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**Dunoon Community Council**

**Meeting of the Dunoon Community Council held in Queen’s Hall, Dunoon on Monday 10th July 2023.**

Present:

Ewan Hamilton (EH) Vice-Convener Lindsey McPhail (LM)

Tom McCowan (TM) Treasurer

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) Sgt McGeiver

Alison MacQuarrie (AM)

Apologies:

Tom Warren (TW) Convener Cllr Forrest

Abbigail Apps (AA) Cllr Hampsey

Jim Anderson (JA)

Ian Stewart (IS)

Bobby Good (BG)

Yvonne Love (YL)

1. Ewan Hamilton (Vice-Convener) opened the meeting at 1903hrs and welcomed everyone to the meeting. He explained that he would be chairing the meeting in the absence of Tom Warren.
2. Members present were recorded as above.
3. Declaration of Interest.
   1. David Clough made a declaration that he lives within the boundaries of the knotweed project and his previous declarations of interest were still live.
   2. Tom McCowan is on the Board of Trustee’s for the Duthchas Project.
   3. Ross Moorland is on the Board of Trustee’s for the Duthchas Project.
4. Minutes of previous meeting were discussed; The following points were raised:

FT pointed out that Paragraph 14 stated 12 June 2023 where it should read 10 July 2023. Point noted and was amended. **Proposed: FT Seconded: LM – Passed**

1. Appointments/Resignations.

a. Amanda Graham has resigned as the Secretary of Dunoon Community Council with effect from 12 June 2023. **Vote to accept resignation. For- 6. Against- 0. Abstained- 0 (Carried)**

b. Tom McCowan has resigned as the Treasurer of Dunoon Community Council with effect from 10 July 2023. **Vote to accept resignation. For- 5. Against- 0. Abstained- 1 (Carried)**

c. Election of Dunoon Community Council Secretary. Tom McCowan is standing for election as Secretary. EH asked if anyone else would like to stand for election, there were no further nominations. **Proposal. Tom McCowan to be elected as Secretary of Dunoon Community Council. Proposed by: LM. Seconded FT. Vote For-5. Against- 0 Abstained- 1 (Carried)**

d. Election of Dunoon Community Council Treasurer. Abbigail Apps is standing for election as Treasurer. Ewan Hamilton asked if anyone else would like to stand for election, there were no further nominations. **Proposal. Abbigail Apps to be elected as Treasurer of Dunoon Community Council. Proposed by: DC. Seconded PG. Vote For-6. Against- 0 Abstained- 0 (Carried)**

1. Police Report- Sgt McGeiver gave a report to the Council. This will be forwarded to the Secretary via email. Alison MacQuarrie raised several issues with Sgt McGeiver regarding road safety and pedestrian safety.
2. Items from Previous meeting

a. Amanda Graham resignation from Dunoon Community Council – Amanda Graham has submitted a letter to the convener resigning from Dunoon Community Council WEF 12 June 2023 due to family commitments. **Vote to accept resignation. For- 6. Against- 0. Abstained- 0 (Carried)**

b.Knotweed Project Update- DC gave the Council an update on the Knotweed Project and the response to the letters he sent out. 36 letters were sent out in total, so far, he has received 9 supportive emails, 1 phone call querying it, 1 response saying they didn’t back onto Balgaidh Burn and one person complaining about someone else’s garden in an unrelated matter. There has been a total of 12 responses in total. Kevin Anderson addressed the Council on behalf of himself and 11 other residents to air their objections to the letter sent out. He stated that not all properties had knotweed and it was unfair to target all addresses, including Broomfield Drive, and the issue was with Kilbride Avenue and Edward Street and several properties had independently had treatment. He mentioned that the letter had caused one resident some concern as she was in a vulnerable position and not in the best of health, He did acknowledge that the letter was good intentioned and that he agreed that something needs to be done. FT said that there was no way that the Council could know if a resident was unwell or vulnerable. PG asked if ABC Council would do anything and was informed by RM that the Council could not just go onto people’s properties and spray. TM reassured Kevin Anderson that although DC had sent the letters out, he was acting on behalf of the Community Council. Neither DC nor the Community Council had any intention of causing any alarm or distress to the residents, our only intention was to help the residents. After a lengthy discussion between all Councillors, it was agreed that if Kevin Anderson could provide us with the letter from the residents as discussed then the Community Council would take no further action in the project, and this would need to be dealt with by the residents involved.

c. Website Update - IS was unable to attend this evening’s meeting, however, he has said he will provide an update for the next meeting.

d. Dunoon Town Walkaround - PG updated the Council about his recent meeting with RM and several Council officials. There were several areas highlighted that needed work around the Highland Mary. He was frustrated at the apparent lack of action from both the Community Council and ABC Council. He questioned why the work to make safe the area around Johnstone Terrace and the stadium had not been fixed as this is a safety concern. RM said there was an issue as to who owned the land and there was a legal dispute ongoing between ABC Council and Fyne Homes. He said he would speak with the ABC Council legal team to get an update. PG was also frustrated at the state of the town centre, The issue of the “fire site” was once again raised. It was pointed out that this is private property, and the Community Council and ABC Council could do nothing with it. There has been a planning application approved to board up the area and this should now get underway soon. There was a discussion regarding what and where the Council should be getting involved. DC said we needed to work out the priorities and where to focus our efforts. TM asked if we could have a Council Officer come down and give a brief of what the Community Council can get involved with and what is not in our remit. RM has agreed to go back to ABC Council and request this assistance. TM will speak with the Convener to arrange a non-public meeting once we have had the brief from the ABC Council officer where the priorities of the Community Council can be worked out. PG has said he will approach the Community Shed regarding the repair of some of the benches in town. The old Yorkshire Building Society building has been sold. RM pointed out that this Fridays walk around has been cancelled. The date of a new walk around has not been discussed due to a death in the amenities team. Nigel Potts will be the new point of contact in the amenities team. There was again further discussion regarding the parking and the lack of use of the 5 main car parks, RM said he would like to see a 20-minute parking restriction for the whole of Argyll Street to encourage local shopping. LM asked if this could be set up as a trial. RM said that it wouldn’t happen as the ABC Council will come up with a plan and go with it. AM spoke about a new initiative regarding the clutter on the streets. She suggested that bins should be kept off the street and would happily pay more in Council Tax to cover this cost. FT told her that the bins were collected every fortnight for blue bins and every three weeks for green bins, having them on the road for one day would make no difference. The discussion on bins was ended.

