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**Dunoon Community Council**

**Meeting of the Dunoon Community Council held in Queen’s Hall, Dunoon on Monday 13th November 2023.**

Present:

Tom Warren (TW) (Convener) Tom McCowan (TM) (Secretary)

Jim Anderson (JA) Paul Graysmark (PG)

Frauke Thornton (FT) David Clough (DC)

Yvonne Love (YL)

ABC Councillors Attending:

Councillor Ross Moreland (RM)

Councillor Audrey Forest (AF)

Councillor Daniel Hampsey (DH)

Members of the Public: Police Scotland:

Alison MacQuarrie PC A Lazzara (AL)

Jack Diamond (JD) PC C Gladwell CG)

Apologies:

Lindsey McPhail (LM) Bobby Good (BG)

Abigail Apps (AA) (Treasurer)

Jim Anderson (JA) (Informed the Secretary he would be late)

1. Tom Warren (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 11th December 2023 and the minutes have been approved.
2. **Recording of members attending and apologies received.**

Recording of attendance at meeting is as above.

1. **Declaration of Interest**. All previous declarations of interest still stand.
   1. Tom Warren is now the elected Chair of the Community Development Trust.
2. **Minutes of previous meeting were discussed**; DC pointed out that paragraph 13 (Planning) said that an application had been received for 7 Edwards Street, this is in fact 60 Edward Street. The Secretary noted the change and will amend the minutes accordingly.

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

**Proposed: PG Seconded: FT**

**For (4) Against (0) Abstained (2) Result: Passed.**

1. **Appointments/Resignations**.

Resignations.

* 1. Ewan Hamilton has notified the Convener of his immediate resignation from Dunoon Community Council for personal reasons.

**Vote to accept the Resignation of Ewan Hamilton.**

**For (5) Against (1) Abstained (0) Result: Accepted.**

* 1. Ian Stewart has notified the Convener of his intention to resign from Dunoon Community Council to allow him to concentrate on his university studies.

**Vote to accept the Resignation of Ian Stewart.**

**For (6) Against (0) Abstained (0) Result: Accepted.**

Appointments.

* 1. Amanda Graham. Amanda Graham has accepted an invitation to return to Dunoon Community Council.

**Vote to Co-Opt Amanda Graham on to Dunoon Community Council.**

**For (5) Against (0) Abstained (1) Result: Approved.**

The Convener passed on his gratitude to both Ewan and Ian for all their hard work whilst serving on the Community Council. The Convener said that as Ewan Hamilton was resigning from Dunoon Community Council, he would by default be resigning as Vice-Convener. The Convener said that we would elect a new Vice-Convener at the December meeting. The Convener also welcomed back Amanda Graham after her short break.

