

Fairlie Community Council – Monday 05/02/2024, h. 07:30pm, Semple Centre, 45 Main Rd, Fairlie

The meeting is declared open at **07:31pm**

Attending:

FCC: Rita Holmes (chair), Marco Piva (minutes secretary), David Nairn, Alan Holden, Jackie Pearson, Mairi Wyatt, David Telford

NAC: Cllr Ian Murdoch, Cllr Alan Hill

Police: *none*

5 MoP

Apologies: Malcolm Milne; Ian Hunter (FCC); Cllr Todd Ferguson; Cllr Tom Marshall; Cllr Eleanor Collier (NAC); Ailsa Henderson (MoP)

Approval of January minutes: proposed by DT, seconded by DN

Police Report: No Police present, the report was not received. Sgt. Fisher contacted MP asking for any issues that FCC may have raised; MP to contact Sgt. Fisher to invite him or another representative of the Police to the next meeting and asking to be sent a report before the meeting

Scotrail Station Adopters

DN has received communication from Nancy MacQueen of the Community Gardens stating that the two Scotrail Station Adopters who have been taking care of the flower beds at Fairlie railway station have withdrawn their commitment (they will however be replaced). FCC wishes to express their thanks to them for a great job. A letter of thanks will be sent.

NA Cllrs' report:

IM: work on the coastal path has started. The workers' welfare unit compound has been erected on Bay Str. Complaints have been received due to the reduction in parking space. Suggestion to move welfare unit compound to Jetty Rd.

IM has received an initial response from the flooding officers re. the incidents that took place in late Dec. 2023. The officer will get back as soon as they have a clearer understanding of causes and effects of the flooding. IM asked for a meeting; .

SEPA have completed their analysis; the culverts and the sewers are extremely old.

RH Something should be organised to give people access to emergency measures (at least sandbags)

IM Millport has had issues with sandbags (impossible to have them delivered there when ferries were off due to the weather). Suggestion that each community has access to the necessary amount/number of sandbags

AHill: suggestion to store them at Community Gardens. IM agrees.

IM and AHill will look into this.

MoP: just after 27/12 flooding, met a Dawn engineer, Mr. Malley, who was examining the lower SUDS pond to evaluate its draining. Also spotted lots of detritus in Keppen Burn. All ways off upper SUDS pond seem silted. The culvert near Baillie Rd seems to be in need of urgent maintenance.

IM: the responsibility of keeping waterways clean is the landowners'. The culvert near Baillie Rd. has been worked on recently, but more maintenance is indeed required. The new culvert at Dawn is becoming more and more a necessity, but there are no funds available.

DT: suggestion to invite the NAC flooding officer to next FCC meeting.

1. XLCC

New date for Millport event: Wed 28th of Feb

It has been announced that a Chinese investor will invest 10 million GBP into XLCC, to be added to 9 million from Scottish Enterprise.

DT: Freedom of Information Request re. terms was filed on 10/01, no response yet, the 20 working days by which a response should be given are close to expiring (but haven't expired yet). DT will keep monitoring the status and report on any response received.

IM wonders why ScoEnt. have invested 10 mill for Hunterston decommissioning but 9 mill for XLCC

No dates for beginning of work have been mentioned

2. Coastal path

Work has been started for the last phase. Ferry Row householders have been complimentary about the workmen involved.

A sewer was damaged in front of Ferry Row and is presently discharging water. Residents were told that it is a redundant sewer, so no action is required.

3. Hunterston SSG

Next meeting on Thur 7th of March at 1:30pm at the Waterside Inn

Nothing out of the ordinary on the agenda: reports from Hunterst. A and B and from ScotGovt. There will be a presentation on near-surface disposal of higher-active waste.

4. Flooding

See NAC Cllrs' report.

Nothing has been arranged as yet with the concerned parties

IM suggests to prepare questions for NAC flooding officer Mr. Arthur Cowley, a meeting is being arranged between Cllr IM and Mr Cowley.

DT: the flooding was mainly caused by inadequate drainage. This needs to be addressed. Ask Mr. Cowley to meet FCC.

5. Crosbie wind turbines

A response to ScotGovt Energy Consents Unit is due by Wed Feb 14th.

Largs CC have already responded

The consultation is lengthy, it's difficult to accurately object

MoP. This is a pre-application consultation. It seems advisable to ensure that all doubts and questions FCC have are known.

RH and JP have been working on this. MW to assist.

IM (allowed to discuss the topic as, due to the size of the project, this appl. will not be going through NAC planning process but it will go directly to the Govt): Righill was rejected (also) due to the fact that the proposed turbines were 4.2MW; they would have been the biggest on land (the advised distance from inhabited areas is of 10km). Crosbie proposal mentions 6MW turbines. It is a scoping process, but the communities need to make sure that their position is unequivocal.

DN The land belongs to Montgomerie Estate. Worth contacting them?

MoP: Energy Consents Unit is the body that will give or deny permission. They pay attention to detail.

AHill: make all issues clear, so there is no doubt.

RH There is a 2018 report specifying that many areas are not suitable for erection of wind turbines

MoP There also are studies concerning peat land, showing that erecting wind turbines on peaty ground is not economically viable.

DT suggests to focus on EIAs, insisting for one for each aspect that may be impacted. Also suggests that FCC get in touch with the individuals or organisations who will be in charge of doing such EIAs.

DN Would it be possible to ask for more time to file a response?

DN We could also petition NAC Planning Committee to reject the proposal (NAC PlanCom don't make a decision but they have the right to express an opinion, which is likely to carry some weight)

6. Hunterston Parc liaison committee

No date yet, but March (probably late March) has been informally mentioned.

RH Mr McSporrان promised a site visit, could he please be reminded of this?

AOB

IM observes how the new takeaway shop has had a great opening weekend.

ACTIONS

MP to invite Police to next meeting

RH to write thank you letter to retiring station volunteers

IM and AHill to investigate the possibility of sourcing sandbags from NAC and the possibility of storing them at Community Gardens

RH to ask for time extension for response to ECU re Crosbie

John Riddell (HPLC chairperson, present as a MoP) to remind Jim McSporrان of HPLC about site visit for HPLC members

The meeting is declared closed at **08:54pm**

The next FCC meeting is on Monday 4th of March 2024 at 0730 pm at the Seemple Centre, 45 Main Rd