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**Dunoon Community Council**

**Meeting of the Dunoon Community Council held in Queen’s Hall, Dunoon on Monday 09th October 2023.**

Present:

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

Abigail Apps (AA) Treasurer Ewan Hamilton (EH) Vice-Convener

Jim Anderson (JA) Lindsay McPhail (LM

Bobby Good (BG) Paul Graysmark (PG)

Frauke Thornton (FT) David Clough (DC)

ABC Councillors Attending:

Councillor Ross Moreland (RM)

Members of the Public: Police Scotland:

Kevin Anderson (KA)

Jack Diamond (JD)

Douglas Smith (DS)

Guest Speakers:

Ann Campbell (AC) – Dunoon Community Development Trust

Apologies:

Yvonne Love (YL) Councillor Audery Forrest (AF)

Ian Stewart (IS) Councillor Daniel Hampsey (DH)

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 13th November 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 the Chair of the Community Development Trust.
   2. Tom McCowan is on the Board of the BID.
   3. Booby Good is an employee of CALMAC.
   4. Jim Anderson is a Trustee of the Dunoon Community Development Trust.
2. **Minutes of previous meeting were discussed**; BG pointed out that his initials were the wrong way around on page 6. (*This has now been amended*)

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

**Proposed: PG Seconded: LM**

**For (8) Against (0) Abstained (2) Result: Passed.**

***Point of Order. JA asked for all questions/answers to be directed towards the Chair and not at Community Councillors.***

1. **Appointments/Resignations**.

The Secretary announced that Ian Stewart has notified him of his intention to resign from Dunoon Community Council due to university commitments. The Convener noted the notice and informed Dunoon Community Council that there will be a vote at the next meeting on 13th November as per the Constitution.

The Convener said that we will need to look at co-opting new members. DC asked if the Secretary would contact David Mitchell at Dunoon Grammar School and ask if there would be any young person interested in becoming a Community Council member to represent the youth in the Community.

1. **Police Scotland Report**-

Sgt D Maclver sent his apologies stating that operational commitments would mean it would be unlikely that Police Scotland could attend. TM read out the Police report submitted by Sgt Maclver. FT questioned how there could be 5 x housebreakings, in the incidents reported section but in the breakdown of crimes there were 6 x housebreakings. AA pointed out that she had read in this week’s local paper that 5 people had been arrested for drug offences in one raid and wanted to know how this reflects on this report, Is this five people or 1 incident? DC also pointed out that the thefts were also reported as 3 and 7 respectively. TM said that after the last meeting, he contacted the Police for a breakdown of response times and other statistics and was informed that we would need to submit a FOI request. AA asked if more pressure could be put on the Police for them to attend. TM pointed out that they do attend when operational requirements permit. TW also pointed out that the Officer that attends may not have the answers to our questions. JA asked going forward what are their parameters for their performance. He noted that there was a lot of probationary Officers posted to Dunoon and what effect does this have on the level of service the Police provide to Dunoon. DC said that the reports are great, but what we need to see is what trends are being formed and we need to know whether crime is on the increase and in what areas. He said that the Police could be requested to provide this, if not, he would create charts/spreadsheets using the data the Police Provide. TW said that it would be useful to have some comparative data to other areas. DC said that would be great, but we need to get Dunoon’s figures sorted first. PG said that at a glance it did look like the figures were going down in some areas. KA said that the Police provide a full data update to the Community Services Committee and should be able to provide similar information for Dunoon. He will forward on the link to the Secretary. JA said that he has seen this in the past and it was a really good tool as it allowed the Community Services Committee to ask questions. AA also said that it has been widely reported in the press that there is to be substantial cuts to the Police, she asked, what those cuts were and how was this going to affect the operational effectiveness of the Police in Dunoon. We have already suffered with the Police Station now closing to the Public after 1800hrs.

*(A copy of the Police report is available on request to the Secretary.)* **Action Points:**  The Secretary to write to the Police with feedback from the meeting and request a response from them.

<https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/moderngov/documents/s198388/AB%20Scrutiny%20Board%20Report%20Qtr%201%202023_24%20approved._.pdf>

1. **Presentations –** Ann Campbell – Dunoon Community Development Trust.

Ann Campbell introduced herself as the Partnership and Development Manager for the Dunoon Community Development Trust, she told Dunoon Community Council that the last time she spoke to us was in February, when she was with the Dunoon Area Alliance.

