

Dunoon Community Council

**Meeting of the Dunoon Community Council held in Queen’s Hall, Dunoon on Monday 08th April 2024.**

Present:

Tom Warren (TW) (Convener) Tom McCowan (TM) (Secretary) Amanda Graham (AG) (Treasurer) Yvonne Love (YL)

Paul Graysmark (PG) Lindsey McPhail (LM)

Frauke Thornton (FT) David Clough (DC)

Jim Anderson (JA)

ABC Councillors Attending:

Councillor Ross Moreland (RM)

Councillor Audrey Forrest (AF)

Members of the Public: Police Scotland:

Chris Martin (CM) (Dunoon Observer Not in attendance

Alistair MacKinnon (AM)

Apologies:

Bobby Good (BG) (Vice-Convener) Abigail Apps (AA) Councillor Daniel Hampsey (DH)

1. Tom Warren (The Convener) opened the meeting at 1900hrs and welcomed everyone to the meeting. The convener told those in attendance that the meeting was being recorded for the purpose of taking the minutes and the recording would be destroyed after the meeting scheduled for Monday 13th May 2024 and the minutes have been approved. He invited anyone not happy to be recorded to leave the room.
2. **Recording of members attending and apologies received.**

Apologies received from BG, AA, DH

1. **Declaration of Interest**. JA Declared that he is a Trustee of Dunoon Community Development Trust.
2. **Minutes of previous meeting were discussed**; The convener asked if there were any amendments required to the previous meeting. The convener pointed out spelling errors. These will be amended accordingly. AM requested that section 12 (New Business) Paragraph a) be amended to include every word that was said as he believes that there may have been a breach of the Community Council Code of Conduct. He said he was not aware of what went on at the meeting with the Dunoon-Gourock Ferry Action Group (DGFAG) but said that David Clough should not have gone to the head of a Community Organisation demanding the name of a member and as such may be in breach of the Community Council Code of Conduct and in breach of the Data Protection Act. He asked if the Community Council could notify the Council Liaison Officer and have the incident investigated. The secretary asked AM if he wished to raise a formal complaint. AM said yes. The secretary said that he would email AM tomorrow to initiate the formal complaint process. The convener said that he was not sure about amending the minutes as they are almost verbatim as they stand. The secretary said that whilst the minutes were not word for word, they do cover every conversation and highlight the key points raised. AM said that this may be necessary if this investigation moves forward. The secretary disagreed and said that the minutes stand, however, the recording of the meeting can be retained for the purpose of the investigation. JA said the purpose of the minutes was to record decisions made and not people’s opinions. The convener said that he has been in discussions with the secretary regarding recording the minutes. He said whilst our minutes are very detailed and robust, we needed to have a clear summary of actions and decisions which will be implemented immediately. DC said that he was unaware that at the last meeting the email he had sent with the detailed report of the DGFAG Meeting, was not actually sent to the recipients but saved in his drafts folder. DC said at the beginning of the meeting everyone introduced themselves. DC said that he had not recorded the individual concerned name and was asking for it for his report. The secretary interjected and said that if they produced minutes for their meetings as they should, the name would be public knowledge. DC said that he was disappointed that a complaint has been received about that and not the actions of the DGFAG. AM said that DGFAG was created by Dunoon Community Council with the original chair being a Ronnie Smith who was also Dunoon Community Council’s treasurer. AM said his point is not the actions at the meeting but the consequent actions by David Clough going to a member of the public and demanding an individual’s name. PG said the fact that the previous Dunoon Community Council formed DGFAG, would it not need to be re-approved with this Council. LM said that she was not sure that Dunoon Community Council did form DGFAG. She said that she was aware that there were some Community Councillors involved and they used to report back but was not aware that DGFAG originated from the Community Council. She said that she was under the impression that that Ronnie Smith was involved in both groups and referenced the convener’s links to the Dunoon Community Development Trust. YL agreed and said that Ken Barr was also involved in both the Community Council and DGFAG. The convener said it was immaterial as DGFAG do not report to us, and we do not have any Community Councillors sitting on that board or committee. DC said that whilst he is disappointed to have a complaint made, we needed to stop and let the complaints process take its course. He also said he wanted to clarify that firstly, he never demanded, he asked for the name, he said that there was a witness to the conversation. He also said if we went back to when AG was the secretary, DGFAG requested to give a presentation to the Community Council, where DC said that he had pointed out that this group is not showing and social media presence, they are not engaging with anyone nor are they responding to any of the emails he has sent them and eventually someone rung him up and told him that they had nothing to do with the group anymore. He said that they are un-elected and are a group of people who have got together.