1. **Police Scotland Report**- PC C Gladwell introduced himself and asked if we would like him to read the report and asked if we had received the report. He said that since the previous report that there had been 241 reported incidents. PC Gladwell asked if there was a requirement to go through each reported incident, the Convener said that there was no requirement. DC said that the whole point of the dissemination of the report was to save going through each item, and thus saving time. FT asked that were there any incidents that stood out to him that would be worth notifying Dunoon Community Council. PC Gladwell said that in his own personal experience there did not seem to be any specific spikes. He said that it was perfectly normal to have a high number of requests for police assistance. FT asked if there was any increase in fraud as there had been two reported incidents in the report. PC Gladwell said that as there had only been two incidents of fraud reported since the last report, he did not think that there was anything to be concerned about and could not see any trends. He did say to bear in mind that fraud reports are quite wide-ranging and do also include online fraud which is obviously on the increase and very prevalent now. PC Gladwell said that he would pass this on to management for them to have a look and report back to us if there had been any spike in fraud. TM said that it had been minuted that JA had asked if the high number of probationary officers in the town was having an impact on the policing of the town. PC Gladwell said that this was an issue that would need to be taken up with management. He went on to say that in his own personal experience that Dunoon does not get that many probationary officers. PC Gladwell did say that all probationary constables are given a suitable tutor before being allowed to patrol the streets. TM said that there was a public perception that Dunoon has an extremely high percentage of probationary officers and there was a high turnover of officers within the town. PC Gladwell said again this is something that he would need to pass back to management for them to respond, he did say that however, Police Scotland where possible, will try to recruit locally. FT said that in the past week she had been looking into and researching the community first responders’ scheme and noted that the town does not have the scheme at the moment. She said that she had looked at the Scottish ambulance service website regarding the community co-responder scheme and said that it was the police who were nominated in Dunoon. She asked if the police and the town were suitably trained to deal with these incidents. FT asked if the police were able to attend these incidents where the ambulance was unavailable. PC Gladwell said that normally the police were often called to attend when an ambulance was dispatched and vice versa, the ambulance would call for police assistance. He also said that as a constable he would not be informed of all the calls. He also said that these figures would need to come from a supervisor which he would raise with him. The Convenor said that we were exceptionally lucky that we actually have a police station and an ambulance station located within the town whereas those in the outlying districts were not so fortunate and that this may be more prevalent. DC said at the last meeting we were talking about trends. He said Kevin Anderson had provided the Community Council with a link to collated reports for all incidents within Argyll and Bute Council area, however, he was more interested in the reports locally. He has obtained from the Secretary, all the reports given by Police Scotland with exception for the August meeting and has created a spreadsheet detailing all the reported incidents. Using the information gathered from the reports he has created a graph so we can now visualise the number of incidents and easily see any trends that are forming. He suspects that someone at the police station has been tasked with creating this report on a monthly basis as the format of the incidents keeps changing and it is not an alphabetical order. DC offered to provide the police with the spreadsheet, and then it is just a case of entering in the figures as and when they occur, there is also space on the spreadsheet for any other incidents that may occur in the future. PC Gladwell said that he would put the offer to the person responsible for the report which he believed was Sgt McGunnigal. It was agreed that the secretary would email Sergeant McGunnigal with the spreadsheet. AM said that she had recently nearly been hit by an adult cyclist at speed on the footpath as she came out of her house, she asked how these incidents have been reported. She went on to say that for years she had been trying to get across a disability and age-related approach to the worst road safety record with our failing council but was not getting any response from Argyll and Bute Council despite contacting them on numerous occasions. She said that she had contacted all the Argyll and Bute Councillors as well as her MP and MSP but not had any response. AF objected and stated that she has not received any correspondence from AM. AM then went on to say that Argyll and Bute Council had stopped all funding for road safety. She also went on to say that there have been numerous incidents with scooters and cyclists riding along Argyll Street pavement and indeed along the road in the wrong direction. She wanted to know from the police if these incidents are being recorded. She also went on to make the claim that cars are now driving along the promenade and pavements. PC Gladwell responded and said that if the dangerous incidents she described had happened and had been reported they would have been included in the report. He also went on to say that he has seen these road traffic incidents recorded but could not give details. AM accepted this response but said she is trying to get road safety included in the school programme. She also said the problem was getting worse as she has now been nearly hit 5 times recently. The Convener had to step in and ask that this conversation be ended as time was pushing on that the officers would also be required to get back to their duties. The Convener thanked the two officers for their attendance and contribution to the meeting. The convener pointed out to AM that the secretary had previously supplied her with the statistics regarding road safety at a previous meeting. PC Gladwell asked if the Community Council were happy with the action points that were included at the end of the report. The Convener acknowledged the action points and said that they were fine. PC Gladwell said that he had taken notes and will pass them onto Sgt McGunnigal for him to respond.
2. **Presentations –** No Presentations were given this month.
3. **Items from Previous meeting –** 
   1. **Emergency Resilience Planning** – The Convener said that the Secretary had placed the current Emergency Resilience Plan onto the shared drive. The Convener went on to say that the document says it is a live document however it was produced in 2014. The Convener said that there were three sections of the high-level plan: the overview, the risk registers, and the household plan. He said that the recent flooding in the town has brought this plan to the fore, and we obviously now need to review this document. He said that as a Community Council we need to review the document as the risks may have changed from when it was first written, in particular we need to look at the flooding, but we should review the whole document as there may be other areas that need action. DC raised a question regarding the document, he asked, how can it be a live document but was produced in 2014. TM interjected and said that this document should be reviewed on an annual basis. The Convener said that this is the first time that this document has been reviewed under this Community Council, but we have only been quorate since last December. The Convener suggested that rather than spending agenda time reviewing this document, that everyone should go onto our shared drive and have a look at the document and make notes to raise at the next meeting where they can be discussed. TM