She said that DCDT had a successful recruitment process and now have herself in a full-time post and there are two part time posts. She explained that there was a Board of Trustees in place and explained who they were. AC went on to explain what the Dunoon Community Development Trust was and what its objectives are. DCDT are a community owned and led project and looks at taking the lead on an enterprising approach to address and tackle local needs with a focus of creating wealth in the area. She said DCDT are using a collaborative approach with local organisations and bringing everyone to the table to work together. AC went on to say that they are Community led and currently have 180 members and membership is open to anyone who lives, works, and studies in Cowal recognising that Dunoon is the main town on the Cowal Peninsula and the regeneration of Dunoon is relevant to everyone on the Cowal Peninsula. They look to be inclusive and sustainable with developing new income into the trust itself. There will be a priority on keeping everything local, where they will always look to utilise local businesses first. Wellbeing also plays a significant role, and this includes individual and environmental wellbeing and supporting the just transition to net zero. Funding is available for Connecting Dunoon to Wellbeing for 2023 to 2026. She spoke about the Town Team Network where they bring workers and groups from across Dunoon together to work develop connections and encourage collaboration. Community Engagement and getting information to and from the community of Dunoon is central to the work of the Trust. The work DCDT are doing is a continuation of the work carried out by the Dunoon Area Alliance. AC spoke about supporting active groups such as the Active Travel Network, Greener Dunoon and supporting local enterprise for those businesses that don’t fit into the BID model. She is working on further development of the What’s On website where it provides a calendar of events happening in the local area. They are involved in in the Cycle UK Dunoon Bothy Project that will soon be in the gatehouse at the Castle Gardens which will encourage active travel via the use of E-bikes, they are training volunteers as guides to take people out on a variety of routes. AC said they were also involved with the Beach Hut Project which is looking at the environment on the West Bay, they are looking at the Green Map Dunoon which will allow people to enter details of green projects onto a map of the area. They are also supporting Grow Food, Grow Dunoon which is a food growing project up at Kirn Primary School. AC said that DCDT were looking at expanding the “What’s On” website to include more communications initially with local groups and organisations to give people a richer sense of what is out there. AC said the Trust is looking at training volunteer Community Connectors for the local community who will go out and engage with the local community. They are also looking at establishing a community connection space which will hopefully have a shop front on Argyll Street. In the shorter term, it will possibly share a building with the Bothy Project. AC said that they are still running their “Souper-Sundays” and noted that this had been well received by several members of Dunoon Community Council. DCDT are looking at putting on an event next year focusing on climate change and other green issues. They are also building on events for International Women’s Day. AC also said that DCDT will be involved in holding some consultation events on active travel in Dunoon. With regards to volunteering, DCDT are looking at community action volunteering which could be anything from beach cleans to weeding public parks and paths to volunteering as Community Connectors.

