

Fairlie Community Council – Monday 04/03/2024, h. 07:30pm, Semple Centre, 45 Main Rd, Fairlie

The meeting is declared open at **07:30pm**

Attending:

FCC: Rita Holmes (chair), Marco Piva (minutes secretary), Alan Holden, Malcolm Milne, David Telford, Ian Hunter, Mairi Wyatt

NAC: Cllr Alan Hill

Police: Sgt Donald Fisher

5 MoP

Apologies: Jackie Pearson (FCC); Cllr Ian Murdoch; Cllr Todd Ferguson; Cllr Eleanor Collier (NAC)

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

RH received a letter from Patricia Gibson MP re. the BESS at Hunterston, specifically about the fire safety measures set for it. Said letter is attached in its entirety (*2024.03 attachment 1 [2024.02.29 - Letter from Patricia Gibson MP.pdf]*) and will be circulated.

-> **ACTION:** MP to scan letter, attach it to minutes/draft minutes and forward it to RH for appropriate circulation.

DT Health & Safety Executive may need to be involved in the process.

Police Report (Sgt DF):

In Feb 2024 10 incidents were reported on the Police call system. Please note that this involves any kind of calls to the Police, including multiple calls from the same incident (not referring to any specific instance in this case) or calls that may not end up being Police matters. 3 crimes have been reported:

- 1 report of assault; this case has a history and is being dealt with
- 1 report of threats and abusive behaviour over the phone
- 1 report of theft of fuel from the petrol station

AHold: any success in slowing down the traffic crossing Fairlie?

DF: Amey did surveys, results not shared with the Police (yet?)

MoP: is the Police office in Largs open and manned 24/7?

DF: No. It is open to the public during operational times of the doctor's surgery (Mon to Fri, 8am to 1pm and 2pm to 5:30 pm); there is a 24/7 local cover but, out of hours, the office may be temporarily unmanned if the officers are out on a call. The buzzer outside the office connects to 101, so it's advised to use the phone to contact Police out of hours.

MP spoke to a maintenance operator working on the traffic lights. He stated that the traffic lights, which are supposed to be speed activated, are not and haven't been for around 2 years because the northside sensor is glitching and sends the signal to turn the light red with every passing vehicle, whichever its speed, so it has been deactivated. It can be fixed (either fixing the sensor or, more likely, replacing it), but it needs to be requested by AMEY. The operator suggested to ask NAC Councillors to contact AMEY to lend their authority to such request, and possibly to ask the Police to lend support to our request.

DF: having the traffic lights being speed activated would be useful; will support request to reinstate it if one is made

AHill: ready and willing to write AMEY, but points out that local speeders may find out that the lights are speed activated and ignore a red light, creating an additional hazard for vehicles pulling out of

The Causeway.

MP: There is no red light camera active because the fact that the lights are speed activated was supposed to be temporary and experimental; it has been set up between 5 and 10 years ago (nobody can pinpoint the exact date), and no report has ever been received.

-> **ACTION**: MP and AHill to contact AMEY to ask for a report.

MoP: the stone wall that has been dislodged at the top of The Causeway obstructed the view of northbound traffic for cars and low vehicles pulling out of The Causeway; if it is replaced, can it be replaced with something lower?

MP (at the corner of whose house the wall was/is) has spoken with Cllr Ian Murdoch to find out whose responsibility would be to maintain/replace it as it is not set as part of the house in the deeds. Possibly AMEY or NAC.

MoP remembers said wall having been built in the last 20 years or so.

MP states that it was there as of 2009, when he purchased the property, so it must have been erected between 15 and 20 years ago. It would be a hazard to simply remove it.

MoP: Possibly a simple metal crash barrier would suffice.

-> **ACTION**: MP to keep investigating re. that wall.

NA Cllrs' report:

AHill: The budget has been approved.

AHill: The South car part is investigated for possible installation of facilities to allow overnight parking of caravans (one or two spaces). Caravans already stop there overnight during the summer on a regular basis, adequate facilities would allow easier maintenance and better hygiene.

MoP: After works were done on Castlepark Drive, over 6 months ago, the pavement still needs to be reinstated to its previous status and is not accessible.

RH: Jackie Pearson (absent today, his apologies have been received) has never been formally co-opted to FCC. Proposal to do so is unanimously accepted. Jackie Pearson has now been officially co-opted as a member of FCC.

RH: proposal to move the next FCC meeting from Monday the 1st of Apr, Easter Mon, to the following Mon. 8th of Apr. Unanimously approved.

