

Fairlie Community Council – Monday 05/12/2022, h. 07:30pm, Semple Centre, 45 Main Rd, Fairlie

The meeting is declared open at **07:34pm**

Attending:

FCC: Rita Holmes (chair), Marco Piva (minutes secretary), Alan Holden, David Telford, Arran Hewlett, Jackie Pearson, Ian Hunter

NAC: Cllr Tom Marshall

Police: *none*

5 MoP

Apologies: Malcolm Milne, Mairi Wyatt (FCC); Cllr Ian Murdoch, Cllr Todd Ferguson, Cllr Eleanor Collier (NAC)

Approval of November minutes: proposed by DT, seconded by AHold

Police Report: No Police present, the report was not received

NA Cllrs' report: TM will intervene in individual points and give a short report at the end of the meeting

1. **Young Citizen of the Year award**

Discussion of this point is postponed until the arrival of IH

2. **North Coast Locality Partnership**

NCCP meeting to take place tomorrow 06/12 @5pm. Online meeting, open to the public (MoPs can request a link to join the meeting through MS Teams)

3. **Hunterston SSG**

The fire brigade was called due to the fact that the control panel on one turbine had started smouldering. The issue was solved before the arrival of the fire brigade, who are called automatically. Investigations on the causes of the issue are ongoing.

AHold ScoGovt (on request from UK Govt) are working to identify two areas in the country, at a distance of not more than 2km from former nuclear sites, for burial of intermediate level radioactive waste. Options are being considered. Very unlikely that Hunterston will be picked due to the conditions of the area.

JP There is a big aquifer on site, on the sandstone layer of the reclaimed land, where the XLCC tower may be built. The water comes from the hills

AHold There were questions re burning of contaminated oil on site. This hasn't been happening for around 15 years and will not happen.

HuntA and HuntB are cooperating re discharge water

4. **Hunterston Parc Liaison Committee**

No date yet. No news about the proposal of making it quarterly.

JP questions the presence of 6 diesel generators running all night on the jetty to keep the lights on. Also, the lights point towards Fairlie creating light pollution, they are not being managed correctly: there are rules re. industrial lights that are not being followed. The presence of those diesel generators belie the definition of Hunterston Parc as a Green Energy Park.

DT Wrote BEIS (Dept. for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy) to complain about the Foinhaven having been berthed at Hunterston w/o an EIA. The reply received was

unclear/hazy, and specified that no further queries on the topic will be answered. This was forwarded to Patricia Gibson MP for advice.

1. **Young Citizen of the Year award**

The award has been of £25 until now. Proposal to raise it to £75

IH (FCC Treasurer) has already taken the initiative to raise it to £50, further raises may be discussed in due time

5. **Cable factory application**

NAC Planning Committee granted a Certificate of Lawfulness to XLCC.

MoP The legislation was followed to the letter, and so were the rules of the PlanCom.

JP An agent on behalf of PeelPorts stated during the PlanCom meeting that Peel are the owners of the land; that is untrue as two thirds of the land belongs to the Crown Estate and is only leased (albeit on a 99-year lease agreement) to Peel. The main issue, however, is that the Certificate was granted on the basis that there have been 10 continuous years of heavy industrial activity on the site; this is also untrue. Ferguson Coals and Fairlie Fabrications, cited as examples of heavy industries, are not on the site; this was not contested by anyone at PlanCom.

RH will write all members of PlanCom to highlight the issues mentioned and to complain of the fact that some PlanCom members seemed uninformed on the issue

TM (former chair of PlanCom) reminds that the decision has already been taken

DT mentions taking NAC to Court. In the appl to be discussed in Jan there is no mention of lead levels and of noise pollution, which should be considered important. The proposer had been specifically asked to take a complete proposal before PlanCom to avoid "salami slicing", and this is not happening.

JP calculated that approx 33,600 tons of lead (or more, this is a conservative estimate) will be processed yearly. XLCC won't confirm this, stating it's an intellectual property. This would mean that XLCC would be processing around 10% of the amount of lead processed in the whole of the UK. This might end up not being an issue, but we need reassurance of this.

TM offers to gather all questions that need an answer and to assist finding answers

AHold Questions re. fumes and fire hazards were not answered at the public meeting. He was then told that there would only be an unspecified amount of methane fumes released in the atmosphere, which is environmentally unacceptable. XLCC stated that burning them would be environmentally unacceptable.

JP A submarine cable that uses no lead and is fully recyclable exists. It's not ready for production yet due to several factors, but it will be soon, making the technology that XLCC proposes to produce obsolete.

RH will create a document to be handed out to residents encouraging to write to PlanCom

TM Send bullet points to PlanCom members too

MP Please remind PlanCom to also consider infrastructures (road transport, public transport, sewage) that will need to be updated before an operation of that scale can become operational

RH Independent noise reports will be done; these will be paid with FCC money

DT Can we ask NAC to pay for those as bona fide expenses?

RH consulted a lawyer in Edinburgh, focussing mostly on contrasting the proposed removal of conditions 11 and 12 (and possibly further issues). Funds are already available (not FCC money)

XLCC will hold a public meeting on Dec 15th at Clark Memorial in Largs

NA Cllrs' report: TM is the only Cllr present.

- **Budget**: The NAC budget has been approved. It is of around £14 mill. Cuts will be necessary; some

are already being discussed, but further info is not available as reserved and confidential
DT asks why NAC seem to be failing to address the £250 mill potential overspend on NAC Schools PPP

- **A78:** talks with AMEY to clean the road between Largs and Fairlie. Part of the works have been done.

- **Traffic wardens** will be employed to patrol pay parking areas.

- **A78:** The stretch of A78 from Skelmorlie to Seamill has been investigated for safety; no results have been shared yet

AOB

+ Arran Hewlett

AHewl has a new job with a partner company of XLCC, therefore he will from now on refrain from commenting on any business in relation to XLCC

+ change.org petition

MoP has been contacted via email suggesting that we use change.org to start a petition re. the issues we are having with XLCC. Forwarded to RH

This can be considered, although the situation is complex and requires some investigation before having an idea, so it may not be suitable for such platform. Clarifications will be asked

+ PeelPort

Peel are both an authority and a landowner; isn't there conflict of interests?

DT FCC considered this issue when it was looking into lack of representation of Clyde Coastal Communities on the CMPP and gaining access as members to this body

+ Road signage

DT There are no white lines on junction School Brae/Highfield Terrace since resurfacing works

AHewl confirms

TM will look into this

+ Tennis hut

MoP (John Riddell) It is still there; just needs a communication from directors of the Tennis Club authorising its removal and it will be taken down

RH to contact MW for information

+ Apologies

TM offers his apologies for the next FCC meeting (see date and time below)

The meeting is declared closed at **09:01pm**

The next FCC meeting is on Monday 9th of January 2023 at 07:30 pm at the Seemple Centre, 45 Main Rd