consultation exercise on the Island's 10 year plan and it was agreed that CCC expects that further, more detailed research and study will need to take place on this and other socio-economic issues impacting on the island and its resident community to feed into the proposed 10 year plan.

Site south of 25 Marine Parade - Applications have been submitted for the development of two detached residential units on a site to the south of 25 Marine Parade. After a brief discussion it was agreed that CCC had no comment provided that in reaching a decision NAC take full account of the policies and schedules of the current LDP.

Fish Farm Applications – SEPA has granted consent for the proposed large fish farm developments at Hawk Craig on the Little Cumbræ and close to Lion Rock on Great Cumbræ. CCC in partnership with the surrounding Community Councils in the North Coast area and on Bute had identified many serious issues and concerns and submitted these to SEPA as part of the consultation exercise. The next step will be for Dawnfresh to submit planning applications to NAC, submit EIA's and seek consent from Marine Scotland for each site.

### b. Licensing – None.

### c. Cumbræ's 10 Year Plan

The consultation with the community on "sense checking" of the island's priorities has been completed. CCC made every effort to ensure that everybody was made aware of the opportunity to provide input (via social media, CrocTalk etc.) and arranged for both extra time to be given for responses and for paper copy questionnaires to be made available. The next stage is for NAC to draft up an initial plan for consultation which is likely to be available around the end of November. Full details of how feedback/input will be gathered are still to be provided however it has been advised that a dedicated website will be established giving all information and allowing for input. During discussions CCC has emphasised the need for accurate and up to date "fact checking" of the socio-economic base data on which the plan will be based as priorities may otherwise be based on outdated and inaccurate information and/or historic perceptions of what works/does not work for the islands socio-economic growth and its resident population.

CCC has received assurances that any plan produced will be open to revision and improvement on an ongoing basis as required.

CCC had also made NAC (via the Islands Officer and Islands Portfolio holder) aware of the current socio-economic review being undertaken by CalMac and, given the major issues and impacts relating to the ferry service to the island, it was emphasised that there must be close liaison between CalMac and NAC in drawing up any outcomes reports.

d. Roads Issues

Following his offer at the last meeting Cllr Murdoch visited the island for a walk around with community councillors. The worst areas were inspected and noted and it is expected that Stewart Walker (?) will visit the island for a first-hand view of the major problems. Areas identified included Millburn St., Cardiff St., plus roads where weed growth is destroying pavements and kerbs. A dangerous drain cover outside Hephzi Bee was noted and particular reference was made to the condition of the road from Down Craig to the ferry slip which is now in such poor condition it constitutes a serious danger to cyclists as well as cars.

It was agreed that CCC (LC) would draw up a spreadsheet listing all roads/pavements/verges/weed issues in order that notifications to NAC and responses (repairs, actions etc.) could be pursued, tracked and recorded on an ongoing basis.

e. Cycle-Path/s/"Wild" camping

CCC yet again expressed its continuing frustration at the lack of any progress or recognition of the serious situation resulting for cyclists and pedestrians from the amount of traffic using the coast road between the FSC and the ferry slip. A further letter has been sent to NAC and copy correspondence is to be forwarded to Cllr. Marshall who has offered to take up the matter on the island's behalf. Progress on the community's strongly represented view that action is required on the route from the ferry slip to Keppel Pier (NOT Kames Bay to Keppel) is urgently required.

The meeting also discussed the current situation in respect of the number of campervans and tents around the island. Most of what takes place on the island cannot be classed as wild camping under the Outdoor Access Code etc. Further, wild camping policies do not apply to campervans. It was noted and accepted by all that whilst NAC proposes to introduce a policy dealing with campervans, "the one size fits all" approach proposed will not address the unique problems experienced on Cumbrae. It was also agreed that as the introduction of a longer-term policy was some time away short-term measures and advisory notices etc., as in use on other CalMac routes and as previously highlighted and recommended by CCC, should be introduced in the short term.

f. Millport FPS/Millport Marina/Millport Pier

Millport Marina – An online workshop to progress marina planning was held on 9<sup>th</sup> September. The presentations and outcomes are available upon request. The next meeting is scheduled for 27 October where further discussion and progress on the following will be pursued:

- a. Establishment of a project group
- b. study and discussion of other successful operations on the west coast to identify potential structures/models for the development and operation of Millport Marina
- c. further work on proposals for the marina development incl. shoreside etc. to build a successful funding bid under AGD.

