

## CUMBRAE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### **Minutes of Meeting 2021 AGM – 4<sup>th</sup> November 2021 @ 5.00 pm Online via Zoom**

**Present:** Graham Wallace (Chair), Crawford Gillan, Sharon Hagan, Lisa Christie

**Apologies:** Alex Caldwell, Cllr. Tom Marshall

- 1. Minutes of the 2019 AGM:** Unanimously approved.
- 2. Chair's Annual Report:** The report (copy below) of the Chair covering the previous two years was noted (Due to Covid no AGM was held in 2020).

As everyone knows the term of this Community Council comes to a close after this meeting. The original term of election was 4 years however due to Covid elections were delayed and CCC has therefore continued to meet and operate consistently over the last 5 years. During this time 11 residents have served as Community Councillors and I must take this opportunity to formally record my thanks to them all for their dedication and for taking on a considerable workload voluntarily on behalf of the community – especially those that have put in the full 5 year stint! Their efforts have made a difference and benefitted the community in many direct and indirect ways. As has been pointed out by the two previous chairs, the effort and the results are maybe not always seen, recognised or appreciated but the outcomes have been important for all residents and the work carried out will continue to benefit the island community into the future.

For obvious reasons the period since early 2020 has been particularly challenging due to the impacts of the Coronavirus pandemic on Cumbrae but in many respects it brought out what is the very best in many people in our small community. I am pleased to say that we as CCC managed to carry on with “business as usual” during the pandemic whilst at the same time, together with members of other island organisations under the Millport Support Group banner, taking on a huge amount of additional work associated with ensuring that all members of the community of all ages were provided with the necessary assistance and support throughout the pandemic.

Through the use of Zoom and Microsoft Teams Mtgs. it has been possible to carry on with our meetings and it also turned out that the use of online meetings allowed for much closer, more frequent and much more productive interactions between CCC and the NAC elected members and officials on a wide range of issues. A good working relationship has been developed with NAC over the last 5 years, and whilst we might not always be in agreement, we have had much greater opportunities over the last two years to discuss and resolve the community's concerns and progress projects.

For such a small island with such a small resident population Millport has had many pressures to withstand – both on island and from off island - but by the same token we have to recognise and register our appreciation of the huge amount of support and investment forthcoming as a result of these improved relationships from NAC, ScotGov and other agencies in helping to address our key issues in more recent years.

Much of the ongoing work of CCC that we have taken up on behalf of the community could be deemed routine and mundane but nevertheless requires considerable effort and

persistence to yield results. This applies to the issues that will always need to be addressed on the island such as repair and maintenance work (incl. roads/pavements/drainage/flower beds/lighting/waste management/bins etc.– and of course dog poo !). Whilst continually having to chase up such issues is certainly not a “glamour job” they are very important to the residents and we have found that NAC has to be constantly reminded of this and prompted to prioritise and deal with them.

Other issues will likely always exist and will need to be carefully monitored and responded to by the community through time by the introduction of appropriate measures. CCC has been championing the need for and introduction of a comprehensive socio/economic/environmental plan for the island – a plan that should look ahead for 10 years, be based on up to date island based data and statistics and fully involve the whole of the community in its input, development and revision. What has been evident up to now is that short term quick fix solutions imposed by others have not worked well for the community.

The ferry service is a case in point and has presented ever increasing problems/barriers affecting residents’ freedom to travel, particularly at peak periods. A key aim of the CCC has been to pursue the ability of residents to travel freely and with the least disruption possible on their lifeline service i.e. “residents first”. The complex list of interlinked problems relating to the service involving decisions made by the different bodies and agencies with responsibility need to be dealt with as one and joined up solutions found by them working together to address Cumbrae’s unique situation amongst the western isles. A “one size fits all” approach will not work for Cumbrae and this also has to be recognised and accepted by all decision makers involved in any future planning for the island.

There is a continuing need for issues around the subject of tourism on the island to be examined and addressed including the impact it has on the resident community and the risks associated with putting “all of our eggs in one basket” – as was highlighted during lockdown. There is also a question mark over the ability of the small resident community to continue to provide and support the necessary infrastructure and services to cope with such large numbers of visitors – with particular reference to the increased number of day trippers travelling by car.

