

**Fairlie Community Council – Monday 02/06/2025, 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, Mairi Wyatt, Gaye Nelson, Arran Hewlett, Jackie Pearson

NAC: Cllr Ian Murdoch

Police: *none*

4 MoP (including a representative from Dalry CC)

*Apologies:* Malcolm Milne, Ian Hunter (FCC); Cllr Tom Marshall, Cllr Eleanor Collier, Cllr Todd Ferguson (NAC)

**Approval of May minutes:** proposed by JP, seconded by GN

**Communications from the Chair:**

- + Fairlie Place Plan has been delivered to all houses in Fairlie. There was little response from the public, but there is still time. A mention of a potential bypass may be added at NAC level.
- + CCs are under review (reason why all CCs memberships got a one-year extension, with elections expected to be held in Oct 2026). If there is any change we wish to suggest, this needs to be filed by Aug 14<sup>th</sup>.
- + FCC would benefit from some younger participants (besides ArHewl!).
  - MP: why not ask Largs Academy if there is any Fairlie resident who may want to be involved?
- + Dalry CC, which was established in Q4 2024 and here represented by its secretary, sent ECU (Energy Consent Unit) a letter of objection to Crosbie Wind Farm. It is not up on their website yet, but they were told that it will be uploaded in the next few days.
- + there have been 3 or 4 relatively serious accidents at the South approach to the village, in one occasion with streetlights being knocked down. Mr. Hugh MacLean (not present today) has recently written Transport Scotland; FCC will be informed of any answer he may get. There has also been an apparently serious accident near School Brae early in the morning during the weekend, with ambulances being called. **ACTION:** MP to contact Sgt Donald Fisher of the local Police to ask for more information on this.
- + in an area of the village (not disclosed for privacy reasons), a group of residents have raised an issue of anti social behaviour from an individual. The interested parties have been advised to talk to the Police and to contact the local NA Cllrs.
  - IM: please be aware that NAC can only intervene if the individual resides in a Council property.
- + NAC have communicated that they are unable to look after the 7 planters present in the village. Marine Craft Services have offered a yearly donation for their maintenance. Nancy at the Community Gardens has been contacted, and is happy to organise and coordinate a group of Community Gardens volunteers to take care of them.
  - IM: if necessary, he is willing to contact and organise the presence of someone from StreetScene, but confirms that NAC will not be putting any money towards the planters.
- + delivery of tools to look after the coastal path is expected on Tue 3<sup>rd</sup> of June. The plan is to keep them in three separate private homes in three different parts of the path.
  - IM: consider storing some at the pub too.
- + SEPA are organising an online meeting on Wed 4<sup>th</sup> of June at 7pm (duration 1 hour) concerning EAPS (Environmental Assessment Performance Scheme). If anyone is interested in participating, please contact RH who will share the invite.

### **NA Cllr's Report:**

IM is the only NA Cllr present.

- + Planning Committee objected to the Crosbie Wind Farm project on the basis of visual impact; IM's proposal to add to this concerns about noise has been rejected. At their meeting with FCC, the Crosbie representative mentioned, when pressed, 7MW turbines. Now the plan mentions 5.2MW turbines, but a higher number of them. The latest PlanCom approved a proposal for 4.3MW turbines near Dalry.
- + every single North Coast village and town have submitted or are in the process of submitting a Place Plan.
- + the Cabinet have discussed implementing a 20mph speed limit in all towns and villages in NA (it is a national scheme), with the exception of trunk roads that are not managed by NAC. The question is, who is going to enforce it?
- + construction at the planned M&S site in Largs has finally begun today 2<sup>nd</sup> of June.

#### **1. BESS on Kelburn Estate and pylons across the hills above Fairlie**

There are very few details in the proposed plan, a more detailed plan is expected to be drafted once approval is gained.

Mr. Steve Milburn, the Senior Development Officer, visited the proposed site a number of times. The battery storage site would cover 8 hectares. It was noted that the site would, for the most part, be inside Clyde and Muirshiel Regional Park. Access to the site would be granted via the existing Kelburn Wind Farm access road.

GN at the public meeting asked about the location of the necessary electricity pylons; she was told that they'd be erected across the hillside.

JP: the planned site is near to woodland: concerns for possible fires. The proposers stated that the distance is enough for this not to be a concern.

JP: there is no precise and detailed risk assessment for a BESS that size; it would be advisable to insist for one.

The BESS will be self-monitored and self-managed.

AlHold: keep in mind that there is a high pressure gas line crossing Kelburn land. The BESS seems to be not very near, but it would be worth checking.

FCC in the person of RH are waiting for answers to a set of questions that have been sent to the developer. They will be shared as soon as they are received.

IM: a battery storage site between West Kilbride and Ardrossan has been recently approved by NAC.

JP: there is a fully built and as yet not operational site at Hunterston; is a new one really necessary?

#### **2. Crosbie Wind Farm**

MoP: if NAC PlanCom opposes, as they did, shouldn't Scot Ministers set up a public enquiry? There was one recently in Highland.

IM: objections from local CCs were not acknowledged by PlanCom. Kelburn Wind Farm has 2.2MW turbines and is much further from houses than Crosbie would be.

#### **3. Hunterston SSG**

Next SSG meeting on Thu 12<sup>th</sup> of June at 1:30pm at the Waterside Inn.

AlHold: please ask what is the plan to free the debris vaults.

#### **4. Hunterston Parc**

##### **a. Sub Sea Cable XLCC variation of condition**

It's a change in the bond (they are now responsible, in case of closure of the project, to remove what is above ground but not what is underground).

IM: their plan is to break ground for the tower in Spring 2026, probably March.

AlHold: there was mention of two concrete batching sites; probably for construction of the plant, but keep an eye on this.

**b. liquid air energy storage facility**

No news.

**c. latest plans re. ammonia shipments from Hunterston jetty**

JP: in the last few days, an article on the Herald mentioned that Norwegian company Statkraft are looking at the possibility of creating green ammonia from green hydrogen at Hunterston. However, a few weeks ago Statkraft themselves stated that they will be suspending new green hydrogen project. There is a lack of clarity here.

ArHewl: ammonia as marine fuel is indeed being researched, but it is far from being practical at the moment, there are still years of research to be done before it can be used.

**d. RAS**

It has been approved, no further updates. Bakkafrøst will be joining Hunterston Parc Liaison Committee.

**AOB**

*none*

**ACTIONS:**

+ MP to contact Sgt Donald Fisher concerning the recent accident at School Brae.

The meeting closed at **08:58pm**.

The next FCC meeting is on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> of July 2025 at 0730 pm at the Semple Centre, 45 Main Rd.