1. Battery Energy Storage System

The letter received from Patricia Gibson MP has already been discussed and is attached to this set of minutes (2024.03 attachment 1 [2024.02.29 - Letter from Patricia Gibson MP.pdf]).

2. Crosbie wind farm update

AHold: is the battery storage for the wind farm supposed to be built on the old railway site?

RH believes Energy Consent Unit is seeking local information which might be missing from the submitted application. Applicant's Consultants have asked ECU to scope out infrasound from any EIA to do for Crosbie Wind Farm

DT received an e-mail from the Energy Consent Unit saying that, as we are presently at a scoping opinion phase, there will be time to identify and address any concerns.

RH: ECU asked to gather "local knowledge", but they seem unwilling to address noise and infrasound concerns.

AHold: Crosbie also seemed to be ignorant of those at latest public meeting

AHill suggests to engage with ECU and with Crosbie to at least ensure community benefit. Garnock Valley CCs and trusts are already working towards this.

DT: The company has been renamed and is now registered as Galileo 01.

MoP: There seem to be several companies (at least 19) registered as Galileo followed by a number, all under the same parent company.

-> **ACTION**: RH to invite Crosbie representatives to the next FCC meeting.

Subsequent proposal to move the start of the next FCC meeting to 7pm in order to accommodate their presentation, unanimously approved.

3. Hunterston SSG update

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

Near-surface disposal of higher-active waste has been redefined: whereas it previously referred to depths up to 80 mt, now it may be up to 200 mt.

AHold has viewed a document re. changes in the environmental conditions at Hunterston B for decommissioning. The document is several hundreds of pages long. What has been visualised seems to be pretty clear and well defined. Only concern: presently, the active effluents discharged by Hunt. A and B + sewage are washed away by the sea water collected for cooling. When, in 2025, the cooling process will be stopped as unnecessary, all effluents will collect in a single pipe without anything to wash them out. It is explained that, within 2/3 years, the amount of effluents created will be minimal. Most buildings will be demolished with the obvious exception of the reactor building, whose height will be reduced by about 25 mt. Its cladding will also be replaced.

DT: Is there anything re. offsite emergency plans?

AHold: No details, but it is now a responsibility of NAC (used to be South Ayrshire Council).

4. XLCC

Works were supposed to start in Jan; no updates and nothing was done.

MM: At a public meeting in West Kilbride it was said that the first thing to be erected will be new fencing.

DT asked clarification about the £9mill invested; he was told that no information will be disclosed as it is "commercially sensitive".

5. Hunterston Parc Liaison Group/Filling of dry dock at Marine Construction Yard

Next meeting will be held on Wed Apr 17th and it will include a short site visit.

6. Coastal path

MoP shows concern for the fact that the current phase is being publicly advertised as "the final stage" whereas we have been promised that there will also be works done at the junction between Main Rd and the road to the South car park.

AHill: that part has definitely been designed.

-> **ACTION**: AHill to find out what plans are there for that section

AOB

+ RH bought flowers and cards for the two ladies who have retired after looking after the flowers at the railway station. New people will take over from them; they are presently being trained by ScotRail

+ MoP: Have Springfield Homes sold the undeveloped stretch past Dawn Homes?

-> **ACTION**: DT to find out

+ IH: Any news re. the flooding?

RH asked for a meeting with the officers in charge; it has not taken place yet. There seems to be no money available for important work that would need to be done

AHill suggests to meet with flooding officer anyway, as there may be the chance to get some minor yet necessary work done
-> **ACTION:** AHill to contact flooding officer and put them in touch with RH

ACTIONS

MP to scan the letter received by RH from Patricia Gibson MP and forward it to RH for appropriate circulation

MP and AHill to contact AMEY to ask for reports on traffic and on the results of the speed activated traffic lights experiment

MP to keep investigating who is in charge of maintaining/replacing the stone wall at the top of the Causeway

RH to invite Crosbie representatives to next FCC meeting

AHill to find out what plans are set for the coastal path at the junction between Main Rd and the road leading to the South car park

DT to find out re. the situation of the undeveloped stretch behind Dawn Homes (has Springfield Homes sold it?)

AHill to contact flooding officer and put them in touch with RH

The meeting is declared closed at **08:32pm**

The next FCC meeting is on Monday 8th of April 2024 at 0700 pm at the Seemple Centre, 45 Main Rd (please note the change in the scheduled start time)