**Summary of Actions to be completed**: The secretary will email AM in morning and commence the formal complaint process upon receipt of a written complaint.

**Proposal. The minutes from the previous meeting were correct and bear a true reflection of the meeting subject to the changes discussed.**

**Proposed: TW Seconded: LM**

**For (7) Against (0) Abstained (2) Result: Passed.**

1. **Appointments/Resignations**. Frauke Thornton.

Due to an administrative error FT will no longer be permitted to sit as a Community Councillor from 02nd May 2024. The Convener on behalf of Dunoon Community Council thanked FT for all her hard work and dedication. FT said she was disappointed in the system, she said that it is a shame that someone wants to work for the community but is unable to. LM asked if FT would be able to continue to attend and help with the statue project she started. The convener thought that this would be fine but asked the secretary to confirm with the CLO. The convener pointed out that as we did not have anyone come forward for the upcoming By-Elections on 02nd May 2024 we cannot afford to lose any more Community Councillors. The convener said that we have the option to co-opt some new members and asked if anyone had anyone in mind to speak with them and try to persuade them to join us.

**Summary of Actions to be completed**: The secretary will email the CLO for confirmation. The secretary will also ask the CLO what our quorate numbers are and how many we can co-opt onto the Community Council. All members are requested to look at co-opting suitable candidates.

1. **Police Scotland Report** – Police Report Received and disseminated via email.

The secretary said that he has been in contact with Inspector Bart Simonis who is the new Inspector, and Councillor Moreland regarding the parking outside the Queens Hall where people are parking on the War Memorial and on the pavement completely obstructing the pavement and drop kerbs. Inspector Simonis said he would speak with his Sergeants and try to increase Police presence in the area. The Police have provided some Police traffic cones which may deter some people, however they are still being ignored or moved, indeed, the Queens Hall have appropriated one to hold open their doors. The secretary said he has asked Councillor Moreland to see if it would be possible to get some permanent bollards fitted to prevent parking here. JA said that when the Queens Hall was developed, there was no plans to have parking here and because of this, the pavements won’t be strong enough to hold the continual weight of these vehicles. He also said that he has seen large vans parked there and it won’t be long before serious damage is done to the pavement structure. The secretary suggested the Council place four bollards similar to what is already around the site on either side of the road to prevent vehicles from parking there. It was asked if the Argyll and Bute Councillors could arrange for the installation of bollards. PG raise the issue of damage to a vehicle recently that was reported to the Police, He said the owner of the vehicle was threatened by the culprits, yet the Police never turned up. He asked if we could raise this issue with Inspector Simonis. The secretary said he would do so but did not expect the Police would be able to comment on an ongoing investigation. The secretary said that there was also an incident where mindless yobs walked down King Street and Jessie Place knocking off all the wing mirrors. LM said that this is what happens when there are no consequences when you burn down buildings.

**Summary of Actions to be completed**: The secretary to contact Inspector Simonis regarding the parking outside the Queens Hall and request they continue to monitor and act when required. The secretary also requested to speak with Inspector Simonis regarding the incident regarding the damaged vehicle and threats. Argyll and Bute Councillors to investigate getting bollards installed outside the Queens Hall.