said that he had concerns regarding the emergency resilience plan questionnaire on the emergency resilience plan sheet at the back of the document that is supposed to be distributed through all of the residents within the Dunoon area. He wanted to know how this would be disseminated, he said that we have got our website and our social media sites however not all residents have access to this especially the elderly and the vulnerable. FT agreed that this may not be the best possible course of action as not everyone has Internet access. TM explained that the purpose of this form was to register vulnerable people who may need us to help them in the event of an emergency, but it was likely that these are the people who would not be able to access the document. DC said that all the utility companies should have a priority services register which would include all those at risk, so that for example, in the event of a power cut the utility company would be able to ascertain who was at risk and likely to need help. He said that it was not the job of the Community Council to hold this register, that was done by the utility companies. He went on to say that on the form, it should say that customers should notify their utility companies if they are at risk and need to be placed on the priority services register. The Convener said that this may be the case however, as a Community Council we still have a duty of care to ensure but everyone knows the correct process. The Convener said that the communications question was relevant and we now have a functioning website, our social media platforms, we also have access to notice boards throughout the town and should utilise the local paper and radio station to get the message out there.TM suggested that everyone has a look at the document in their own time and makes their own notes where they can be discussed at a later meeting. DC suggested that it may be of benefit if two or three members got together and discussed the document and then brought this back to the Council. This was agreed by all members present. It was agreed that DC, YL PG and TM form a subcommittee to scrutinise this document and report back to the remaining members at the next meeting. FT asked if the utility companies would be able to provide us with a list of those on the priority services register. DC said that it would be very unlikely that they would provide this information due to GDPR regulations. The Convener said that this would not be necessary. All that was required, was for us to signpost people to the utility companies. PG said that he agreed with the sub-committee but thought that it may be more prevalent that we hold a separate meeting regarding this issue due to the length of time it would take to discuss the item at a normal meeting. The convener said that the sub-committee could hold a special meeting, and this is where it would be discussed, and they would bring the findings back to the council. The Convener said he would be happy for individuals to review the document and pass on their comments and recommendations to the sub-committee. JD asked if the Emergency Resilience Plan was about the flooding, this was confirmed by the Convener, who also stated that the plan covered other areas as well as flooding. JD said that in the recent flooding, the burn running alongside the Glebe had risen above the height of the wall and was overflowing into the housing estate and asked if there was any maintenance planned around the Milton Burn. He mentioned that in 2007 there was a flood prevention scheme put in place, but this failed to prevent the water overflowing. He went on to ask if there had been any structural damage to the wall and asked if this would be inspected. PG said that it would be unlikely that any maintenance would be carried out, as up by the nursery there is a huge hole in the wall which has been there since early August. The Convener said that this may be more difficult to fix as there were multiple stakeholders involved here such as SEPA and Argyll and Bute Council. DC said that during his time working with Severn Trent Water they had a scheduled maintenance programme on all waterways, he imagines that Scottish Water would have a similar scheduled maintenance programme for their waterways. He also said that he had recently read a report on social media that someone had gone to Morrisons and had to remove debris from the grate that covers Milton Burn, once this was cleared it allowed the water to disperse quicker. DC went on to say that we should have a contact from Scottish Water named on the Emergency Resilience Plan that we can contact to ensure that the planned maintenance is scheduled and kept to. The Convener said that these maintenance schedules should be done through the summer when it was less likely that we would suffer from flooding. RM concurred with DC that the storm grate at Morrisons was cleared during the summer. The debris that was in the grate recently, was washed down the stream during the flooding. RM said that when he was first elected to the Council, he was sure that they had just produced a document regarding flooding, and that part of this was the clearance of Milton burn. The Convener asked RM for clarification and asked who was responsible for the burn, is it Scottish Water or is it Argyll and Bute Council? DC said that the clearance of the burn should either be an amber or red priority as the failure to clear the grate will cause flooding in the future. PG asked if the elected members could confirm when the damaged wall by the nursery will be repaired. The Convener said that it may not necessarily be Argyll and Bute Council who own the land. PG said that in that case, Scottish Water needed to get it fixed. The Convener said one of the other major flooding incidents in the town was up at Milton otherwise known as Cowal Place. This from his understanding was caused by a blocked culvert. RM said that Argyll and Bute Council should be investigating all culverts and ensuring they are clear. The Convener asked if Dunoon Community Council could have an overview of the document that covers the maintenance of the drains and culverts. RM said that he would come back to the Convener with an answer. AM said that she had contacted the ombudsman and asked if these floods were being recorded. She also went on to say that the drains are not being cleared as we have a failing council and that she keeps trying to have our Councillors and Council educated to see the risk assessment and to make them accountable. She said the ombudsman had discussed the complaint with her and now closed the complaint, but nothing has been done. The Convener suggested to AM that perhaps she could put her complaints and issues in writing to the secretary. The E-mail address is located on our website. The Convener also asked AM how she was reporting faults, AM responded that she was using numerous methods, by phone call, via writing letters and via e-mail. The Convener pointed out that the only way she should be reporting issues is by using the Council's report section on their website. When this is used, a unique reference number will be created and this can be used to track the work carried out and if the work is not completed, she can then come back to this Community Council with the reference number and we can then act on her behalf. He reiterated but no other method should be used to report any faults. DC interjected and said that Dunoon Community Council have a spreadsheet where we report any faults and track their progress, he went on to say that the elected officials present, also have access to this spreadsheet and use this to ensure that the work is getting done. AM again claimed that she had emailed the elected councillors but never had a response. AF again responded and said that she has never received any correspondence from AM. DH also said he has never received any correspondence. The Convener suggested that AM use the report system, get the reference number, and then forward this reference number to the secretary and he will enter it onto our spreadsheet for us to track its progress. PG said that he has a list of faults but does not know how to use the spreadsheet and will pass these on to DC for him to enter the details.