AC went on to discuss Local Place Plans and how these effect Dunoon Community Council. These are a new initiative and were incorporated into the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 and allows local community involvement in creating a plan for how land and buildings are used. It can be expanded to go beyond the spatial element and cover aspects such as housing, training, and employment opportunities. They can be very broad ranging to help communities plan for the future. Each local authority has a Local Development Plan which informs all planning decisions made within their area within the national planning framework. There is now a new national planning framework which has been enshrined into law (NPF4). The option to develop Local Place Plans is set out within that law. This means that the local authority must refer to any Local Place Plan when making decisions on developments and planning applications. The Local Development Plan runs for a 10-year period. In terms of the Argyll and Bute council context, the National Planning Framework came into place last year, but Argyll and Bute council are already in the process of renewing their Local Development Plan. This is currently with the Scottish Government and has already had its final review. So, we are out of step with the new legislation as it takes a long time for the Local Development Plan to be reviewed and formalised. The Local Development Plan due to be published this year will not have been informed by any Local Place Plans and it will be in place for 10 years. But we can develop a Local Place Plan to sits alongside this. Local Place Plans need to be submitted to the local authority for validation and they must be written using specific planning terms. It must meet certain standards when being submitted. It is there as the voice of the community to be referred to, but it doesn't necessarily need to be followed. DS asked who has and who controls the Local Place Plan. AC replied that the local community writes the Local Place Plan with local communities coming together to do that. Funding that DCDT have received from the Scottish Government has given us an element of time and budget to support the process. This is not something that the Dunoon Community Development Trust will do alone but will do in partnership with other agencies and organisations. AC suggested that Dunoon Community Council should alongside the Dunoon Community Development Trust call a meeting that brings these key partners round the table to discuss the next steps. Our priority must be to give a voice to those in the community who are less heard from. We also want to increase the local understanding and knowledge of the local decision-making process. DS asked does she have a time frame of when the invitation for this meeting will be sent out? AC said she did not have a time frame as this would be discussed with the Dunoon Community Council. DS also asked if there was a plan on how the meeting would be run? AC replied that this would also be decided in discussion with Dunoon Community Council. TW interjected and said he would probably be chairing the meeting. He said it would initially be an open and informal meeting about what a Local Place Plan was, what its functions were and how it covers all the bases. AA asked if TSI’s were included. AC replied yes, they would, and this should have been included in the presentation. DC asked if the Local Place Plan included local connectivity. DC elaborated by saying that this would include public transport such as buses ferries trains roads AC said yes this is something that would be incorporated. TW asked DC whether his question was in regard to the Local Place Plan or the Local Development Plan DC replied it was in relation to the Local Development Plan, which then feeds into the Local Place Plan, he went on to say that the Local Place Plan was supposed to reflect the views of the community and one of the biggest views of the community is the local transport. AC said it will be interesting to see the content of the Local Development Plan. AC said at this present time she could not say for sure whether connectivity would be included other than where it would impact on physical development. She said currently Local Development Plans are more about buildings and open spaces than what DC had been discussing. AA asked if the Place Plan was regarding employment and development how could this possibly work if the transport was not working. AC replied that a Local Place Plan could incorporate transport. AA said that as the Local Development Plan was in place for the next 10 years, this could not affect the local transport problem. TW said that DCDT has set the boundary for the local place plan to align with Dunoon Community Council to keep the structure sensible. This only affects Dunoon Community Council, other community councils may have their own Place Plans in place. PG asked when she mentioned 10 years, what did she mean? AC said the Local Development Plan when it was created was in place for 10 years by the local authority, and when the Local Place Plan document is adopted, it will be adopted as a new document for Argyll and Bute council. PG asked if that means we have lost the chance to have a say on the implementation. AC said yes potentially but said we can create something that will run alongside. Once the Local Development Plan has been published, we can sit and scrutinise it, and raise any objections to what its contents are. It can be used to inform the Local Place Plan and explore what the community wants from its Local Place Plan and what its priorities are for the next phase or even during that phase. KA said the local development trust was a brilliant tool for being involved in the higher development and strategic planning. He said that the local development trust was crucial in bringing the plan into lay terms and developing it and formulating proposals around it. DC said he was struggling to see how this would work and who would take absolute accountability for this and putting it together. He said there are too many groups having input into this and although well-intentioned but some of the priorities are more fundamental than others and it does not address the priorities. TW said the Local Development Plan sits with the local authority and DCDT could not influence that however we can review it when it comes out. He said the opportunity that DCDT have with the funding available from the Scottish Government allows us to develop a Local Place Plan, but this can only be done with agreement of some if not all the organisations that AC mentioned earlier on including the TSI. DC asked what other opportunities people have to influence DCDT and the other projects they're involved in. AC said its members can be involved in the decision making. There are opportunities at various stages and various levels for people to get involved should they wish, this can include discussions, training, and volunteering opportunities. DC asked how he as a member of the community could keep up to date with what was going on and what is planned. AC said the members were kept up to date through E-newsletters that are sent out each week, there are calls for occasional volunteers or events being held and for people to come along and give their input. DC asked if there was another Town Team Network meeting. AC said that they had one two weeks ago. DC says he has been asking for nearly a year to hold a meeting with all parties for the development of the town and this is yet to happen. AC said that now the DCDT recruitment was over, and plans have been put into place with funding, other things will start to develop. DS ask the convener if you could make a proposal and it was along the lines of what DC was talking about and that it was regarding transport, we should be inviting West Coast transport and the ferry operators otherwise you will not have the representation from the transport providers. The second proposal is in relation to the upcoming meeting, rather than having a meeting it should be a workshop styled meeting. People are more inclined to come along to a workshop than they are to meeting. At a workshop, action is more likely to happen. He also said a workshop will drive a clear outcome whereas a meeting would just involve sitting around talking with little or no outcomes. He also said somebody would need to present the development plan so everyone knew what it was and how it worked at the beginning of this meeting. TW said that although the word meeting had been used it was likely to be a workshop rather than a meeting. DS said he would volunteer to run the workshop as he has plenty of experience doing this in a previous role. TW said he would add this to the procurement process. LM asked if the wider community would have any input into this or was it only the invited parties? AC said that this was only the very first step and this was to get the agencies and partners to buy into the process because if we don't have their interest none of this will work and there is no point in taking it forward. She went on to say that the wider community was central to the whole plan and the communication plan will focus on how we make it as accessible as possible for the wider community to feed in their views and concerns. DC said that DS had been invited to introduce himself earlier, but now might be a pertinent time for him to identify who he was and what he represented. DS said he was here representing the Dunoon 2025 project. Dunoon 2025 is a visionary project for the town. He said he was and has been a business strategist for the past 30 years and a service designer for the past 15 years and that TW invited him here tonight to listen to the DCDT presentation and to introduce himself and what his project is about. PG asked if the wider community is not already involved, why not, because there are so many little groups around that are running around doing their own thing. TW said some of these groups are actually public sector workers or organisations. AA interjected and said that although she is employed by one of these wider groups they did not ask or seek her views on any local matters. TW clarified PG's question by saying that there were still some groups not represented in the list given by AC and therefore there would still be a need to go out into the public for consultation, in particular areas with low deprivation as these people do not generally engage with any other groups. He went on to say that there was national guidance on inclusivity, and this is what DCDT will be focusing on in the near future. AC said that the Local Place Plan was an asset, it wasn't the be all and end all, and the reason we got the funding from the Scottish Government is because we said we were interested in bringing partners together to work for the benefit of the area, but the priority is to bring action and to drive action as and when opportunities come up. TW said for clarity that neither AC nor himself were involved in the recruitment process. TW proposed that DCC supported what DCDT were doing asked if we could hold a vote to show support.