1. **Presentations –** No Presentations were given this month.
2. **Action points from Previous meeting –** 
   1. **Public Transport** – FT briefed the Community Council on the recent Cowal Transport Forum (CTF). She said that the planned meeting with the Scottish Government transport minister is imminent, and DH is still working on it. She said that at the CTF the Police gave a road safety update where it was announced that there had been 8 fatal road traffic collisions in the Cowal area in the past 12 months. This is down from 11 in the previous reporting period. She said there had been a 48% increase in alcohol and drug driving offences in the past 5 years. She said that Western Ferries will be increasing their service on a Sunday from 3 ferries to 4. This will apply between 1000hrs and 1600hrs. She also said that there will not be a 4-ferry service on a Saturday as there was not the demand. She said CalMac are operating a 1 ferry service at the moment due to scheduled maintenance. She said that DH had urged CalMac to re-establish communication with Dunoon Community Council. The secretary intervened and said that this has happened as Tommy Gore has now been in touch. She said that she asked why West Coast Motors were not back to pre-covid levels. The response was West Coast Motors are almost at pre-covid mileage. She said she also raised the incident where the driver removed the school children from the bus, she was told that West Coast Motors are working closely with the local schools to prevent bad and anti-social behaviour including vaping on the busses. FT said the next meeting for the CTF will be on a Tuesday. PG said that he had a conversation with DH regarding the train timetables and asked if this was discussed at the CTF. RM said that the train timetables came out after the CFT meeting. RM said that he has the new timetable and will forward it onto the secretary for dispersal. He also said that the average wait between the ferry and the train is now 20 minutes. PG asked if this Community Council has contacted CalMac and the train provider to see if they can get together and coordinate their timetables like they used to. The convener said that this was why the meeting with the transport minister was going ahead. The secretary said it shouldn’t be too hard for CalMac to change their timetable where as the train timetable would be much more complex. He said he couldn’t understand why CalMac couldn’t move their timetable a couple of minutes either way to meet both trains and busses. DC said that back in August the issue was raised at the Bute and Cowal Area Planning meeting and DH in his role as chair of the CTF is arranging a meeting with the transport minister and other key stakeholders. His said without the transport minister being present the meeting would not be worth having. He went on to highlight CalMac response to the paper and said it could have been written by Sir Humphrey. DC said he could not understand what was so sacrosanct about CalMac leaving at ten to and twenty past the hour. He said that he has met with Jenni Minto and Lord Donald Cameron, and he is frustrated beyond belief that this is supposed to be a democracy, yet the public are being ignored by what is essentially a public owned company. RM said that there was a meeting with CalMac and Scotrail where CalMac announced they had retimed their service to bring a 20-minute connection to most services and a typical Dunoon to Glasgow trip is now 25 minutes quicker. RM said he would forward on the timetable to the secretary. RM also said that DH is now no longer the chair of the CTF. AF said that Argyll and Bute Council will not be addressing this issue until after 25th April 2024 when the Council appoint its new post holders. JA said that several years ago, six members of the Council attended Holyrood and spoke with a Paul Whitehouse where the redevelopment of the pier was discussed. It was said that when they brought in the ferries, they would also look at the pier. He then said it was like every other story in Cowal, we are treated with contempt, and nothing gets done. The promises made were just to keep the six members happy. The issue is that all these promises get made but nothing gets put on paper to back it up later on. He said that we also need to be careful about getting a passenger service where it leaves no time for people to get from the ferry to the ticket office and onto the train. He said public consultation is needed before any changes are made. RM said he was originally pushing for less than 20 minutes; however, he has been made aware by several people that anything less would be impossible for some passengers. PG said that it used to be the case that you could purchase your tickets for the entire trip to Glasgow on the ferry, why did it change. They system worked.

**Summary of Actions to be completed**: RM to email the secretary the Scotrail timetable for dissemination to Community Councillors. It was agreed that nothing could be done until the meeting with the transport minister had taken place.

* 1. **Playpark Update** – The treasurer spoke about the results of the survey carried out by Dunoon Community Council which gave options on what play equipment people wanted. She said that there had been 122 responses in the three weeks it was running with a majority of respondents being from Dunoon. She said the results show that the majority of respondents wanted a wheel chair roundabout installed, followed by a seesaw and then a wheelchair swing. She gave a breakdown of the cost of each item. She said that the costs were dependant on the amount of groundwork that was required. She said she will inform Hugh O’Neill the results of the survey and go from there. She said there was an option for the benches, but concerns had been made because they are made from recycled plastic and the concern is they won’t withstand the conditions at the West Bay. She said that there is another meeting this week where Christine Cable will come along to help. Christine has extensive experience developing playparks and has offered to help. She said that everyone was welcome to attend, she also said that the redevelopment of the play park was part of the plan to redevelop the West Bay as a whole.

**Summary of Actions to be completed:** The treasurer will report back next month with updates from the meeting.

* 1. **Project “wee Emma”**– The secretary said that due to the Playpark survey, he stopped pushing the Wee Emma survey to avoid overwhelming the public. He will wait until next week to push it out again. To date, there have been 94 respondents. He said that due to the language used in some of the comments, He turns of the commenting in other groups where we can not control it. The commenting will remain in place on our own social media platforms where it can be controlled. The convener said he agreed with the pause to allow the play park survey to be completed and ask when this one would be closed. It was suggested that it be allowed to run up to the day of our June meeting. LM asked if we could ask DCDT to including it onto their “what’s on” page.

**Summary of Actions to be completed:** The secretary to re-publish the survey and arrange to have it posted on the DCDT “What’s On” page.