**Proposal. That Dunoon Community Council creates a sub-committee to discuss the Emergency resilience Plan.**

**Proposed: TW Seconded: TM**

**For (6) Against (0) Abstained (0) Result: Passed.**

* 1. **Rally Update** – DC said that he did not have an update as the meeting is not till next week, he will update us when he has attended the meeting.

1. **Convener Update** –
   1. **Local Place Plan** - The convener said that at the last meeting we had a presentation from the Development Trust and part of that presentation was regarding the local place plan and the action plan which the development trust now has funding for. This plan has to be delivered with the other stakeholders involved. The update from Ann Campbell is that she plans to hold a workshop type meeting with the key stakeholders such as the DCDT, Dunoon Community Council, The BID and Argyll and Bute Council. The timeframe for this meeting will not be after Christmas and most probably be held late January or early February. This is to allow further work to be carried out on the plan. They are keen to see Dunoon being one of the earlier resourced plans. At the last meeting, Dunoon Community Council voted and accepted a proposal that we worked in collaboration with the DCDT. Ann Campbell is now preparing a memorandum of understanding between Dunoon Community Council and DCDT.
   2. **Local Press** - The Convener raised the issue regarding the article that was printed in the Dunoon Observer, he said that the article was written as an extract from our minutes that has been published on the website, however there were numerous inaccuracies in the report. He informed all members that the Secretary had written to the reporter to highlight the errors and inaccuracies and the article, this however has not been corrected by the paper. He said that he felt that maybe the headline and parts of the article had been over sensationalised. PG queried where the reporter had got the article from. TM said that the article had been written using the minutes and neither the BID nor Dunoon Community Council had been contacted. The Convener reminded everyone that the Secretary accurately records the entire meeting, and these minutes are published on the website and therefore available in the public domain.
2. **Secretary Update** –
   1. **Website Update** - The Secretary informed all members present that our website is now up and running. In the past 28 days we have had 603 views. He reminded all members that he still requires photographs and BIOS to be placed on the website. He asked if these can be provided as soon as possible. He went on to say that if any member had any articles that they wished putting on the website that they should submit them to him via the email address, and these can be uploaded onto the site. We need good news stories that are short and sweet with a photograph to support the article. DC has already submitted one article regarding the flag removal from Argyll Street.
   2. **Poppy Appeal** - the secretary said that the 2023 Dunoon Poppy Appeal is now over. Over the past two weeks there has been a stand in Morrisons and the Co-op supermarkets and along with a stall on Argyll St on the first two Saturdays in November. He thanked FT, YL and DC for all their assistance. He also thanked the Cowal Combined Services Club and the Dunoon Army Cadet Force along with all the other volunteers that helped on the stands. The appeal completely ran out of its merchandise in the first week and it also ran out of the emergency order halfway through the second week. The collection tins are currently being collected in and these will be counted by the Royal Bank of Scotland. Early indications are that we have done rather well. The Secretary was overwhelmed with the generosity of people from Dunoon. Final figures for the collection will be available within the next six weeks. He said that he enjoyed the appeal and has already started planning next year’s event. He said that he had received several comments regarding the banner that we purchased last month, these were all positive comments and people were pleased to see that the Dunoon Community Council were supporting this charity. The Secretary said that he planned to write an article for the local paper. The Convener thanked the Secretary for organising this year's appeal on behalf of Poppy Scotland and Dunoon Community Council.
   3. **Action Points from Previous Agenda** - The Secretary said that he had been talking with DC regarding action points being missed from the previous meetings. DC said that we should have a section on the agenda that will allow us to have a quick report on any action points raised previously. As this would require a change of our Standing Orders, the Secretary informed everyone present that he plans to make a formal proposal at the next meeting to include action points on the agenda as item number 8. The Convener agreed that this was a good idea and that this practice was common with other organisations.
3. **Treasurer Update** – In the absence of the Treasurer, the Secretary read out the financial statement. There was an expenditure of £735.35 last month, this included the purchase of the website. There is currently £6597.00 in the bank and £50 in petty cash. This gives us £6629.00 available to use.