Millport FPS – since the FPS was first proposed CCC has been attempting to ensure that every member of the community was aware of the up to date situation in respect of the FPS proposals and equally everyone was given the opportunity to have their say and provide input to the design process etc. This has been achieved via social media, on island/in person consultations and via mail drops (i.e. newsletters and CrocTalks) to every household on the island. Following representation by CCC a further presentation/consultation (following Covid rules) was arranged in the Garrison on 15/16 September to allow the latest designs to be viewed in addition to an updated flyby video of the scheme. We have requested the video be shown on loop on the Garrison TV. All other information on the FPS can be viewed via this link: <https://www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/community-safety/flooding/millport-coastal-fps.aspx>

g. Cumbrae Community Resilience Team (CCRT)/MSG Update

A multi-agency meeting had been held to commence preparation of the plan for island resilience (CalMac did not attend).

h. Millport Town Hall

MTH reported as follows:

“Work commenced on site on Tuesday 28 September.

Employment has been made possible for one local person on site

Residents have been able to collect firewood and other wood for upcycling purposes

Garrison House have very kindly agreed for the “bombshelter” toilet building to be used as the welfare site for the workforce

Recruitment is ongoing for a two year fixed post for a Community Liaison Officer. This post is possible due to National Lottery funding

A very successful crowdfund has achieved £27,628 at the time of writing with one day left to go. We are extremely grateful for all the donations and the very many messages of support.”

i. CCDC Update

It was reported that CCDC is proposing to seek tenders for repairs to Garrison House incl. windows etc.

The Crocodile Rock toilets had been vandalised over Sept. weekend but fortunately had been successfully repaired and brought back into use at short notice by the contractor. The bomb shelter toilets are to be opened next year (following its use by the MTH contractor) and will include adult changing facilities and be fitted with a coin/card access system.

Recruitment of a part time administration post (16 hours) funded via NAVT is ongoing.

It was reported that the SWI’s 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Coast & Waters exhibition, part funded via CCC, was being very well received.

j. Watersports Centre Update (The Wave)

The following report was received from The Wave team:

“A huge round of applause for IOCTA, and the September Weekend community.

Our ‘taster’ water wellness swim was a great success for those who swam under the magnificent fireworks display, and as our first event our immense thanks go to Jane McCormick of Openswim.org.uk for supporting our endeavours and to her experienced and enthusiastic team.

With regard to the RYA distribution of the sailing boats, we have asked to keep some in case sail training can be delivered in the future, amongst other water sports.

We shall be setting up interviews for our part time project development officer next week.

This post will help us complete the work necessary for the surge ahead and as such, will include joining those volunteers who have offered their services.”

k. IOCTA Update – CCC wished to record that the September Weekend events had been very successful and extremely well received by all.

## 7. Agenda Items.

a. Community Council Elections

The formal process leading to the election of a new Community Council for Cumbrae is now underway and it should be noted that **completed nomination papers must arrive with Committee and Member Services by 12 noon on Wednesday 10 November 2021.**

**Nomination papers can be obtained from the Community Councils page on the Council’s website ([www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk](http://www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk)) or by contacting Melanie Anderson, Senior Manager (Committee and Member Services) by telephoning 01294 324131/07385 417274 during office hours or emailing [committeeservices@north-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:committeeservices@north-ayrshire.gov.uk)**

**Nominations must contain the name and address of the person nominated and the names and addresses of two proposers, each of whom should be a local government elector for the area. Each nomination paper must be signed by the person nominated and the two proposers.**

In the event of nominations exceeding the number of vacancies to be filled, an election will take place via postal ballot. Postal ballots will be available to local electors on request, from Friday 12 November 2021 by contacting the above-mentioned officer of the Council.

The deadline for the return of any postal ballots will be Friday 26 November 2021. Arrangements will be made to allow completed ballots to be returned by post or placed in a ballot box locally.

An Election Results meeting will then be convened by the community council in the week commencing 29 November 2021 (further details to be advised).

#### **8. Councillors' Updates**

Most items had been covered during the course of the meeting however Cllr Murdoch advised that other issues had been pursued incl. missing bolts on the swing park climbing frame, overgrown foliage at Farm Hill, issues of weeds on pavements. The overhanging branches on College St are the responsibility of the Cathedral.

#### **9. AOCB**

The problem of overhanging branches/weeds etc. on Church Brae was again raised and the length of time it was taking for the pier/jetty repair works was highlighted.

The meeting expressed serious concern at the length of time being spent in completing ongoing NAC contracts on the island with specific reference being made to the CARS contracts and the pier/harbour works.

#### **10. Date of Next Meeting**

The 2021 AGM will be held at 5.00pm on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2021 via Zoom. No further ordinary meetings will be held until after the CC Elections.

#### **11. Meeting Closed**