* 1. **Bench Update** - PG give a brief update on the benches. He said that the project was moving slowly due to other more pressing projects. He said that Dunoon Grammar School has offered to take a bench and refurbish it as have the local H.E.L.P project.
  2. **Rally Update** – DC said there was a meeting a couple of weeks ago and he has sent out a report. He said that he has now put CM in direct contact with the clerk of the course. Hugh Oneil was at the meeting and is now investigating the issues regarding the one-way systems on Jane Street/Clyde Street and Park Road. There are plans for a Paul Farrel Trophy in recognition for all his services to the Rally. This will be awarded to the best placed local team. DC said that he has raised the issue of the road condition at the bottom of Hanover Street as the road surface won’t handle 150+ rally cars going over it.
  3. **Argyll and Bute Community Council By-Election 02 Mat 2024** – The secretary said that there had been no nominations received for the up coming by election. As such our numbers are now dangerously low and will only need one member to leave and we will cease to be quorate. He urged all Community Councillors to put the word out. He will put an advert on our social media platforms and our website.

**Summary of Actions to be completed:** The secretary to advertise on social media and via website for new members. All Community Councillors to ask for volunteers.

1. **Convener Update** – There was no update from the Convener.
2. **Secretary Update** –
   1. **Website Update** – The secretary said that since the website has been launched, we have had 3273 views, 974 of these views have been within the past 28 days and of the 3273 views, 1243 of these have been redirected from our social media site with 260 being in the past 28 days.
   2. **Annual General Meeting 13th May 2024** – The secretary said that the date of the AGM is on 13th May 2024. It was agreed that we would have our monthly meeting on the same date. He asked if anyone wished to stand for officer position could they please contact him before 03rd May 2024 so it can be added to the minutes. He also said that there are also a number of vacancies for non-officer posts that will need to be filled. The secretary then advised members that the cost of advertising on the paper was £33 per advert. This is inclusive of VAT.

**Summary of Actions to be completed:** The secretary to await the return of the CLO before placing an advert Agenda for AGM and Meeting to be published on 03rd May 2024 due to it being a Bank Holiday on 6th May 2024.

* 1. **Community Engagement and Logo -** The secretary said that during the course of his duties he had conducted a survey asking for people’s thoughts on our overall performance. This was posted on several social media groups but had to be pulled because of the language. However, from the survey it is clear people do not know who we are, or what we do. Members of the public are unsure of how to get in touch with us and do not think we are representing them as they do not know about us. The secretary said he was a bit baffled as he is constantly on social media and updating our website. He spoke about our logo and how it did nothing to say who it was, it was agreed that we adopt a new logo and option 2 was chosen for day-to-day use and option 1 could be used when creating something larger such as a banner. He also spoke about having a drop-in surgery on a monthly basis where the public could drop in for a coffee and meet us, this would only require two or three of us to attend. LM said she was unsure if it would be necessary as people only engage with us when something has gone wrong. The secretary also suggested that when the BID have a market, we book a stall and have a couple of Community Councillors cover to show a presence and be there to answer any questions. The convener said it was a good thing to go to where people are, but it would be dependant on members being able to give up their time. The convener also said that members of the public are welcome to attend our meetings. The secretary pointed out that some people may not be happy with talking at a formal meeting or want to talk in private. The treasurer said that during the meetings she has held regarding the play parks, it was discussed about having a market stall to get the word out there. The convener said that what is needed is something like a leaflet that says what a Community Council is and what we do and don’t do. AM asked if the Argyll and Bute Councillors are still holding “Surgeries”? AF said that she used to do them, she went onto say that herself, BG and JA used to do a joint surgery. She said that she would have no issues doing a joint surgery with the Community Council. She said that they stopped because of the lack of attendance by the public. She said that she and other Argyll and Bute Councillors are all contactable via their website, social media and via email. The secretary said that the issue Dunoon Community Council are facing is that people do not know who we are, or that we even exist. He said that people are getting mixed up between the Community Councils and Argyll and Bute Council, where we are getting the brunt of dissatisfaction from the public where as it should be directed to Argyll and Bute Council as the Community Council have no legal powers. AM suggested that when Argyll and Bute Councillors hold any future surgeries, they invite Dunoon Community Council. AF and RM said they would both be happy to take this forward. The convener made the point that the secretary is saying we should be going out to the public. The secretary confirmed that he thinks we should have a visible presence at public events. The thought that we are not representing the people who elected us is not sitting well. PG agreed that the market stall is something he would be happy with and suggested that an Argyll and Bute Councillor join us. AM also suggested that we should find out if there are any vacant properties on Argyll Street that are owned by the Council and ask if we could take it over and have it as a combined shop for Argyll and Bute Councillors and Community Councillors. The convener said this would cause lots of issues, the biggest being the manning of the shop/office. He pointed out that a majority of the Community Councillors also had a full-time job and would not be able to cover the shop too. AF said that Argyll and Bute Council did not own any properties in Argyll Street. DC said that with everything that is pushed out via the website and social media, he feels that it is a minority who are dissatisfied. He agreed that we could try the market stall once and if it worked then we could look at it in the future. He said these ideas are all well and good, but it requires us that are volunteers to commit even more time. CM said that he would be happy to write a full-page article on Community Councils to enlighten the public what a Community Council is and what we are there for.