**Proposal. That the financial report be accepted as correct, subject to audit.**

**Proposed: TM Seconded: TW**

**For (5) Against (0) Abstained (1) Result: Passed.**

FT asked if there were any plans to move the bank account to the Royal Bank of Scotland due to the pending closure of the local branch of the Bank of Scotland. The Secretary said that this decision would solely be down to the Treasurer as she would be the one that had to make all the arrangements, he went on to say that in his experience 99% of all business calls were conducted on the phone or online. FT said that the Bank of Scotland planned to have representatives attend the town in the library one day a week, to answer any customer questions. The day and timings are TBC.

1. **New Business** –
   1. **Delegation of Responsibilities** – The Secretary said that this topic had been raised several months ago. The idea is to have sub-committees responsible for dealing with set topics such as, Transport, Education, Planning, Town Maintenance etc. These sub-committees would be empowered to deal with anything that falls within their remit, they could go directly to our elected Councillors and report back to the rest of Dunoon Community Council with a brief update. The Idea of this is to speed up the monthly meeting and allow for more topics to be dealt with. The Secretary said that he thought that we needed to allocate these roles before we sat down and formalised the priorities of Dunoon Community Council. PG said that he thought it was a good idea to have someone take the lead on separate issues. He has been trying to do this with the town infrastructure. RM said that we would have to bear in mind that these subcommittees still would not be allowed to approach a Council Officer directly and would still need to go through the Elected Officials. DC said that we would need to categorise what we want and then put names to the categories. The Convener said that this would need to be delt with in stages, firstly we would need to vote to approve the proposal, we would then need to come up with the sub-committees and then allocate people to that committee. The Convener asked the Secretary to send out an email to all members for them to come up with ideas for sub-committees that can be discussed at the next meeting.

**Proposal. That Dunoon Community Council adopt a delegated responsibility approach.**

**Proposed: TW Seconded: TM**

**For (6) Against (0) Abstained (0) Result: Passed.**

* 1. **Hanover Street Car Park** - The Secretary has received two complaints via email regarding Hanover Street car park. One complaint is from a Mr Carson and the second complaint is from Mrs McLennan. They are complaining that the car park has been taken over by caravans that have been dumped, and commercial vehicles and trailers. The trailers are often overflowing with garden waste. There have been occasions where fridges and washing machines have been dumped at the back of the car park. The surface of the car park is a disgrace, it is covered in loose gravel and chippings, it is pitted with potholes and is unsafe. The general consensus of the complaints was that these caravans, vans, and trailers should not be parked there. They have been removed from the West Bay car park and dumped in the Hanover Street car park. The Royal Mail are also using this car park to store all their vans. This is one of the free car parks available to the public, yet the public cannot park their vehicles there. The Convener added that there were a couple of vehicles that looked like they had been abandoned, and the car park now looks like it has become a dumping ground. RM said that currently, the Council cannot enforce anything as the signage is incorrect and or missing. A new sign has been ordered and should be fitted by the end of the month. The current TRO is in place, however, without the correct signage no enforcement action can be taken. Once the sign is installed, enforcement action will begin to clear the car park. RM went on to say that the enforcement hours will be from 0900hrs until 1800hrs Monday through to Saturday.
  2. **Christmas Decorations Competition** - The Secretary said that traditionally Dunoon Community Council used to run a competition for the best dressed house in Dunoon. He also believed that this was extended to the business premises. He is unsure of what the prize money was and how the competition was organised however, he feels that this is something that we as a Community Council should be looking at reinstating, YL said that the competition used to rotate through the residential properties one year and commercial properties the next year. She also said the prize fund used to be £50 for first place and £25 for second place. The Convener said that this is a good idea however, it may be worthwhile getting the BID involved and asking them if they would match us with the commercial properties. It was then discussed about advertising this competition and when the results would be announced. The Secretary will create a poster and advertise it via our social media sites and on the website, he will also contact the local press and ask if they can put an advert in the local paper. It was agreed that the date of the competition would be Sunday the 17th of December with the judges driving around the town, between 1800hrs and 2000hrs, this will enable all residents to ensure that their lights are on for the competition and by this point all houses would be decorated. The Secretary will then contact the local press with the results so that they can be published in the local paper that is published on Friday the 22nd of December. It was agreed that the judges would be TM, YL, DC and his five-year-old granddaughter. It was agreed that the Secretary would purchase the vouchers for the prize money from the BID, as this promotes shopping locally.

