

## MINUTES

**Date:** 25 August 2022 – 6pm via ZOOM

**Topic:** Monthly Regular Meeting

**Present:** Alex Harvie (Chair), John McHenry (Vice Chair), Keith Hammond (Secretary), Duncan Fraser, Gregor Harvie (Adviser), Graham Wallace (Adviser), Cllr Tom Marshall, Cllr Eleanor Collier, Cllr Todd Ferguson, Cllr Alan Hill, Sarah Baird (North Ayrshire Council), Emma McMullen (NAC) Declan Brennan (NAC), Lewis Monk (NAC), Thomas Reaney (NAC), Carol Campbell (The Wave), Lorraine Fraser (Cumbrae Forum), David Williamson (Golf Club & CCDC), Adam Lyon (Press) + 10 members of the public.

### Apologies

Cllr Iain Murdoch, Trish Broadley-Clews (Golf Club), Jan Wilkie (CCDC), Julie McAleese (Cumbrae Primary), Crawford Gillan (Cumbrae Resilience Group), Mark Semple (Police Scotland), Nikol Morrison (Millport Motors), Scott Ferris (Isle of Cumbrae Tourism Association), Louise Riddex (NAC), Angie McCallum (Millport Town Hall)

<b>Welcome</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chair Alex H declared the meeting quorate.</li> <li>Extraordinary meeting on solar farm minutes approved.</li> </ul>
<b>Urgent issue – Solar Farm application</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Chair gave the context, explaining Solar Farm application leaflets had been sent out as part of the Community Council aim to encourage wider democratic engagement on this island, encouraging less digitally connected members of the community to participate in decisions. This was first time it had been undertaken and required digesting c300 pages in the application, as well as writing, designing, printing and (thanks to support of Millport Support Group volunteers) distributing leaflets. Spares held in shops.</li> <li>Gregor H gave an overview of CCC position – potentially supportive of solar power and the carbon neutral island policy - but this application has a number of issues: size, scale of proposed panels, lack of detail, location.</li> <li>An attendee enquired why CCC was slow in leaflet circulation. The Chair explained that the leaflet was sent out as soon as possible, CCC is made up of volunteers, some in full time employment, and more volunteers always welcomed. Gregor H noted that information was posted immediately on Facebook and on the website, and it is North Ayrshire Council’s job to get out publicity about the application.</li> <li>Graham W noted NAC do not see this as a ‘major application’, therefore there is no need for the applicant to hold public consultation.</li> <li>An attendee asked if no other more appropriate site had been considered. Gregor H stated that CCC had asked for an Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) which would have assessed why this particular site was chosen but NAC had refused on the basis of it not being a major application.</li> <li>Cllr Marshall stated in 2016 the same project had applied for permission and it was noted then that the application was poor but permission was granted under certain conditions.</li> <li>Keith H noted that this project offered nothing of advantage for island residents.</li> <li>The Chair summarised: CCC was acting democratically and seeking everyone’s views. Please respond via the leaflet or direct into the portal and give your opinion.</li> </ul>
<b>Organisations</b>	
Police Scotland	No report
IOCTA	No report
CCDC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>David W reported a busy month: music festival, book launches, Light House exhibition attended by locals and visitors. CCDC apartments fully booked throughout the season, new housekeeper in post at the busiest time.</li> </ul>
Cumbrae Forum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lorraine F reported Cumbrae Forum is near to completing its website, bookings for the Hub coming in. Lunch Club starts again on 7 September at the Newton.</li> <li>Different problems now being reported to the Forum about waste around the island; concern about the pavement outside bike shops being blocked and people having to</li> </ul>