**Summary of Actions to be completed:** The secretary book a stall with the BID. The secretary to update our logo on all correspondence. Design leaflets about Dunoon Community Council.

* 1. **Grant Application -** The secretary said that one of the most common gripes in Dunoon is the amount of dog mess on the pavements and public areas. He said that he has been doing a bit of research into getting “Dog poo bag dispensers”. To obtain 20 of these and place them around the town at strategic points will cost approximately £4000. He asked the members present if they would object to him applying for grants to do this project. It is something visible and would benefit the community. FT said that they are using cut down plastic bottles. The secretary said that he has seen them, he said that these are unsightly and are an environmental issue themselves if and when they come off the posts. The secretary said the ones that he is looking at are metal in construction and will be attached using metal jubilee clips. The convener asked if we could coordinate with the local dog warden. He also said it may be worth speaking with other agencies to collaborate with them. The treasurer made some suggestions of grant providers and offered her help with the application processes. AF said that a few years ago there was a competition where the schools designed a poster. This did have a short-term impact and suggested that we run another competition to coincide with the bag dispensers. LM suggested that the winning poster could be put onto one of the six-foot banners and displayed throughout the town. AF said the Police used to put things out as it is actually a criminal offence, however, like everything, it has fallen by the wayside.

**Summary of Actions to be completed:** The secretary to speak with the local dog warden and apply for the grants. RM to pass on the contact detail of the dog warden to the secretary.

* 1. **Diary** – The secretary went through the diary for the next two months. He asked if anyone had any issues with him publishing the agenda for the AGM and monthly meeting on Friday 03rd May 2024 instead of the 6th May 2024 due to the bank holiday. No objections were raised.

1. **Treasurer Update** – The treasurer went through the financial report giving details of all income and expenditure for the month. She said that the financial report is on the shared drive permanently for everyone to see. She also said that she was looking at appointing Ian Reid to conduct this year’s audit, Ian Reid was recommended to us last year and carried out last years audit. DC asked if he was a qualified accountant. The secretary said there was no requirement to hold formal qualifications, just as long as the person is competent and of good standing within the community. Ian is a qualified bookkeeper. The cost is £50.00. The treasurer also spoke about the upcoming AGM and needing details for the Treasurers Report. The treasurer gave members an update on the money sat in the bank account and what it can and can not be used for. This has now been clarified by the CLO. The treasurer also said she has asked the CLO about our financial archives. She wants to know if we can digitally store all our documents or do they need to be stored as hard copies. She is awaiting an answer. The treasurer has not yet opened a savings account, but this will be done in the new financial year. This will probably not be a high interest account as we do not have the funds for this. She will keep the Community Council updated as she proceeds. The treasurer also said that currently there are only three authorised signatories on the bank account. She is waiting for the vice-conveners’ details to add him to the account.

**Proposal. The financial report accepted as correct subject to audit.**

**Proposed: TM Seconded: AG**

**For (8) Against (0) Abstained (1) Result: Passed.**

**Proposal. That Dunoon Community Council appoint Ian Reid to audit our annual accounts for a fee of £50.00.**

**Proposed: AG Seconded: TW**

**For (9) Against (0) Abstained (0) Result: Passed.**

**Summary of Actions to be completed:** The treasurer to submit all financial records to Ian Reid for Audit and to prepare financial report for AGM. The secretary to forward dates of handover and takeover of Treasurer for FY 2023/24. Treasurer to chase up the vice-convener and add to bank account.