1. Convener Update - As TW was not in attendance, there was no Conveners update. EH had nothing to report.
2. Secretary Update.

a. TM updated the Council that he was now the Area Coordinator for Poppy Scotland, and that Dunoon Community Council would take the lead for the area, assisted by the Cowal Combined Services Club. All members present agreed and have volunteered their services to help. TM said that he planned to hold a meeting at beginning of October for all those volunteering. FT asked if there would be any financial costs to the Council. TM stated there was no financial liability to the Council. The only cost would be time.

b. TM mentioned he has received an email regarding a meeting being held on 15th August 2023 for the Bute and Cowal Area Community Planning Group. He will forward email onto all Community Councillors.

c. TM spoke about the distribution of email. He asked the Community Councillors if they would like him to forward on all emails he received. He said he was concerned by the volume and did not want to bombard their email accounts. The Community Councillors are happy to receive all the emails and they can then sort through and decide what is relevant to them.

1. Treasurer Report - TM gave the Council a report on the monthly financial activities, He informed the Council that we have received our annual grant from ABC Council, and we are now in possession of a bank card. TM said he will prepare the books for a full handover to AA before the next meeting. EH thanked TM on behalf of the Council for his contribution as Treasurer. TM informed the Council that he has ordered and received two poppy wreaths for Remembrance Sunday.

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

**Proposed: PG Seconded: LM – Vote For: 5, Abstained: 1, Vote Against: 0. (Carried)**

1. New Business.

a. TM said that he has had a discussion with TW regarding the use of a business address for the Community Council. All correspondence would use this address, The pro’s and con’s of this were discussed and it was agreed to use a business address for all official Community Council business. TM and TW will update the Council at the next meeting.

b. TM spoke about the protocols for Community Councillors contacting ABC Council Officers. No Community Councillor should be going direct to any ABC Council Officer. RM said that himself and the other ABC Councillors are happy for any Community Councillor to approach them directly and they will then approach the ABC Officers.

1. Planning Applications - EH stated there was only one planning application. Wild Tartan in Argyll street have submitted a planning application to paint the exterior of the shop front. LM stated that this may be retrospective Planning as the shop had recently been painted. All Councillors agreed the shop was looking good. **No objections were raised.**
2. AOB.

a. LM said that Alan Livingstone from the BID had been in touch with the Schools to get pictures from the Children to make a screen for the old shop that was M&Co. RM pointed out that Claire Hallybone has already done one shop (next to the old Yorkshire Building Society)

b. TM mentioned that he has received an email on Friday evening from Robert Trybis from the DAFG stating that they were attending this evening’s meeting. TM said that he informed Robert that he was not aware they had been approved to attend during his handover and the agenda had already been published. Robert was not happy as he was due to attend in April and this was cancelled due to Easter break and that the May meeting was our AGM. Apparently, someone told him that he could come in July. He wanted to give a 30-minute presentation. TM has informed him that presentations will be restricted to 10 to 15 minutes due to our agenda already being very busy. TM Informed Robert that he would liaise with the Convener to work out a presentation program for future meetings. The previous meeting was discussed where EH stated that the group has not had any meetings for some time. DC said their social media page has not been updated for 2.5 years There is some confusion whether this group is still active. LM asked if there was a direct point to his presentation or was it just a presentation. TM will speak with TW on his return and get him to contact Robert. PG talked about a presentation from Claire Hallybone and the BID coming together. TM is under the impression that the Council wanted them to do individual presentations. RM strongly suggests that we have separate presentations, and that Claire should be first as he is unsure of how long she will be in the role. DC said the order of presentations should be worked around the order of priorities of the Community Council. PG asked about the Duthchas Project and as we voted to support the project, is this something we should donate money to. DC asked if we should help as the project is not in Dunoon. RM pointed out that this is a project for the whole of the PA23 postcode area of which Dunoon is within.

c. FT asked for an update on the Dungeons and Dragons group that was discussed in previous meeting. TM informed the Council that the Baptist Church had changed its mind. They suspect that someone from this Council has spoken on their behalf to the church elders.

14. Questions from the Public - Alison MacQurrie spoke about the cut the clutter initiative and the issues with Cyclists from the ferry to the train terminal and that she has had a response from the Inverclyde MSP. She also spoke about the 540-bus service from the Ferry Terminal to Inverclyde hospital being cut. DC mentioned that Gourock Community Council had invited us to attend. He was under the impression the EH had attended. DC said it was cancelled but it was a pain coming back as it only ran every hour but by using the 901 Service to Greenock and then the new 548 service is a better service and quicker getting back from the hospital as it runs every 20 minutes. AM said that there was no publication of the cancellation, DC corrected her and said there was an article in the local paper. TM will write to Gourock Community Council to find out the outcome of the meeting.

The next meeting will be on 14 August 2023 in meeting room 1, Queens Hall, Dunoon at 7pm.

The meeting was closed at 2046hrs.

Distribution:

All DCC Councillors

Cllr Moreland

Cllr Forrest

Cllr Hampsey

Melissa Stewart

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