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	<p>walk on the road. Who should these problems be reported to? Needed advice about where these problems should be directed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chair noted she had contacted the Police to raise these problems. The problem of camping in farmer's fields and crop damage as well as at the Helipad was also raised.</li> <li>• Cllr Ferguson said signage had been put up around the actual Helipad prohibiting camping but advised that there was a problem enforcing prohibition with camping in the surrounding areas. Gregor H noted there was information on <a href="http://www.cumbrae.org">www.cumbrae.org</a> about which organisations were responsible for which problems.</li> </ul>
Millport Motors	No report
Cumbrae Primary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Chair reported: Cumbrae Forum have been very generous in their continued support of the school - funding swimming lessons and a day trip for the whole school.</li> <li>• The school will be working with them in the redevelopment of the community garden, erection of a new polycarb and outdoor classroom. The younger children will also be visiting the church weekly to develop community relations with the forum members singing songs, rhymes and telling stories.</li> </ul>
Millport Golf Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• David W reported the condition of the course has been improved with positive feedback. More bookings for next year. Camp site for Music Festival functioned well. Field next to course used as a car park taking pressure off parking in town.</li> </ul>
Field Studies Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Duncan F reported university visits: Newcastle 60, Southampton 98, Glasgow 35, Durham 20, Royal Holloway, London 15, and 2 groups from Germany 50. 25 from Maidstone Grammar. Large accommodation blocks used by the Bahia Religious group from London, the Mothers' Union from Glasgow, and recently the Country Music festival took the whole centre for B&amp;B last weekend.</li> <li>• Still recruiting for Hospitality &amp; Catering staff.</li> </ul>
Ferry Users Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Duncan F reported on meeting of 3 August: cost of redevelopment advised as c£4.5m. Current timescale for temporary slipway Aug 2023 subject to approvals etc. Suggestion that CMAL could liaise with slipway for flood defence.</li> <li>• CMAL have rejected FUG concerns and meeting organised to discuss further.</li> <li>• Loch Riddon replacement was top of the priority list.</li> <li>• Calmac to address contractual issues and find a suitable solution to have all crew inducted on the Catriona to allow maximum flexibility in the event of failure.</li> <li>• Calmac confirmed that plans to extend seasonal staff to enable crew rotation.</li> <li>• FUG raised significant concerns surrounding the lack of visibility of the community engagement plans for ticketing implementation with only 3 months to go.</li> <li>• Concession tickets: Cumbrae Forum again requesting concession card holders being able to purchase multiple tickets. Calmac confirmed that SPT are willing to make changes with new ticketing system however want to see process in action on single journeys prior to approving multi journey ticketing. Calmac to provide an update.</li> </ul>
<b>Island projects</b>	
Data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Graham W reported he had met Sarah Baird and her colleagues and discussed the Economic Baseline Report as the basis for the ten-year plan. Much more detail and breakdown on each of the datasets provided would need to be tabled before a credible action plan for the future of the island could be developed. Sarah B advised that researchers coming over to the island and gathering data might not be feasible. An island specific focus and detail was needed – not just the outline data on the areas covered in the report.</li> <li>• Keith H proposed that the problem with the Baseline Report was fundamental. The data had not been derived from the island population itself; most was based on estimates from different sources at different times giving an incoherent picture. SIMD data said nothing about actual deprivation on the island. Data sets of the Scottish Office carry warnings about use in small communities like Cumbrae.</li> <li>• Sarah Baird explained NAC had secured a placement with the Fraser of Allender Institute on their Economic Futures Project showing NAC's commitment to improving the quality of future data relating to the island.</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Declan Brennan and Lewis Monk gave a presentation on 'fresh data' in the updated 2022 report. The island's population is in decline (by 12% or 262 people). Fewer people of working age. No new data on income. Age distribution remained top heavy with large percentage 45-80 years old. 60% home occupancy (compared with 95% for North Ayrshire). House prices 46% lower on the island than NA and 17% lower than the rest of Scotland. (2021 rise not included in data). Economic output increased by £2.1 million. Decline in number of claimants since the two peaks of covid-19 in 2020. Number of vehicles with passengers leaving the island exceeded pre-covid levels. NAC stated this report gave the best picture of the island's economy that was available until census data released in 2024.</li> <li>• Graham W thanked NAC for the work to date but emphasised that the key task was interpreting the necessary detailed data to inform planning and future actions.</li> <li>• Cllr Ferguson asked if the data was available to elected members and the public.</li> <li>• Emma McM explained that a copy of the report would be sent to CCC and there would be consultation on the different aspects of the document before it going into public circulation. If the report was found problematic from the point of view of Cumbrae residents and representatives then a further meeting could be called and the requirements of Cumbrae looked at more specifically.</li> </ul>
Ten Year Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sarah Baird reported a number of research projects were underway as part of the delivery of the ten-year plan; a group of researchers were visiting the island from an Edinburgh College who were looking at circular economies. The Carbon Neutral Programme was under way and funding has been obtained for an arts and culture development officer on the island along with Arran.</li> <li>• Cllr Hill said the Locality Partnership had set up a working group as the Cumbrae Delivery Group that would be looking that the issue of implementing the Ten-Year Plan. The Chair asked for a discussion of how the Delivery Group related to CCC. This was agreed by Cllr Hill.</li> </ul>
Flood Defence	Gregor H noted some discussion on Facebook about benches on the front, but nothing else to report until the tender process is complete.
Town Hall	No report
Marina	Graham Wallace Nothing to report until the Flood Prevention Scheme has moved. Details will then be outlined. Meeting planned for public consultation in coming period.
The Wave	Carol C stated she would submit a report at the next CCC meeting.
<b>Issues</b>	
Planning & licencing	John McH reported a proposal came to move the bus stop but, following responses on Facebook that it should remain in situ, CCC has fed back to NAC.
Carbon Neutral islands	John McH reported that the Steering Committee to meet in the coming week. A report on progress on the island arrangements will then be made.
Japanese Knotweed	Gregor H noted claims on Facebook that most of the Knotweed has been treated however, only about 20% has. NAC contacted with no response so far.
<b>Councillors' updates</b>	Cllr Hill nothing to report that has not been covered in the meeting; Cllr Marshall same; Cllr Ferguson most points covered in this meeting.
<b>Community issues</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Roads: meeting been held with NAC and road maintenance.</li> <li>• Draining/ Flooding: drainage covered at the same meeting.</li> <li>• Sea wall – painted by NAC but not completed yet.</li> <li>• Electrical vehicle point: following intervention by CCC, the station outside Premier store will be relocated to a more appropriate position.</li> <li>• Overnight parking: vehicles parking in lay-bys and on roads when the camper van site is not full. Tents on Helipad. To progress.</li> </ul>
<b>AOB</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCC confirmed its full support of Fairlie CC in pursuing information concerning the siting of Petrojarl Foinavon at the Hunterston Jetty (duration, noise and air pollution) as well as seeking further information from on future intended uses of the Jetty.</li> </ul>
<b>Next meeting</b>	Thursday 29 September 6pm Zoom <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9329701663">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9329701663</a>