**Proposal. That Dunoon Community Council hold a competition for the best dressed house in the Dunoon Community Council Boundaries. First prize is £50. Second prize is £25.**

**Proposed: TM Seconded: FT**

**For (6) Against (0) Abstained (0) Result: Passed.**

1. **Planning Applications** –

The Convener said that the way planning applications were advertised had changed, we will no longer get weekly notifications as the planning applications are placed on the Argyll and Bute Council website. It is very easy to use as it is all broken down into wards. YL confirmed that she had not received any emails informing her of this change, but this explains why she has not been getting any notifications. AF asked that she has asked for these emails to be reinstated for all Community Councils because she has received complaints from other Community Councils that they are also not receiving the emails and are having issues getting into the system. The Convener updated everyone and said there are currently two new applications, with the first one being for the installation of flood doors. The second application is for a short term let licence. AF said that she was expecting a significant increase in applications due to the changing of legislation. She said that there were over 3000 applications currently waiting to be dealt with. They are scheduling these applications so they can be dealt with as quickly as possible. There are currently no licensing applications that we are aware of. No objections were raised to the two planning applications.

1. **Update from Argyll and Bute Councillors –** 
   1. Councillor Moreland said that the property manager will be coming down to look at the bandstand in Argyll Gardens now that the nesting birds have moved on and he imagines the work will be carried out to repair the hole in the near future.
   2. Councillor Moreland said that there was no update on the West Bay written management plan for the Convener however he would still pursue this issue.
   3. Councillor Hampsey who chairs the Cowal Transport Forum will be having a meeting on Friday. He confirmed that Jenni Minto, our MSP, and ScotRail will be present to deal with the current timetable issues. PG asked if this would also include West Coast motors. DH said that they would not be in attendance as he was dealing with this issue separately. DH said that he had been in regular contact with Neil Stewart from West Coast motors and the issues were being dealt with and he would update us when it was necessary to do so. DH said there were issues with bus cancellations and diversions recently, but this was due to the flooding, there was still an impact on the timetable as some of the roads are still closed due to damage to bridges etc. PG said that these issues due to the flooding were acceptable. His main concern though was the other cancellations or changes to the timetable which was affecting people getting to hospital appointments etc.
   4. Councillor Moreland said that he would continue to chase up the removal of the old ticket machine at the ferry terminal as this is now becoming an eyesore.
2. **Any Other Business.**
   1. YL raised an issue regarding the street lights in the town, she said that they have now started to change the light bulbs to motion sensor lights. There are several areas in the town where this is not adequate as it leaves large areas in darkness. This could be unsafe for people walking down the streets as you cannot see who is further on. She went on to say that the lights were on, however they were very dim until you passed under the sensor, and they then brightened up. RM said that the street lights are perfectly legal, he also said that the council had a legal obligation to reduce their carbon footprint. He said that there was a programme to replace all the lights. This will be done and a rolling sequence as when one breaks it will be replaced with the new style motion centred light. He is currently unsure of the frequency of the lights, as in, will it be one light in every four or will it be every single light. AM said that this needs to be changed as pedestrian safety is the worst that it has ever been. RM clarified the position of the Council, he said that it is policy to change all the lights over time however he is unsure of what type of light it will be, they may not all be motion sensors, however they will be dimmer than what is currently used. PG asked if the motion sensors could be adjusted and if this was the case would they be able to widen the scope of the sensors. AM said she has raised this before but has got nowhere. She said nothing is getting done because the Council doesn't give a damn. She also said, We have a failing Council who are incompetent, and everything is done in secret so nothing will be done. She said that she has been nearly hit several times and it is only getting worse. She went on to say the problem is caused by people not walking anymore they all sit in their cars. She said she has spoken to Hamza Yusuf to try and get him to motivate the lazy councillors and to get them out walking so that they can see the dangers for themselves. The Convener had to stop AM and move on to the next agenda item. PG said that she supported AM and some of what she was saying, in particular to the leaves on the ground. When it gets wet or frosty these become very dangerous, and they are not being picked up by the council. The Convener yet again reminded everybody about the council's “Report It” system and this is where wet leaves on the ground should be reported. FT asked if it was the responsibility of the Council to clear the leaves off the footpaths, because in Germany, where she comes from, it is down to the residents to clear the footpaths in front of their properties. This includes leaves, snow, and ice. DC said that it was the responsibility of the Council, due to the legal implications he will no longer clear his footpath for the fear of being taken to court should someone have an accident. RM confirmed that it was the Council's responsibility and that it would take an act of parliament to change the law to force householders/residents to clear their paths. DC said that people need to be aware of the financial constraints that the Council are operating under, they have a huge area to cover, and a majority of the work goes on behind the scenes and is not visible to the general public. They have higher priorities to deal with.
   2. The Convener raised an issue regarding the Dunoon & Gourock Ferry Action Group, he said that himself and the Secretary had attended a Cowal Community Council meeting that was also attended by Gourock Community Council, Councillor Moreland, and Councillor Forrest. The DGFAG has a two-phase plan. The first phase will involve approaching Argyll and Bute Council and CMAL limited who are the owners of the two ferry ports. The request from the two port operators is that they extend the leasing period from five years to a 30-to-40-year period. This will increase the chances of other ferry operators tendering for the route as currently, it is not commercially viable for them to heavily invest in this route as the leasing period is too short. The second phase of their plan is to approach ferry companies to gauge interest and see if there would be any uptake on another company taking over the route. What the DGFAG wants is the backing of local community councils for them to then approach the two port operators. DC said that he had a meeting with Jenny Minto last week and one of the questions he raised was, when is the current tendering process for the ferries due for renewal. She was unable to answer him, but this is in her list of actions from the meeting. There was a short discussion regarding the different companies involved with the ferries.

