

Fairlie Community Council minutes 9/1/23

Present were Rita Holmes (Chair), Alan Holden (min taker), David Telford, Mairi Wyatt, Malcolm Milne, David Nairn and 5 members of the public.

Apologies from NA Councillors Tom Marshall, Todd Ferguson, Ian Murdoch as well as CC members Marco Piva and Ian Hunter.

December minutes accepted by DT and seconded by RH

Police Report There was no police presence and no report.

1 Fast rig wing sail test facility. 22/00981/EIA

NAC has been asked for a screening opinion, as to whether an EIA is necessary or not. There are no details on the Planning Website so difficult to assess.

2 XLCC proposed subsea cable facility Application 22/00712/MSCM

Due to come to Planning Committee 25/1/23. All attendees asked to see the FCC submission to NAC regarding this. All thanked Jackie Pearson for the work he has done seeking out information for the CC and community. It is proposed to submit a lawyer's letter objecting to discrepancies in the planning application and NAC's handling of it.

We have learned that Piling will be necessary for some of the structures, but not the tower.

We were originally told that piling would not be necessary at all.

DN said he had seen no evidence of any Xlinks company applying for permission to lay subsea cable on the international route from Morocco to Devon.

XLCC has applied for Variation of Conditions 11 and 12 which relate to the financial bond for dismantling of the tower. The factory design target life is 20 years. This was reported at the recent public meeting.

There is still evidence of missing details of plans and documents on the NAC website. It was felt that XLCC representatives at the public meetings did not have enough technical knowledge of the processes or hazardous substances likely to be used or stored on the operational site. They did not have enough information about what was to be installed in the buildings.

There is still concern about risk of noise nuisance from the 24/7 operation which we are told has to be 24/7 as the cable is vulnerable to stops and starts. This seems rather implausible and another reason

could be financial. The height of the tower we are told is to enable longer lengths and less joints in the cable. It appears that the joints are vulnerable points. So there will be many vulnerable points/joints between Morocco and Devon!

As the noise comments in the environmental statement appear lacking in substance and appear inadequate, an independent noise survey was needed and was commissioned on behalf of FCC to be submitted to NAC. This will be paid for by FCC funds. The information leaflets distributed throughout the village were printed by Largs Printers and also will be funded by FCC. The cost of Noise Report from Grosvenor Consultancy is £750 and the Leaflets cost £150. Both are considered essential commitments due to our worries about this Application and the potential detrimental impacts due to noise and other factors.

Note that XLCC plan another public meeting in Fairlie Village Hall at 18:30 on the 18th January 2023.

RH said that lots of residents had expressed their concerns to her about what is being planned and the risks to the village.

The work on the extrusion tower was to have started in December 2022, but is now to start, according to XLCC, in Spring of this year 2023.

The plans for the NEW, VERY QUIET cable laying vessel are not yet thought to have been progressed. No-one has traced design plans or order details for this NEW, VERY QUIET cable laying ship, so all we have is XLCC`s claim that it will be noiseless!

IH FCC Treasurer to pay invoice (£150) for leaflets distributed in December. Thanks to all those villagers and LG who helped in distribution.

REMINDER The planning Committee meeting which will consider the XLCC Application is on Wednesday, 25th January 2022, at 2pm at NAC in Irvine.

3 Swing park and Tennis Courts

Mairi reported that the benches have been ordered and that the tennis courts are looking neglected and weeds are again growing.

Mr McGinty reported to Mairi that the dilapidated hut had been emptied and that J Riddell was liaising with B Kirkwood to have it dismantled and removed ONCE a letter of consent has been given by the Tennis Club.

AH had previously said he would arrange for written consent to demolish and remove the hut.

4 A78 and flooding

We had flooding, yet again, by the petrol station and Kelburn gates after heavy rain. No recent update from Councillor I Murdoch. There was flooding from Main road down Baker`s Lane which removed gravel from the path.

MOP had asked RH about pavement being raised at top of Baker`s Lane to alleviate this. RH to contact Transport Scotland re drains.

5 NAC and Locality Planning Conference

Sat, 28th January , Saltcoats Town Hall at 9:30am. RH to attend. Others could also go.

Wed, 25th January Budget Engagement Session in Largs Library. 6pm.

AOB

i JR asked about the discrimination case awarded to Hunterston Civil Nuclear Policeman. This had been in the newspapers recently. RH said that she had asked HNB about it months ago, and had been led to believe, it was a minor disagreement over coffee mugs .JR thought it merited further questions from the SSG. RH to ask for CNC to attend next HSSG in March to answer any queries.

li Clyde Marine Planning Partnership ... David Nairn has received answers to his questions sent to Edinburgh and Ministers. It has been confirmed that the CMPP will include Community Council representation and it will have statutory rights.

It has been noted that a DRAFT local marine plan is being prepared, but as yet Community Councils have not been consulted.

The Scottish Bio Diversity Conference is due soon.

The Scottish Protected Marine Areas Report is due soon and DN is trying to get the Fairlie SSSIs included in this as Marine Protected Areas.

DN has been asked to write to NAC about the run off from the coalyard affecting the marine environment. This will be even more important when the construction work starts on the cable facility. He reported that the on site suds ponds, when last tested, were very acidic.

A78....additional comments... the road surface between Fairlie and the Nuclear roundabout is breaking up badly.

School Brae, still no white lines after resurfacing work, and MOP reported that drivers are not being careful enough about being at their side of the road. Councillor Marshall still to report back after contacting NAC roads dept.

New pharmacy still not approved. 400+ support comments had been received. RH to attend the hearing for it.
The next FCC meeting will be Monday 6th February 2023 at 7::30pm in the Semple Centre. All welcome.