**Proposal. That Dunoon Community Council supports Dunoon Community Development Trust and be a key partner in their work.**

**Proposed: TM Seconded: PG**

**For (7) Against (0) Abstained (3) Result: Passed.**

TW thanked AC for her presentation.

1. **Items from Previous meeting –** 
   1. Website Update - TM said that since the last meeting he has built a website for Dunoon Community Council this has been shared amongst all community councillors. He used several models before settling on GoDaddy to create our website. The website will cost £590.14. The website will provide five dedicated e-mail addresses one for the convener, one for the treasurer, one for the secretary, one for the vice convener, and an info@dunooncommunitycouncil.co.uk, this will enable the public to engage with the community council. It also comes with a Microsoft email package for each account and domain protection and email protection and website hosting. TM also stated he had never done anything like this before, he had spoken with a customer service advisor for about 6 hours whilst this was being built, and that the customer service from GoDaddy is exceptional. TM also stated that the original price was well over £1200 but he had managed in negotiate a huge discount which equates to around 40%. DC said he did have some questions however he spoke with TM who answered all his questions DC also said that the price was a very good deal for what we are getting, and we should take it. TW said it was very functional and it was what we needed; he was aware that there was some content still needed. TM said that he was still waiting on profile pictures and BIOS from all community councillors if those who have not already supplied them could supply them ASAP so the site can be updated before it goes live.

**Proposal. That Dunoon Community Council spends £590.14 on the purchase of the website described.**

**Proposed: TM Seconded: DC**

**For (9) Against (0) Abstained (1) Result: Passed.**

* 1. Adoption of new Standing Orders – TW said that we discussed these standing order changes last month and hopefully all community councils have had chance to properly read and scrutinise the changes and asked if there was any questions or comments being made.

**Proposal. That Dunoon Community Council adopts Dunoon Community Council Standing Orders version 1.1 dated 09th October 2023.**