1. **New Business** –
   1. **Retrospective Grant Funding** – PG briefly spoke about grant funding and said it was in our constitution that we could apply for funding. He said he did not need to go further as it has already been covered.
   2. **Land for Sale at Gordon Street** – The convener spoke about the plot of land that has now came back onto the market up behind Alexander Street with the access from Gordon Street. He said over the years, several tracts of land, including the site for the proposed housing development have come to market, recently another plot has been advertised with offers over £200k. It does not have any planning consent. He said the reason for bringing it up is the marketing pitch says it is suitable for a large hotel and golf course. It also says that there have been pre-planning discussions held with the Council, but there are no further details of these discussions. He said that this area is out with the current local development plan.
   3. **Lack of Youth Club/facilities in Dunoon** – The secretary said that he has been approached by several people regarding the perceived lack of youth facilities in Dunoon, in particular a dedicated youth club. He asked if Argyll and Bute Council had any plans to re-establish a youth club in Dunoon. AF said that it was part of LIVE ARGYLL’s remit to provide youth facilities. She said part of the reason for the old youth club closing was lack of use. She said that she was not aware of any current plans but would raise the issue. JA said that it is wrong to say there is nothing to do in the town, there are plenty of clubs for the younger people and listed a number of the clubs. He said there may be an issue of coordination of the groups and a centrally held list of what groups are available. He said that groups like the Boys Brigade and Guides are going from strength to strength and are working at capacity. The secretary said that these groups are very good but what is missing is a place for youngsters to meet up in the evening where they can mix with their friends, not necessarily as part of a dedicated club. JA agreed and said that was missing, the kids want somewhere they can go and play computer games against their friends or just meet up. PG said that prior to COVID his grandson was involved in a pressure group to stop the Council from closing youth clubs and other facilities as he said when financial pressure is placed on the Council, one of the first things to get pulled is the youth facilities. AF reiterated her point that the reason the Dunoon Youth Club closed was purely down to lack of use. She said that recently she and some of her colleagues had a meeting at the Grammar School and the general consensus from the pupils was they wanted a safe place to hang out with their friends in the evenings. She said that they couldn’t pin down what exactly they wanted. She also said that the youth needed to be consulted in the process. AF said that this would unlikely be funded through the Council and would require third parties to become involved in the running of what ever was decided. The convener said that there is now statutory legislation that requires councils to listen to the youngsters. He said that he is aware that the Grammar School are working very hard on this. JA said that he knows of a SCIO that has been formed in the town to try and take over the old “High Kirk” building and part of the future plans is to make a place for the community to use. LM said that she has seen it recently where teenagers are just loitering outside supermarkets, these teenagers don’t want formal clubs, they want somewhere to hang out with their mates, and it is these teenagers we should be asking what they want. FT said that the pipe band hall is being used on Saturdays to host table top games.

**Summary of Actions to be completed:** AF to establish with Argyll and Bute Council if there are any plans to re-establish a youth club in Dunoon.

