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**Dunoon Community Council**

**Meeting of the Dunoon Community Council held in Queen’s Hall, Dunoon on Monday 12th June2023.**

Present:

Tom Warren (TW) Convener Lindsay McPhail (LM)

Tom McCowan (TM) Treasurer Abigail Apps (AA)

Ewan Hamilton (EH) Vice-Convener Paul Greysmark (PG)

Yvonne Love (YL)

Ian Stewart (IS)

James Anderson (JA)

Frauke Thornton (FT)

David Clough (DC)

ABC Councillors Attending:

Councillor Ross Moreland (RM)

Councillor Audrey Forrest (AF)

Councillor Daniel Hampsay (DH)

Members of the Public: Police Scotland:

Deborah Rycroft (DR) PC A Burton

Anne Nugent (AN)

Apologies:

Bobby Good

1. Tom Warren welcomed everyone to the meeting as his first full meeting as new Convener.
2. Members present were recorded as above.
3. Declaration of Interest.
   1. None declared – however previous declarations still stand.
4. Minutes of previous meeting were discussed, including the additional notes.

TW also pointed out that TM was not fulfilling the role as Secretary, as legally he can’t fill the role of treasurer and secretary without the expressed permission from the Chief Executive of Argyll and Bute Council. He was only dealing with the emails that come in and distributing as necessary. Proposed: YL Seconded: LM – Passed

1. Police Report- TW read the Police report submitted.

TW also read out a reply from Police Scotland regarding a request from AA last meeting for a break down. Due to legal reasons, they may not be able to break down the report, if there are concerns this Council has, then we are free to ask for more information.

1. Items from Previous meeting.
   1. Website - IS stated that he had started to gather photos for the website from members, so we don’t breach copyright laws. IS, is working out how to create two blogs. TW asked about the creation of the website and if we were making our own or subcontracting it out. IS said there was no clear direction from previous meetings. TW said we would address this as an agenda item later.
   2. Shaping Places for Wellbeing - TW discussed that they were attending August’s meeting.
   3. Active Travel Route. DR was invited to address the Council. There was an in-depth discussion regarding the proposals and lack of engagement from Stantec. DR said that she has started a petition as has already gathered 1200 signatures. RM stated that this is only the first of seven stages of consultation. TW spoke about how the plans had come about. AF said she used the route for her daily exercise has only had one issue which was her fault. JA mentioned he uses the route up to the Kirn Church and mentioned that everyone he comes across both local and tourist were always very polite and courteous TM stated that this Council needed to be seen by the Community in representing their wishes and not falling foul and not listening to the public as this was the downfall of the previous Council. The discussion went on for approximately an hour with all council members taking part. Action points for Councillors is for us all to take part in the online survey.

**Proposal- Does this Community Council support the plans for the Active Travel Route in its current format**. Proposed By TM Seconded by AA, Vote to support: 0, Abstained: 0 Against the current format: 11. **This Council does not support the Active Cycle Route in its current format.**

* 1. Cowal Transport Forum- TW stated that we were planning on using the minutes for discussion and as we haven’t received the minutes, we will have to come back to this.
  2. Dunoon Town Walkaround- TW mentioned that there has been a date proposed for a walkaround with TW, PG, RM and the Council Officers from several departments. The date is 17 July 2023. PG was concerned about the delay as he raised this in February.TW said it was about the co-ordination of availability of all parties.
  3. Argyll Rally- DC raised concerns regarding the passage of information to residents that were affected by the rally but not living on the route. He can not get clear answers from Dunoon Presents nor the Mull Car Club. DC also said that the request for Risk assessment had also not been forthcoming. He mentioned that there was an error regarding an information pack delivered by TM and PG, it was in fact a letter to the residents. DC has also asked for Information on where the letters were sent. DC has only been informed that there is only a legal requirement to distribute information to properties within 50m of the route. DC asked PC A Burton about the one-way traffic on Jane Street and Clyde Street and what the Police response would be in the event of an RTC. He has also asked Dunoon Presents for a copy of the agreement regarding the one-way systems. AA asked that the Esplanade and Selbourne hotels are informed as this is a busy period for them, and their guests may not be aware of what is going on. Apparently, Colin Molson is dealing with all businesses affected. JA asked if the current plans are included in the risk assessment given to AB Council. DC was asked to continue to pursue the organisers. RM told DC to liaise directly with Finlay Currie regarding the rally.

1. New Business- Gourock to Glasgow train services. TW said that emails had been sent out to the Secretaries email, TM has forwarded this to all Councillors. DC noted that CalMac have changed on ferry to coincide with the 0812 service. AA said it was an improvement but not enough, DH has volunteered to take this forward in his role as chair of the Transport Committee. AA mentioned that Transport Scotland say it is a 5-minute walk from the ferry to the train. DC confirmed that this is the case if the train is on the first platform and not the third which it often.
2. Conveners update – TW doesn’t have an update as he has not been in the role long enough.
3. Treasurer Report. TM gave the Council a report on the monthly financial activities, he also spoke about being messed around by the Bank of Scotland’s business banking section. He noted that this was not the staff in branch but on the phone. He has said he will move banks to the RBS if they continue to make things awkward. Bank of Scotland have given £40 in compensation for their mistakes. DC asked about if we were getting any grants. TM confirmed that the AB Council grant of approximately £1200 has been authorised and will be in our account soon taking our balance to around £8000. TM asked the Council if we could set a minimum level on our account as a contingency. TM suggested £3000 should kept as a reserve. TW declared that he has not received the petty cash tin from BG but would chase it up. PG stated that he was meeting with Finlay Currie at the Highland Mary statue that required money to repair and is looking at a donation. He talked about Argyll Street. JA mentioned that funding may be available through the BID and we as a Community Council should be careful not to tread on their area of responsibility. TW stated that any requests for financial support should be submitted in writing to the Treasurer detailing what they want and why they want it. TW also stated that there may be funding available through grants etc. JA talked about funding being turned off for the purchase of a defibrillator at the stadium and as a Community Council this is something we should be looking at. TW suggested that we come back to a financial strategy soon.