**Proposed: BG Seconded: TW**

**For (10) Against (0) Abstained (0) Result: Passed.**

* 1. Rally Update – DC said he had contacted Mull car club after the secretary had forwarded them the meeting minutes, he said he has heard nothing back from them, he has however said that Mull car club have now changed the date of the community council liaison meetings to the fortnight after our meeting which he will now attend and hopefully receive an update then.
  2. Cowal Transport Forum Update –FT said she had attended the meeting and that the minutes should now have been received by all community councillors of via e-mail. She said she had queried the new electronic signage that is due to be put up around Dunoon and in Sandbank. She said that there was also a recruitment process in place to recruit a new council officer. CalMac ferry cancellations featured highly on the agenda as there have been a very high number of cancellations in the area recently. She said CalMac were asked to provide figures and statistics of passengers carried but these were not provided at the meeting. She also said that the link span was not discussed as this happened after the meeting. She said that there was a public transport query about the current bus service, in particular, the Innellan service which involves schoolchildren from Dunoon primary school. FT said she was told at the meeting that this was not true, and she has since contacted LM for clarification. She went on to say that there was another query around the dial a bus service being withdrawn, this particularly affects the elderly and disabled. She said they were trying to get the service put back on, even if it was only on a Tuesday and a Thursday. She said this request had to come from Argyll and Bute council. FT said she would speak to Councillor Ross Moorland on this issue. She said Councillors Ross Moreland and Daniel Hampsey attended the meeting. FT said she was annoyed that nobody from Argyll and Bute council roads department attended the meetings and that the roads officer had refused to attend. JA asked if West Coast motors were at the meeting FT replied that they were. JA added that he didn't think it was the road officer refusing to attend, he said he thought it was the senior council officers not allowing him to attend. He went on to say that the Cowal Transport Form was a unique committee that it was the only one of its kind within Argyll and Bute council, as it is the only one, there is an unwritten rule that they will not send a council officer to it. The convener asked if the secretary could write to Argyll and Bute council roads department via our elected officials to ask if they could attend these meetings although they are unique there is some input and action points that can be taken from these meetings. AA asked if the transport officer covered the entire Argyll and Bute council area? JA answered yes. PG asked what the role of the transport committee was and what it achieved? FT said that all community councils had representation at this meeting where questions are raised either from the community council or from the members of the public that they represent. She went on to say there are representatives from Cal Mac, Western Ferries, West Coast Motors, and the local logging companies. There is also attendance from Bear Scotland who deal with the trunk roads in Argyll and Bute and normally a representative from a Police Scotland. Those attending are normally senior managers or indeed even owners who will answer any questions raised. FT said she has now attended 2 meetings and generally action does result from these meetings for example the white lines around Loch Ech. That were no white lines in the middle of the road for several weeks after the resurfacing work, this was raised at the meeting and the work was completed within days after the conclusion of the meeting. FT said she thought the meetings were beneficial as it allowed community councils to ask questions directly to those responsible for them. JA concurred that the Cowal Transport Forum was one of the best public meetings that he had attended as it did allow all community councils to ask questions, they can also raise issues where they think things are not actually happening. JA said that the ferry operators only attend as members of the public are not permitted but will answer any questions raised by the community councils who then in turn feedback the answers to their local community. JA gave an example of logging lorries not being allowed to travel in pairs however there was an incident where two logging lorries drove down Hillfoot St in Dunoon, this was raised at the Cowal Transport Forum and has never happened since. FT give another example of that there is no pedestrian crossings from Sandhaven all the way through to Sandbank Primary School. This was raised at the meeting and shortly after the police were tasked with carrying out road safety stops and traffic surveys. BG said the electronic signs at the Cot House giving information on the A83 trunk Rd were a direct result of the Cowal Transport Forum. BG said that yes West Coast motors did turn up to these meetings but without the transport officer turning up it was rather pointless as west coast motors cannot make any changes to the timetable. JD spoke about the signage directing people to the car ferries in Dunoon and how it was wrong, he went on to say it was through Dunoon Community Council on the Cowal Transport Forum that he had this changed. JA said that there was no real excuse for the transport officer not attending these meetings as these meetings are held via teams. The transport officer can still sit in his office in Lochgilphead and attend the meeting. He suggested that we write to the transport officer suggesting he attends the meetings. PG asked if the Cowal Transport Forum was the correct place to start talking about integrated transport? He was informed that indeed it was the correct place. PG said it was imperative a member of the council attends these meetings whether it be in person or via teams so that issues raised can be dealt with swiftly and correctly. DC said that in August he attended a meeting of the Bute and Cowal Area Community Planning Group, Gordon Ross, the managing director of Western Ferries gave a presentation however this presentation was omitted from the minutes. DC raised this issue with Stuart McLean who responded but members will be asked to approve the minutes as an accurate record off the meeting, so is asking JA or BG does he have to get a member to make the changes to the minutes or can he tell Stuart to do it. BG and JA said it should be raised with Stuart McLean for him to make the changes but informed DC that the protocols may have changed since they last attended. DC said there were three items missed out of the minutes, but these are fundamental to transport. DC asked if Gordon Ross attended the meeting. FT confirmed he was. JA said it was important to understand the history surrounding West Coast Motors. He said that are going Argyll and Bute council had given West Coast motors a contract and that if there were any infractions off the contract West Coast motors used to be fined. BG confirmed this used to happen as when he was transport manager at West Coast Motors he was fined himself. JA said that it was important that we as a Community Council informed Argyll and Bute council when things were broken with the West Coast motors contract so remedial action could be taken.

1. **Convener Update** –
   1. The convener said that the Dunoon Community Council will be hosting a joint community council meeting alongside the Dunoon Gourock Ferry Action Group tomorrow night in the Queens Hall. This meeting will be attended by two representatives of each community council on the Cowal peninsula, it will also be attended by several members off the DGFAG. He said that himself and the secretary will be attending on behalf of the Dunoon Community Council. There will be a presentation given by the DGFAG and Professor Kay. DC said there was an issue with so many little groups dealing with different issues regarding transport it is becoming a problem. Because there are so many groups there is no accountability for when things go wrong as the blame gets passed to each other. He said it was about time that there was one single person who was responsible for transport who could have the powers to actually do something about it.
   2. The convener said that over the weekend there had been some severe of flooding in the Dunoon area which has caused massive inconvenience to the local residents. People's private properties have been flooded numerous roads have been closed and there's been damage to infrastructure. He said the secretary has since dug out the emergency resilience plan however this has not been updated for some time and is out of date. He said the emergency resilience plan said actions to be taken in the event of a flood, were to contact the council. He said that this document needs to be looked at as a matter of urgency and has asked if this can be placed onto the agenda for next month's meeting. The secretary confirmed that this will happen. AA asked if Argyll and Bute council did not have an emergency resilience plan and asked if we could have a copy of it for future reference.
   3. The convener has now also received an invite from the National Community Council Forum for our council to join. He said there are currently six community councils are from Argyll and Bute currently registered. He thinks it would be advantageous to Dunoon Community Council to be a member of this larger network of community councils.