**Proposal. That Dunoon Community Council supports the DGFAG in approaching Argyll and Bute Council and CMAL to change the leasing period from 5 years to 30 to 40 years.**

**Proposed: TW Seconded: TM**

**For (6) Against (0) Abstained (0) Result: Passed.**

* 1. The Secretary went through the diary and announced several appointments and meetings. A short discussion was held regarding who would attend the meetings.
  2. DC said that the Community Sheds mantra is, recycle, reuse, and re-purpose. Up until approximately 12 months ago the Community Shed used to use the recycling centre in the town to get rid of any of their rubbish. Their rubbish is generated by members of the public dropping off items for repair, when these items cannot be repaired the Community Shed strips down the items for spare parts to reuse, and then dispose of whatever is left. The issue is, now the recycling centre will not take their rubbish unless they pay for a permit. The Community Shed is a charity and therefore does not have the funding. DC said that the Community Shed had written to the Council back in March of 2023 highlighting this problem. DC asked why the Council cannot tell the site operator to allow the Community Shed to dispose of their rubbish. RM said that he has responded to the e-mail received from DC and that as the policy lead, he is investigating whether he can issue permits to local charities to access all their sites across the entire Council area. RM also said that he didn't understand why it was taking so long however he would continue to work on this issue. He did say that they can buy the permits and they cost approximately £40, however he is trying to get them issued to these charities. DC said that he appreciated that the Council couldn't just do it for one charity and appreciated that they would have to do it for all of them. He did say that those with the mantra of recycle reuse should have priority though as they will not generate that much rubbish as they will even use scrap bits of wood. DC asked RM if he knew how long this would take. RM replied that this is on the agenda for his next policy meeting that would take place later this month.
  3. FT that she had been speaking to a young lady from Kilmun who recently moved up from England, she raised the issue of the Community First Responder Scheme. In England this is run by the local ambulance service. She went on to say that on the Scottish Ambulance services website it lists all the areas that are covered. In our area there is nothing registered on the website. FT went on to explain exactly what the Community First Responder Scheme did and what they were all about. The Convener asked what FT’s proposal was, she responded and said she was trying to highlight the issue and to see if there would be any uptake within the town. The secretary said that it would be down to the Scottish Ambulance Service as they would be providing the training, however he said he would contact the ambulance service and make enquiries.
  4. PG spoke about ten benches that had been removed and are currently up at the Community Shed. He said that he thought that the Community Shed would do the repairs however it does not work like that so he has now joined the Community Shed and will take on the restoration project himself. The Convener asked what the cost would be to repair each bench as this has been previously agreed in principle at an earlier meeting. PG responded and said it would be approximately £40 per bench. The Convener said that by the sounds of the proposal it was around £400 required to repair these benches. PG acknowledged that this should have been sent to the Secretary to be added to the agenda and he will do so for next month.
  5. JA said that he had found the original TRO for Hanover Street car park from when he was an elected Councillor. He said that the document detailed exactly what could be parked in the car park. He did say that it beggars’ belief that the local councillors are actually doing the jobs off a council officer.
  6. DC said that he attended the Bute and Cowal Area Planning meeting in August where Gordon Ross from western ferries gave a presentation to the meeting, however this has not been documented in the minutes, DC said that he has raised this numerous times with Stuart McLean, and it was even discussed at the following meeting, but this also has not been recorded in the minutes. He said some of the points were valuable to members of the local community. At the meeting Gordon Ross was explaining how much of a subsidy that Cal Mac receives and what it actually means in terms of the passengers. He said the figures quoted were around £29 per passenger subsidy but that this had not been recorded in the minutes. DC said that he was advised that the minutes were not a verbatim record but a summarization record of the meeting. DC that he was told that the only way he could change the minutes was to force a vote, which he did. He said that he was absolutely staggered that when it came to the vote that nobody that attended the previous meeting voted for the change. He went on to say that what has made this issue worse, is that the minutes from this meeting did not even include the proposed amendment nor the vote. DC asked that if it is happening in this meeting what other Council meetings are being inaccurately recorded. RM asked what Stuart McLean had said. DC said that he had replied that the minutes are not a verbatim record, he has not responded to the second query. AF said that she could not vote as she had not attended the previous meeting. DC said that he was absolutely flabbergasted at this, he said that it is coming across that the Council are sweeping this under the carpet as they do not want this to become public knowledge. RM if he could be kept informed off any responses that come through regarding this. DC is now questioning the validity of these meetings as the minutes are just bullet points and do not cover the presentations. He went on to say that he thought the meetings were a complete waste of time as they are not recorded accurately and does not think he will be attending any further meetings. The Convener explained what the Bute and Cowal Area Planning meetings were and who was involved in these meetings. He said that he found that this was shocking if true. He did further explain that although the Council provides a secretarial service for this meeting it is not actually a Council organised meeting. He went on to say that this should be raised with the chair or in the absence of the chair, the vice chair should be made aware. DC said that the vice chair was at both of these meetings, and she voted against the proposal on both occasions. RM said that there would be a difference between her not voting with the proposal and her finding out that this is not raised in the minutes. DC said that he would now forward this on to the vice chair. JA said that he finds this hard to believe as when he was a Counsellor, it was well known that the losses of this ferry was around £4 million and could believe that the subsidy was around £29. He can't understand why it is being kept so secretive as a simple FOI will reveal this information.