In respect of campervan parking on the front street CCC strongly promoted and supported the development of the successful facility in the Garrison grounds however issues still remain with campervans and camping around the island (both of which are generally undertaken outwith the guidance provided by the Outdoor Access Code etc.) and this has been the subject of ongoing discussion with NAC.

At the same time, since forming 5 years ago, this Community Council, has been instrumental, and/or involved in, initiating and continuously working on and supporting some major developments and proposed improvements on the island. These include the Millport Town Hall redevelopment, the Save the Pier campaign, The Millport Marina development and support for the CARS project. The proposed safe Cycle Route between the ferry slip and Keppel has also been continuously pushed for but unfortunately, despite strong local support and a detailed report by a consultant having been completed, this project has not yet been actioned or promoted by NAC.

The largest development to ever be proposed for Cumbrae is the £20m plus Millport Flood Prevention Scheme. Due to the scale of the development and the degree of change that will be involved CCC has been heavily involved in ensuring that not only has as much information as possible has been made available to everyone in the community but that the community also had the opportunity at every stage to provide their input/suggestions and to influence the proposals and design etc.

One of the key aims of this Community Council has been to ensure that residents were made aware of all policies, plans and developments that would impact on the island and their lives and to present the opportunity for all to provide their input and to let the decision makers know their views and influence outcomes.

In pursuit of this aim CCC has regularly attended meetings of the North Coast Locality Partnership; Hunterston SSG (scrutiny of the nuclear power plant); Hunterston Parc Liaison Group (Peel Ports development plans); and a large number of consultations and presentations on proposed major developments and proposals which would potentially have major impacts on Cumbrae and its community.

More recently, now working together with the other North Coast and Bute community councils, we have taken a close interest in major planning/development applications within the local area, the latest being the CAR Licence applications to SEPA for 3 large fish farms surrounding Cumbrae.

There are exciting times ahead for Cumbrae and developments such as the Town Hall, Millport FPS and Millport Marina will breathe new life into the community and I am eager to see them completed and to see the beneficial impact they have.

Before finishing I would like to also sincerely thank our elected members for their support and assistance in pursuing the many issues and projects on the island and all of the NAC officials that have worked for and with us to bring about solutions and progress.

*Note: A full record covering the work of the Community Council is contained in the Minutes of Meetings – copies of which are displayed on the CCC Notice Board at the Garrison and on CCC's Facebook page. Copies of all past Minutes are available from NAC (North Coast Locality Partnership website) and in Millport Library.*

### **3. Treasurer's Report:**

The treasurer provided closing accounts (subject to audit) for both the Administration Account and the Project Account for the years 2020 and 2021 as attached below. The accounts were noted and will be passed to NAC for audit purposes.

It was noted that during the pandemic it was agreed that funds which had been successfully applied for by Cumbrae Community Resilience Team/Millport Support Group would be held "ring fenced" within the CCC bank accounts until such time as the newly formed group could open its own bank account/s. The reason for this was that the bank was not accepting applications for the opening of any new treasurer accounts during the pandemic (this has very recently been relaxed and applications are once again being processed).

Accordingly it was unanimously agreed that the funds being held, which total £2572.00, plus an additional sum of £640.00 due imminently from NAC for printing/delivery of CrocTalks to publicise the Millport Coastal Flood Prevention Scheme, be passed at the

earliest opportunity to the CCRT/MSG bank account as per the original intent when the funds were applied for.

*The sums/funding involved comprise:*

<i>Funding from:</i>	<i>SAC</i>	<i>£500.00</i>
	<i>EDF</i>	<i>£500.00</i>
	<i>Arnold Clarke</i>	<i>£750.00</i>
	<i>Foundation Scotland</i>	<i><u>£822.00</u></i>
		<i>£2572.00</i>

*plus £640.00 still due from NAC.*

#### **4. AOCB**

- a. The Minutes of the CCC Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2021 @ 5.00 pm were tabled and unanimously approved.
- b. The meeting was reminded of the forthcoming Community Council election and the process/programme outline. A Public Notice has been issued by NAC and information has been provided by CCC on its Facebook page, on its Notice Board at the Garrison and by posters in retail premises.

#### **5. Close of Meeting**

The Chair closed this last meeting of the current Community Council after once again thanking the Community Councillors for their hard work and commitment on behalf of the community and also again thanked NAC's elected members and officials for their work on behalf of the island.