**Proposal. That Dunoon Community Council joins the National Community Council Forum.**

**Proposed: TW Seconded: TM**

**For (10) Against (0) Abstained (0) Result: Passed.**

1. **Secretary Update** –
   1. Poppy Appeal -TM said that as Dunoon Community Council were coordinating the Poppy Scotland appeal for the local area. He was looking for volunteers to help man the stand in Morrisons supermarket and the Co-op. He will also be having a stand outside Home Hardware on Saturday the 4th and Saturday the 11th of November in addition to this he is looking for volunteers to cover Argyll St any days between the 25th of October and the 11th of November 2 shake and rattle the collection tins. He said DC had volunteered to help with the distribution and collection of poppy tins and poppy boxes from the shops and pubs around Dunoon. There is a file in our shared folder on Google Drive where Community Councillors can put their names down and volunteer for the supermarket stands. TM also said that he was holding a public meeting in the Queens Hall on Wednesday the 11th of October at 1900hrs. The Cowal Combined Services Breakfast Club will be attending where their members will add their names to the list. This meeting is also open to any members of the public who wish to volunteer. He said he had a quote for a banner being made for the table in the supermarkets from Argyll printing this banner is £55 inclusive of VAT. The banner is 5ft by 2ft**.** This banner can be reused in years to come.

**Proposal. That Dunoon Community Council purchase the Poppy banner at a cost of £55.**

**Proposed: TM Seconded: FT**

**For (9) Against (0) Abstained (1) Result: Passed.**

There was a discussion held regarding the placing of the poppy wreaths at the War Memorial on Sunday the 12th of November. YL has traditionally laid one of the wreaths for the past 10 years. The convener suggested that TM lay the other wreath as he has served in the Armed Forces, and he is coordinating this year's Poppy Appeal. The convener asked if there were any objections, none were raised.

1. **Treasurer Update** – AA said she had got over her IT issues and is now able to confirm last month we spent £34.57 and this month we spent £84.17. We currently have £7302.33 in our bank account. TW informed everyone that the officers have signed the financial reports for this month and for last month.

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

**Proposed: TM Seconded: PG**

**For (9) Against (0) Abstained (1) Result: Passed.**

1. **New Business** –
   1. **Integrated Public Transport** - PG said that as the issue had already been covered under the Cowal Transport Forum section there was no need to discuss this item any further.
   2. **Port Riddel Development** - DC said that he has already had a local resident on the phone complaining about the proposed plans to allow jet skis. He did note that this complaint was received before the grant application was turned down. He said he was all for bringing people into the town but should not be encouraging jet skis as they are a noise nuisance. DC asked if DCDT were aware of this development plan being submitted. AC said that DCDT had attended 2 Rural Growth Deal consultation meetings organised by Argyll & Bute Council and in those meetings, there was a request for ideas on how to develop the local water front to boost marine based tourism. It was in that setting that the BID brought forward these proposals for Port Riddell. She said that the local dive club had expressed an interest in reopening the changing rooms underneath the main road and having basic repairs done to the slipway. TW said that this would not happen as this is now part of the main road structure. The slipway concrete is crumbling away and is now dangerous, restricting easy access into the water. AC said that she believes this has been discussed at the BID board meetings and has now been incorporated into their business plan. TW confirmed that there is no funding for this project at the current time. KA stated that Dunoon Presents has plans to bring in high speed power boat racing and water-skiing events along the waterfront in the East Bay and West Bay of the town. He said that these activities would conflict with not allowing jet skis to the area as they are all high-speed noisy events. He also pointed out that everyone is entitled to use the waterfront and there are currently no restrictions on jet skis being used by individuals. DC said that there was a huge difference as these events are being professionally run and organised, with the competitors being professional and more so these events have the relevant safety precautions in place such as ambulances and safety boats. DC also stated that the marine regulations that are in place are not being enforced. BG asked where the mention of jet skis came from as last month when CM gave his presentation there was no mention of jet skis. DC said that he had spoken with CM, who asked where he had been given the information regarding jet skis. DC said that it was mentioned in the local observer about the jet skis. JA said that he was rather disappointed in last month's presentation as it lacked details such as jet skis, it also lacked any detail on funding, planning or costs of these projects. DC said that in the minutes of the last meeting, it said figures were being prepared but had not been received is this still the case. TW confirmed that no figures have been received however he has been told that he will be copied in once they are received. It was noted that a conflict of interest had arisen with the secretary also being on the BID board however the secretary was requested to write to the BID board and ask in his capacity as secretary for the figures.
   3. **Dunoon 2025 Project** - DC said that he only requested it to be on the agenda as he had seen the Dunoon 2025 project pop up online and was concerned that there are so many smaller groups in the town. The convener invited DS to give a quick summary on what the Dunoon 2025 project is all about he was asked to keep it brief. DS said the project wants to create a visualisation with public engagement and this is broken down into 8 phases. He said the first phase is consulting with local businesses to find out what they want as they are the ones that need to survive in this economy, from this consultation the project will develop a vision for going forward. He said the next stage after that is public engagement where a public consultation will be held. He said without a clear vision for the town it is very hard to get the community to engage. DC said that this project would take a lot of time and effort and wanted to know how this would be paid for he asked if there was any grants and funding being made available as this concerned him as funding would be diverted from other projects that are currently up and running. DS told DC I that the project was being paid for by him and his partner, Jamie McFarlane, giving up their free time and doing the work for free. DS said he has no interest in taking funding away from other projects. DC asked if he had a commercial model for this project or were they doing this as philanthropists. DS said this would be done as philanthropists. FT asked why Dunoon? DS replied to help Dunoon to drive engagement.
   4. **E-mail received regarding redevelopment of 6 marine parade Kirn** (the old garden centre) - TM has received an e-mail regarding the redevelopment of six marine parade in Kirn. Someone wants to turn the site into accommodation and shops/office’s. The e-mail received was sent to our elected officials also. The author of the e-mail was looking for advice on how to deal with the planning regulations. Councillor Forrest has responded to the author listing several planning restrictions that are currently in place. TM has seen an e-mail where the author has said he is now pulling out of the plan as planning applications would be too difficult. TW said that there would always be issues with that site due to SEPA regulations and the problems with flooding. It would be very unlikely for anyone to get planning permission for residential purposes. TW said it was worth noting that This site is becoming an eyesore and would continue to do so because of planning regulations. RM said the issue with the site was what the author was planning to do with the site he was trying to get the local councillors on board to try and circumvent local planning regulations.
2. **Planning Applications** –