1. **Questions from the Public.**
   1. JD wanted to know how long the building in the Rose Garden by Morrisons that used to be the public toilets was going to remain vacant. He said that all the interiors of this building were stripped out in 2018 and he wanted to know how long this building was going to remain empty. He said that he has received a letter from the Council stating that the Council are open to any organisation that wishes to take over the property. He asked why the Dunoon BID could not take over the property and turn it back into public toilets. He said we have had five years of the Council doing absolutely nothing with this building. He also said that this was the only public toilet up this end of the town centre. The Convener responded and said in answer to your first question with regards to how long the building was empty or likely to remain empty indefinitely. In relation to the second part of his question regarding the BID taking over the building, this would be a question for the BID and not Dunoon Community Council. JA said that he agreed with JD, and he should approach the BID. He did say that it was during his time as a Councillor that these toilets were closed. They were closed due to the increased incidents of vandalism and at one point they spent £66,000 repairing the toilets only for them to be damaged again and this cost was not sustainable by the Council. The only effective way to have a public toilet in that location would be for it to be manned during its opening hours. He said he had submitted letters to the Secretary regarding the costs of these repairs to the toilets, and the price of £64,000 seemed an awful lot to repair a toilet. He went on to say that a survey was carried out between John St, Church Street surgery, and the Rose gardens but he still has not seen the results of this survey. The convener pointed out that the letters he has submitted are many years out of date and therefore not applicable. DC said that the reason these toilets get damaged so often is because they are the old-style toilets and due to the location. There are new types of toilets that are stall type, smart toilets that are self-cleaning. He asked, has anyone ever investigated what the cost and practicalities of purchasing one of these toilets and placing it on the pavement and Argyll Street would be. He said the whole idea of these types of toilets was that they were in public view and thus would reduce the chances of vandalism.
   2. JD also raised another issue regarding the shopping trolleys in the Milton Burn. He said he has contacted Morrisons to find out if they will remove them but has been told that this is an issue for the insurance company. He said he has been told to contact a company called Trolleywise and they will come down and remove the trolleys. He said that he has spoken to the council and the council has said that they will not remove the trolleys. He said he wanted to know what Morrison's would be doing about the issue. RM said that he has previously spoken to JD on this issue. He has spoken with this company and had them remove several trolleys from the barn in the past. He told JD that in future if he found any more in the burn just to let him know and he would arrange for them to be removed.

The convener brought the meeting to an end at 2120hrs and thanked all those who attended. The next meeting will be held on Monday the 11th of December 2023 in meeting room 1, Queens Hall, Dunoon at 1900hrs.

Distribution:

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