

DRAFT**Minutes of meeting of Ardrishaig Community Council meeting held at Ardrishaig public hall on Tuesday 2 May 2023**

Present: Christine McIntyre, Lix Armstrong, Fiona MacFarlane and Gillian Hogarth

Apologies: Susanne Hawkby-Whitwell, Mary MacCallum Sullivan, Fiona Hoad, Ross Weir

Absent without apology: Blair Johnson

Also present: Douglas Philand, Community Councillor

Minutes of the meeting of the Community Council of [] were circulated to those present.

1. Approval of last meeting minutes from 7 March 2023.

Proposed: Fiona MacFarlane, seconded Lix Armstrong [Susanne, as I don't think we were quorate, perhaps these will need to be re-approved at the next meeting?]

2. Matters arising from previous Minutes

Gillian Hogarth reported that Forestry Land Services charging is now active in the local car parks targeted for this by FLS. However some of them did not seem to have any signage to indicate that locals were entitled to an annual pass at £40 or where they could obtain the pass. In addition, it appears that the RingGo system for collecting the parking charges carry an administrative fee of £0.40 for a £1.00 charge so the effective cost of parking for one hour is not £1.00 as advertised but £1.40. In addition, despite FLS's assurances that there would be light touch enforcement, the signs make clear that there is a penalty of £50 that can be imposed on those not paying. Dougie Philand volunteered to raise the matter with local MSP Jenny Minto.

3. There were no matters arising out of the Police or Planning reports

4. There followed a discussion of the Gala Day preparations. The Boat Club, represented by Alec Ohnstad and David Cameron indicated that they would like to hold their Regatta on the same day as the proposed Gala Day, 5 August 2023 and it was agreed that they would liaise with Gala Day organisers. The Community Council asked for volunteers to help with the organisation and running of Gala Day and it was agreed that a wider call would go out and a planning meeting would be held on 16 May 2023 in the Boat Shed. Wilma [?], who has been involved in organising past Gala Days, kindly gave some guidance on matters to be considered as part of the planning process. It was agreed that it would be useful to try and get an article in the Argyll Advertiser to raise awareness and seek volunteers.

5. Lix Armstrong reported that there had been a good turnout of volunteers (23) for the first work group of the Community Garden and that lot of ground had been cleared. The next stage is intended to plan beds and there will be further workdays for those wishing to get involved or continue their involvement. £250 had been received from Ardrishaig Community Trust.

6. Blair Johnson was not present to report on progress on the George V park so this will be deferred until the next meeting.

7. Meeting held on [] March with Ardrishaig Community Trust

This was the first meeting held between the new Community Council and the Trust. Both associations were well represented and the aim of establishing a good working relationship was welcomed. Preparations for the Gala Day were discussed with some helpful suggestions being received. No offer of help with funding was immediately forthcoming, with the Trust expressing the view that the Council should be able to fund the Gala Day itself through coffee mornings and stalls, but it was noted that once costings had been received, the Council could write to the Trust and the Trust would consider any application made by the Council. Community Council members reported that the Council had been approached by organisers of the annual Old Folks Christmas lunch to see if they could assist with funding as the organisers could not raise sufficient funds themselves and that the Community Council had agreed to help. Funding and support for this was discussed, again no offer of funding was immediately forthcoming, with the suggestion from the Trust that this should be self-funding through coffee mornings and stalls etc. and that an approach should be made to Argyll and Bute Council but again, the possibility of an approach for help with funding was left open once costings had been obtained. The Trust indicated that the majority of its available funds this year were likely to be spent on roof repairs to the hall.

It was agreed that the two associations should aim to have quarterly meetings to continue the dialogue.

At the 2nd May meeting, it was reported by an Ardrishaig senior citizen that the Trust had refused a request by the organisers of the Old Folk Christmas Party for funding. Other attendees expressed surprise as both the Gala Day and the Old Folks Party appeared to represent exactly the kind of community events that the Trust's objects seemed to be aimed at supporting and some also expressed frustration at the apparent lack of clarity as to resources available to the Trust and accountability to Ardrishaig residents as to what funds were being directed to Ardrishaig projects.

8. Ardrishaig Public Realm Improvements – update

It was noted that the barriers to the car park had finally been taken down the previous week and the car park re-opened. Whilst it was felt by attendees that the majority of the improvement works, especially to the green spaces, had been well carried out, a number of comments were made about the car park. It was noted that there is no signage indicating which way drivers should go round the car park, that the parking spaces seemed to have been made smaller, that the lines showing previous parking spaces were still highly visible and appeared to be confusing people, and that the car park had not been resurfaced, as had been expected, but merely patched and new lines painted. It was also noted, with concern, that the car park now has no lighting, something which had not been communicated to residents during the consultation process, and that this raised safety and security concerns, particularly during the winter when it gets dark very early. It was also felt to be a shame that the finalisation of works had not been communicated to the Community Council prior to the car park being reopened as there was no opportunity for feedback before the reopening and the Council would have liked to mark the occasion. Dougie Philand volunteered to check to see whether what was delivered corresponded to the specifications which had been presented to residents as part of the consultation process.

9. Millenium Garden wall

Dougie Philand reported that following earlier CC meetings when he had volunteered to try to get to the bottom of who was responsible for repairs to the wall and the timescale involved, he had approached Bear Scotland which had corresponded with him over the repairs until finally, last week, they had indicated that they were not responsible and would instead be contacting the owners to tell them they were responsible instead. No information was given as to who the owners are and, for now, this remains a mystery.

10. Anything else arising

- Christine McIntyre raised the issue of the proposed use of the catamaran on the CalMac ferry service to Islay from Kennacraig and the fact that it appears that they can't dock the catamaran at Kennacraig and this risked the route being out of service with ferries instead going down to Troon. Local businesses feel that they're losing out and there would also be a resultant loss of passengers for West Coast Motors. Coupled with the state of the road to Skipness and risk of loss of the Arran ferry if the road isn't fixed, as well as the ongoing Rest and Be Thankful saga, it was agreed that the CC should write to Jenny Minto to express concern at the Islay ferry proposal and also seek the views of the Tarbert Community Council about the CalMac situation.
- The state of the building next to the Rumbling Tum that has been covered in scaffolding for some years was raised as a matter of concern, with reports of passers-by hearing what sounded like internal walls collapsing. It was felt to be a safety hazard. Dougie Philand agreed to raise it with A&B council as a health and safety risk.
- A request had been received from Ardetinny Community Council for support in opposing the Beinne Reith Fish Farm. It was felt that, at present, there was insufficient understanding of the pros and cons of the various methods of fish farming in the area and that it would be a good idea to seek suitably qualified/knowledgeable people to make a presentation to the Council and local residents at a future council meeting before seeking residents views on whether to support the Ardetinny request.