The convener said there were several planning/licencing issues.

* 1. The Burgh Hall has submitted a licencing application for their premises. The convener said this was to enable them to sell Off-Licence stock. There were no objections raised by any of the community councillors.
  2. A planning application has been submitted to erect a residential dwelling at 60 Edward St Dunoon. No objections were raised to this application.
  3. DC raised an issue with the length of time it took for planning applications to be made. He said that the planners had lost several members of staff, but this should have been known by the department as the members of staff retired. DC says he has provided Councillor Forrest with detailed figures off planning applications. He said that since the 1st of January this year there was four applications that had been decided but there are however something like 10 or 12 applications are still outstanding with some of them going back as far as March. DC said that on the Argyll and Bute council recruitment page there were 68 vacancies but noted that there was not one single vacancy in the planning department. JA said that he understands that the posts have now been filled. DC asked Councillor Ross Moreland if anyone placing our planning application now gets told that it takes longer than eight weeks. Councillor Moreland responded by saying he couldn't answer the question at the moment as he does not have anything to do with the planning department. Councillor Moreland did point out that the backlog has always been very long. JA pointed out that Argyll and Bute council planning department used to be one of the best in the country with Edinburgh City Council using Argyll and Bute Council planners to process their applications. This used to be a good revenue stream for the council. Councillor Moreland pointed out that the backlog since COVID has increased, this is caused because planners were unable to visit sites due to the pandemic.