* 1. Struan Lodge - LM said that we should all have seen the reports regarding the meeting to discuss the closure of Struan Lodge. She said that this matter keeps coming back and although the meeting has been postponed for 12 months, it will come back, and we need to be prepared. She said that is hugely important that the service that is provided by Struan Lodge is retained. AF said she had been notified that it has been postponed for 12 months, She also said that she has raised specific questions regarding the proposal, one being that most of the people using the service are there for respite care and under the Carers Act there is a responsibility to provide respite care, she wanted to know how they can do that if they are closing the centre that provides this service. She said that in the document, it said that home care would be able to pick up this service, but how would this be able to provide respite care? For years now the focus has been on trying to keep people in their own homes and respite enabled this to happen. With out the respite care some people will need to go into full time care, and this then raises the issue that there are not enough care homes. AF has asked to be kept informed and has suggested that those who are responsible for this decision go out and speak to the staff on the ground to find out exactly what is provided, rather than looking at a spreadsheet on the computer. She said that by speaking with the guys on the ground such as the managers and staff, they know what is needed, they also have some great idea’s how to improve the service. She also said that they need to talk to Community Councils, so they know and understand public opinion. She said that local carers are concerned as they are struggling with demand as it is, without the added pressures this would bring. The proposals are very ill thought out and seem to have been rushed through. LM said that everything seems to have been rushed. The time from sending out the letters and advertising the meeting as almost non-existent. The secretary said that it was as though they did not want anyone to attend the meeting and they could sweep the closure under the carpet without public scrutiny. RM said that no consideration was taken for the amount of stress this could cause to the staff and residents. LM said that Struan Lodge provides a vital service to the community, she has spoken with people who have said that this is their only means of respite, even if it is only for a short period of time. LM said that she has emailed all the local councillors and the Integration Joint Board (ILB) and to date RM is the only person to respond. AF said she has sent an email to apologise as she herself was waiting for a response. She said that she was shocked at the announcement as it was not on her radar. LM said this is the concern, she said the speed of this process means it could easily slip under everyone’s radar. AF said she has asked them to speak to the local elected members before pulling anything like this again. LM said she wants the Community Council to express our concerns to the IJB, so it is recorded, even though the plans have been postponed for twelve months. FT asked if this is a council run facility, AF said it was a council property, but the facility was run by the ILB. JA said historically he was on the IJB when he was an Argyll and Bute Councillor. He said he was on the board when this first came up and recalls conversations where it was promised that this would not come up again. The problem is that there is now a new chair in place. JA said his concern is there is a similar unit in Oban, Campbeltown and Dunoon but not in Helensburgh, he is concerned that the elected councillors from Helensburgh will vote to close this unit because they do not have one and there is no political incentive to keep Struan Lodge open. LM also said that there is no alternative locally. The convener said that he can’t understand the decision as surely it can’t be financial as it will cost more to provide alternative care for the users. JA said someone is just looking at a spreadsheet and not looking at the wider implications. The convener said that it is his understanding that part of the building at Struan Lodge is currently unused and not being utilised. LM said that there used to be offices within that side of the building. The convener said that the council need to look at their assets and make better use of them. FT said she had concerns regarding the grounds of the building as recently the Community Garden has moved onto the grounds. She said it seems to be a waste of money relocation from Kirn Primary to Struan Lodge for 12 months. The convener said that this has been discussed for several months and that the Development Trust were under the impression that this would be utilised by Struan Lodge as part of their residential and day care services, so again, has came as a shock to both the Development Trust and the Community Gardens. He went on to discuss the reasons behind moving from the School to Struan Lodge.

**Summary of Actions to be completed:** The secretary is to write to the ILB to express our concerns and to ask for a timeframe of their plans.

1. **Planning/Licencing Applications** –
   1. Planning - YL said there are currently no planning applications showing on the system. PG said that at the last meeting he raised the issue of a complaint being made regarding the length of time it is taking to process a planning application. He said the complaint has now been upheld and has emailed all Community Councillors a copy of the complaint.
   2. Licensing – YL said there is only one application showing on the system for Vinters on Argyll Street with a closing date of 09th April 2024 for objections/comments. AF said that this may be delayed. There were no concerns raised by the Community Council with this application.
2. **Argyll and Bute Councillors –**

**Councillor Moreland:**

* 1. Councillor Moreland said that at the last meeting he was asked for figures relating to Council Tax reductions. He now has the information and read out the figures.

**Summary of Actions to be completed:** RM to forward figures of Council Tax Reductions in Cowal to the secretary for distribution to all Community Councillors.