**Proposal. Propose to accept the financial statement as correct subject to audit.**

Proposed: PG Seconded: LM – Vote For: 11, Abstained: 0, Vote Against: 0. Passed

1. Secretary Resignation- TW notified the Council members that Amanda Graham has resigned as the Secretary of Dunoon Community Council and has also stood down as a Community Councillor. TW wanted to minute the Community Councils vote of thanks to Amanda for all her hard work and wishes her well in the future. FT proposed that the Community Council purchase a bouquet of flowers to say thank you.

**Proposal. This Council purchase a bouquet of flowers to say thank you to Amanda Graham not exceeding £50.** Proposed: FT Seconded: TM – Vote. In favour: 11, Abstained: 0, Against: 0 Passed

TW spoke about the legal requirements for the Council to have a secretary and that it cannot be one of the current Officers. He also suggested that we employ a minutes Secretary for the purpose of recording the meetings. AF said that there are some Community Councils who employ a minutes Secretary. AA suggested we Co-opt someone onto the Council to cover the role. TW also said that we are now down a Councillor since the resignation of Amanda Graham and Ian Cunningham so there is the scope to co-opt. As nobody came forward TM will take this issue back to Melissa Stewart for advice on next steps.

DGFAG- TW said Robert from DGFAG was invited to come and talk to the Councillors in April, this meeting was cancelled, this is a legacy agenda item and that as they were not a constituted group and there are more pressing groups that need to attend like Dunoon presents and the BID etc. As the group seems to no longer exist or at least isn’t active. EH said that the group hadn’t met for some time as the Convener is not well. TW said that he would liaise with the Community Council Officers to work out a priority for inviting guest speakers to our meetings. AA suggested that guests should be giving a presentation rather than a business briefing to allow time in the agenda. We will look and see if Claire Hallybone is available for next meeting.

1. Planning Applications- TW spoke about the two applications submitted in our area.

a. Scottish Water have applied to install a water bottle refill point outside the Queens Hall.

Discussion was about who is going to maintain it and repair it, and if they would consider putting one down the West Bay. **No objections were raised.**

b. Argyll College has applied to have a portacabin outside their offices as they do not have enough classroom space inside the building. Although it is in a conservation area, **No objections were raised.**

1. Licencing Applications- TW informed the Council that a licencing application has been received from Vintners on Hillfoot Street. AF Declared that she sits on the Licencing board and recused herself from the discussion. They want to have on and off-site sales on a Sunday between 1200hrs and 1800hrs.

**No objections were raised.**

1. AOB.
   1. Lack of NHS Dentistry- AF pointed out the issue has been raised at HSCP level. There is a shortage of dentists due to Covid, but they are looking into the issue. AF has an article regarding the lack of new dentists and has requested we publish it on our Facebook page. DH has also raised the possibility of unitising the hospital and again will report back. DC mentioned that he has been informed that NHS Dentists are self-employed and not employed by the NHS and said because of the fee’s they find it is not financially viable.
   2. Glenmorag Car Park- FT said that the car park has now been cleared of caravans/motorhomes. She asked if we could find out how many were removed by AB Council. RM commented that most were removed by the owners but would come back with the numbers.
   3. Dungeons and Dragons Group- TM stated he has received an email from a Douglas Wilson regarding his group, they are a group of teenagers who get together to play Dungeons and Dragons and other Sci-Fi games. They also do model painting. The group is made up with youths from all walks of life, some of them have learning issues and autism. They are currently using the downstairs room of the Baptist church but are being evicted because some of the Church elders do not appreciate what they do. Is there any help that can be provided for them. TW suggested that this should be taken up with the elected members as part of the Youth Forum and the Youth Engagement activities. The Foodbank was suggested as was the Community Shed. AF said she will ask the youth teams to have a look into it. TW and TM will follow up and liaise with group.
   4. Town Improvements- PG has invited Councillors to join him on his walk around, He also asked if he can contact the Council direct. PG mentioned that there is a fence down by the Stadium and Fyne Homes, but he can not find out who is responsible as there is a land registry dispute, AF said that because of the dispute that she can not take it any further. RM said to forward the complaint to him, and he will raise it with AB Council legal team. TW said for it to be passed to the Secretaries email address and then it to be forwarded onto RM, this will keep the audit trail. JA said that we shouldn’t be taking on the role of AB Councillors and need to be passing these items over to them for them to deal with as this is their jobs.
2. Questions from the Public. There were no questions from the public.

The next meeting will be on 12 June 2023 in meeting room 1, Queens Hall, Dunoon at 7pm and thereafter the meetings will be monthly on the second Monday of the month. TW, TM, AA, LM gave their apologies. DH stated that AB Council was on recess but would attend if the meeting was going ahead. TW asked for someone to take the minutes of the meeting. TW asked whether we needed to cancel the meeting as there was nobody willing to take minutes. DC raised an objection to this. DC will take the minutes of the meeting and EH will chair. TM to send financial reports prior to the meeting.

The meeting was closed at 2106hrs.