1. **Update from Argyll and Bute Councillors –** 
   1. Councillor Moreland said he has emailed the convener regarding the removal of benches. Councillor Moreland has received a response to his question regarding the benches, benches are now being removed in Dunoon in order to be refurbished this is a joint venture between Dunoon Community Council and the community shed with the assistance of the HELP project. PG said that there had been 10 benches earmarked for refurbishment, two of these are currently with the Help project and one is with the community shed, and that they are quite happy for us to carry on and do the rest. PG said that he had raised it at a previous meeting approximately 3 months ago to ask if we would pay for the restoration of these benches however nothing was decided, he said that the fee he mentioned was around 45 pounds per bench. TW pointed out that whilst he was at the meeting where the benches were discussed, Dunoon community council has never agreed to take on the project. TW said that although we wanted to see the benches fixed it had never been formally raised in this forum. PG asked if he could raise it now. TW said that our formal request must be submitted in writing to the secretary to have it added to the agenda. TW also said that the action point was to ascertain how many benches there were that required work and what would the total cost be for each bench. TW said that he had formally responded to Councillor Moorland to clarify that as a community council we are not carrying out the work on the benches, nor are we taking any legal responsibility for them, or the work carried out. The secretary interjected and said that previously it had been discussed and it was agreed in principle that Dunoon Community Council would look at paying for some of the benches, but we needed a breakdown of costs before anything could be agreed or discussed formally.
   2. Councillor Moreland spoke about the recent town walk where a disused parking metre was raised. He has since received a response to his question where they apologised for the delay in action however, there were urgent priorities that needed actioning such as the current road resurfacing programme in the town. When this is completed, they will come back and address the parking meter issue.
   3. Councillor Moorland also spoke about the repair to the damaged bandstand in Argyle gardens again he has received feedback and has been informed once the eggs in the nest have hatched, they will repair the bandstand, currently they are unable to repair the bandstand due to the nesting birds.
   4. Councillor Moreland also said that the issue raised by the secretary regarding the road safety concern on Church Street is still ongoing and he will keep us informed.
   5. Councillor Moreland also responded to the request from AA and said he has not heard anything back but will continue to try and get answers for her he will keep her informed with his progress.
2. **Any Other Business.**
   1. PG raised an issue regarding the paving blocks in Argyll gardens how they have still not been fixed. TW asked if he had reported it via the report it site and logged it onto our spreadsheet on our shared Google Drive. PG said he has not logged it onto our shared drive yet. PG also raised an issue with the drains in the Rose Garden next to the doctor’s surgery. PG said was also an issue with the drains in the castle grounds water was coming out rather than going down the drains again this was reported in February and still has not been resolved. PG also asked for another town walk around but this time with council officers. TW said that he is not willing to do this again. PG said he was quite happy to do this himself TW responded by saying that he would be more than welcome to do this himself. Councillor Moreland responded by saying that he did not think this would be a good use of council time as they still have not dealt with the issues from the last walk around. PG said that there are still issues and more are being raised such as down the West Bay there are railings missing. TW said that this is what the council report it website is for and that if it still was not fixed within the time frame then it should be raised here with the elected officials. PG said the Report IT system was not working. AA interjected and said that the report IT system was working exceptionally well as she reported a fault over a bank holiday weekend, and it was fixed by 1250 hours the next working day. Councillor Moreland reiterated that the issues should be reported via the reported system and if there was still an issue, then it should be reported to him at the next council meeting. TW said that DC had created a very good spreadsheet which is now located on the shared drive for everyone to have access to. The Argyll and Bute Councillors also have access to this shared drive and can therefore see what is being reported.
   2. JD raised an issue regarding Argyll Street and the old gas works, he is trying to find out who owns the property as the bushes and trees are becoming very overgrown. He has been told it is owned by Cowal Building Supplies, but they do not own the land. DC said that he suspected it was owned by SGN but was not sure, he did however say that he would use his old contacts to ascertain who owned the land. This will be passed on to the secretary who will in turn contact Mr. Diamond to inform him off the results.
   3. JA said that whilst he was an Argyll and Bute Councillor, he was asked by the South Cowal community council to provide a maintenance schedule for the cleaning of the culverts under the roads. Due to this weekend heavy rainfall and recent flooding, he would request that we are provided with a copy of the maintenance schedule. AA also added that can we be informed of what actual drain clearance is as she does not believe that the drains are cleared correctly.
   4. BG said he wanted to raise an issue an issue that has recently been in the local observer written by DC regarding the passengers stranded at western ferries. BG said he was involved in the setting up of this contract and that the buses should be going on to the ferries. He also said that there was a company from over the other side who was to provide the same service. These bus companies are being paid to provide this service, they are being paid to provide standby drivers in case of the ferry not operating and to provide this service. He says he is not sure why this service stopped but suspects it is because West Coast Motors can't provide the drivers however if this service was run correctly as it is being paid for that would be no passengers stranded. JA asked if West Coast motors are being paid to provide this service and they cannot provide the service due to lack of drivers why are they not being reprimanded by the council. Unless they receive a reprimand, nothing will ever change. Councillor Moreland said that this gets raised on a frequent basis by a variety of community councils, himself and Councillor Hampsey have repeatedly spoken with West Coast motors and the council officer responsible, however nothing seems to happen. It was suggested that the convener write to the chief executive of Argyll and Bute council and the leader of Argyll and Bute council.
   5. EH said but last month he had to use the ferry replacement service and that there was a delay at McInroy’s point and that all the passengers had to shelter in the bus shelter at McInroy’s point.
   6. AA said that it has taken over 1 1/2 hours for us to get to any new business in the meeting and perhaps we need to have a look at the layout of our meetings. TW said we had rearranged the meetings to allow those giving presentations to speak early on to enable them to leave if they wished. This is something that we can discuss at the next meeting. TM pointed out that if we need to change the layout of our meetings, we will need to amend the standing orders. AA said that we keep repeating ourselves and things that keep getting raised at the meetings should be removed.
3. **Questions from the Public.**
   1. JD raised the issues regarding the public toilets in the Rose gardens, he said that they were quoted nearly 60,000 pounds to fix the toilets and bring them back into working order over 10 years ago. We do not have any public toilets in Denham town centre with exception to the toilets by the swimming pool. Can we get the toilet reinstated. AA said that the toilets were taken out of service because of continued vandalism and that the figure of 60,000 pounds would probably have been doubled by now just to repair the damage this would not include the cost of bringing the toilets back into service and as Argyle and Bute council do not have the money to provide the basic of services this would be very unlikely to happen.

The convener brought the meeting to an end at 2120hrs and thank all those who attended. The next meeting will be held on Monday the 13th of November 2023 in meeting room 1, Queens Hall, Dunoon at 1900hrs.

Distribution:

All DCC Councillors

Cllr Moreland

Cllr Forrest

Cllr Hampsey

Melissa Stewart

Queens Hall Reception

Library

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