**Questions to Councillors:**

* 1. The convener said that he has noticed that on all the car parks around Dunoon new signage has appeared and following on from previous months, wanted to know when enforcement action would commence. Councillor Moreland said that they are still waiting for the work to be signed off by Tom (Ruffy). The convener also asked when Hanover Street car park would be cleared, and enforcement action taken. Councillor Moreland said that he is not aware of any reason why the traffic warden cannot act in any of the car parks with exception to the one by the ferry because the lines have not been drawn on to the surface. The secretary asked why the traffic warden is not taking action and asked, He also asked if the traffic warden could take action regarding untaxed vehicles that have been left in the car park. The secretary said that all vehicles in the car park should be taxed, insured, and have a valid MOT, but suspects this is not the case with quite a few. Councillor Moreland said (Ben) Hughes is chasing this up and that he also wants this car park cleared and as far as he is aware, the traffic warden can take action against vehicles that are untaxed or have no MOT. JA said that he was under the impression that a 28-day notice had to be issued but said he has not seen any. Councillor Moreland said that was correct and in addition to this, a notice had to be placed in the paper.
  2. The convener asked about the West Bay toilets and said that there has been a lock installed but was not in use. He asked when this will be activated. Councillor Moreland said there was a fault with the charging system and as a result they have all been turned off until its rectified.
  3. The convener also asked if there was a timeframe for turning the West Bay car park into a camping zone for campers. Councillor Moreland said it had gone out to tender, but no one came forward. It has been put out to tender again and believes there is one local company who has submitted a bid. DC asked if this company had put in an over inflated bid because no one tendered on the first round. Councillor Moreland said that this would not be possible as there was only a budget of £100k.
  4. PG said that he was surprised to see the signs go up at the Dolphin Hall car park and asked how much do these signs cost. Councillor Moreland said that it was all listed in the TRO and that this would cover both Dunoon and Sandbank area.
  5. PG asked about the wall at the Clyde Cottage nursery, he said that this was supposed to be done in March but has not been touched. Councillor Moreland said that this also went out to tender and never received any response’s, it has subsequently been put back out to tender and he will keep PG informed of the progress.
  6. PG also brought up the pigeons in the band stand and said that they are still nesting there. Councillor Moreland said that a company has now been appointed to clear the bandstand and he has been told it will happen this month, once the birds have been cleared, work will commence to repair the damage to the bandstand.
  7. DC asked about the West Bay management plan. He said this would become an issue shortly as the weeds along the West Bay would soon start to grow. Councillor Moreland said that although it is no longer in his remit, he can certainly raise the question. DC said that he is aware that in the past they have had plant machinery on the beach to move the shingle from the top of the beach back down to the water line to prevent it coming up onto the promenade. He asked if this will be happening again as it is needed. Councillor Moreland said the beach clearing was supposed to be an annual event, but apart from last year, it hadn’t taken place for a number of years. Councillor Moreland has been asking and will continue to ask for a formal written management plan that can be available to the public. JA said he is surprised that nobody has complained about the beach being cleared as there were projects where information boards were being produced that listed the plants and insects that could be found in the ecosystem. The convener said that there were complaints received about this. Councillor Moreland said that when he was first elected, he received significant pushback from the public about this being cleared. He said he was not happy with the way it was done as he was in the process of asking questions and then the diggers turned up on the beach without his knowledge. He said he has had meetings with the Biodiversity Officer, and he is still waiting for the written document. Councillor Moreland said he would like to see the area left to grow, but that would require engaging with the public to let them know what is happening and to inform them that it is being left for a reason, but this comes back to having a management plan. DC said as we are elected by the community to represent the community, why can we not be informed by the Council what their plans are. He also said that Hannah from the “Pop Shop” was ready to go with the signage which was all made.

**Summary of Actions to be completed:** Councillor Moreland to request a West Bay Management Plan.

* 1. CM asked if there was a date where Argyll and Bute Council would start to take enforcement action with those who are parking on pavements. Councillor Moreland said it would be in 2024 but did not know when.
  2. CM also asked if Argyll and Bute Council were still investing in the Qatar National Bank? Councillor Forrest said she did not know but would ask and get back to him. Councillor Moreland said that he did not think that they were but couldn’t confirm if they had withdrawn the investments or were not investing any more and would come back with an answer. CM also asked who to speak to, to find out what interest was accrued on this investment. Councillor Moreland said it would be Kirsty Flannagan or Anne Blue.
  3. The secretary asked why Argyll and Bute Council used a pack of cards to decide the leader of the Council and the Provost of the Council. AF said that this had been the process since 1973 and had been used several times by several councils across the country.

1. **Any Other Business.**
   1. **Alistair MacKinnon** – The convener apologised to AM for not putting his email onto the agenda, this was passed to the secretary after the deadline for publishing the agenda. It would be added to our agenda at the next available opportunity. He did point out that due to the AGM next month, it would be June at the earliest.

**Summary of Actions to be completed:** The secretary is to send a copy of the email to all Community Councillors.

1. **Questions from the Public.**
   1. AM asked if Dunoon Community Council would be sending a letter of thanks to Dr Saleem from Church Street surgery for his years of service to Dunoon. There was a bit of opposition to this as this would set a precedent. It was also said that whilst Dr Saleem was liked by people in the community, there are others who have issues with Church Street surgery and would not be comfortable with this.

**Proposal. That Dunoon Community Council send a letter of thanks to Dr Saleem at Church Street Surgery.**

**Proposed: JA Seconded: TM**

**For (2) Against (2) Abstained (5) Result: Not Passed.**

The Convener brought the meeting to an end at 2105hrs and thanked all those who attended. The next meeting will be held on Monday the 13th May 2024 in meeting room 1, Queens Hall, Dunoon at 1900hrs.

Distribution:

All DCC Councillors

Cllr Moreland

Cllr Forrest

Cllr Hampsey

Melissa Stewart

Police Scotland

Chris Martin (Observer)

Queens Hall Reception

Library

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