

Dunoon Community Council

**Meeting of the Dunoon Community Council held in Queen’s Hall, Dunoon on Monday 11th November 2024.**

Present:

Gill Robertson (GR) (Convener) Tom McCowan (TMc) (Secretary) David Clough (DC) Lindsey McPhail (LM) Paul Graysmark (PG) Yvonne Love (YL)

Abigail Apps (AA)

Via Teams:

Timothy Moss (TM)

ABC Councillors Attending: Dunoon Observer:

Councillor Ross Moreland (RM) Chris Martin (CM)

Councillor Audrey Forrest (AF)

Members of the Press: Police Scotland:

Chris Martin (CM) (Dunoon Observer) Not in attendance

Members of the public:

Craig Young (CY) Douglas Walker (DW)

Apologies:

Tom Warren (Vice-Convener) Bobby Good (BG)

Amanda Graham (Treasurer) Kerry Kennedy (KK)

Councillor Daniel Hampsey (DH)

1. Gill Robertson (Convener Elected) opened the meeting at 1900hrs and welcomed everyone to the meeting. She also welcomed those attending on-line. 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 January 2025 and the minutes have been approved. She invited anyone not happy with being recorded to leave the room or remain silent. She reminded everyone that questions should be directed to herself and not to talk over people.

A two-minute silence was observed to mark the Armistice

1. **Recording of members attending and apologies received.**

As Above:

1. **Declaration of Interest**.

As previously listed.

1. **Minutes of previous meeting were discussed**. There was one alteration requested by PG. He requested the figure of benches be amended from 8 benches to 6 benches that require refurbishment. This was approved and minutes will be amended accordingly.

**Proposal. The minutes from the previous meeting are correct and bear a true reflection of the Dunoon Community Council Meeting held on Monday 09th September 2024.**

**Proposed: PG Seconded: LM**

**For (5) Against (0) Abstained (3) Result: Passed.**

*2 x abstentions due to not being at previous meeting. Secretary abstained as normal due to writing the minutes.*

1. **Appointments/Resignations/New Members**.

The following resigned their positions from Dunoon Community Council

* 1. Christine Cable

The convener thanked Christine Cable for her time on Dunoon Community Council and wished her well for the future.

1. **Police Report** – Police received on 11 November 2024.

The report was discussed by members. There was concern raised over the apparent rise in vehicle related incidents and the number of assaults.

**Action Point (s):**

The secretary to liaise with Police Scotland and request that we receive the police report on the first Wednesday of every month, this will allow dissemination amongst members.

The secretary is requested to clarify how the results are reported with regards to the police assault and resisting arrest. Are these separate incidents or are they linked.

1. Presentations - Due to the absence of the treasurer, the presentation scheduled for this month will be moved to the next meeting.
2. **Action points and updates from previous meetings.**

No action points were raised:

1. **Monthly Reports.**
   1. **Conveners Report** –

(i) Visits - The convener said that she planned to have individual meetings with all members to discuss their portfolios. She also said that she will be visiting all Cowal community councils to meet with their respective conveners.

(ii) Next meeting - The convener suggested that the meeting in December be cancelled, and a workshop should be held and its place. This would not be open to members of the public. All members are encouraged to attend.

**Proposal. Dunoon Community Council cancel the meeting scheduled for December and hold a workshop in its place.**

**Proposed: GR Seconded: TMc**

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

* 1. **Secretary & Community Engagement Report** –

1. Website Update– The secretary said that since the website has been launched, we have had 13155 views, 1453 of these views have been within the past 28 days and of the 13155 views, 3611 of these have been redirected from our social media site with 452 being in the past 28 days.
2. Poppy Appeal - the secretary informed members that the 2024 Poppy Appeal has now closed. This week he aims to have collected all the collection tins. He was overwhelmed by the generosity of people and wanted to publicly thank everyone who donated. He also wanted to give a huge thanks to everybody that assisted with the collections. Without their support the success of the Dunoon Poppy Appeal would not be what it is. The convener and members thanked the secretary for all his efforts regarding the Poppy Appeal. DC volunteered to assist with the collection of the Poppy tins
3. Community Engagement - the secretary said that Dunoon Community Council had two market stalls booked for the 23rd and 30th of November with Dunoon Presents. He said that he did not think it appropriate for us to take a stall and potentially deprive a local business the opportunity to make some money at the upcoming markets. It was agreed that we would withdraw our slots.
4. Diary Dates - the secretary covered the diary until the January 2025 meeting.
   1. **Treasurers Report** - in the absence of the treasurer the secretary printed off the financial statements and the treasurer's report for all members to see. All financial records are available to all members on the shared drive.

**Proposal. Dunoon Community Council accept the financial report as correct subject to audit.**

**Proposed: PG Seconded: YL**

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

* 1. **Transport Report** –

1. Cowal Gourock Ferry Group - DC said for the past six months the Cowal & Gourock Ferry Group has been having monthly meetings. This group is made-up of community councillors from each of the community councils within the Cowal peninsula and some of the Argyll and Bute councillors. Gourock Community Council are also involved in this group. They have been discussing the creation of a SCIO where the ferry group would take ownership off the ferry terminal in Gourock and Dunoon. The group have started to make inquiries about getting CMAL recognised as a public entity. This is required to enable the group to proceed with a community asset transfer. The overall plan is for the very group to take control off the two terminals and then lease them out to a ferry operator who will then provide a service on the Gourock to Dunoon route. There was a discussion amongst members regarding the pros and cons of this idea. DC pointed out that this is still in the very early stages and the group were working on a plan to move this forward. DC has submitted a detailed report to each member. TW has agreed to be on the board of trustees for the new SCIO, this will be called Cowal Gourock Transport Link (CGTL)**.** DC requested that Dunoon Community Council support the CGTL and allow them to move forward. He said that this is important because without the support of all the community councils they cannot proceed. He said that the second proposal would be that Dunoon Community Council coordinate future surveys that are required by the CGTL. The convener expressed concern at this proposal following on from the recent article and the local paper by Kilmun Community Council and asked if it would be more appropriate for the survey to be professionally done. AA said that any survey being produced by us would need to be scrutinised to avoid any fallout. DC said that the questions would be set by the CGTL but it would be Dunoon Community Council who would be responsible for the dissemination and collation of the results. This was proposed due to us conducting several surveys in the past. Concern was also raised about the Gourock terminal as this is the relief terminal for the Arran and Rothesay ferry service. DC said that the first obstacle was to get the transport secretary to recognise CMAL as a public body.

DC said that without the support of the residents of Cowal, none of this will happen.

**Proposal. Dunoon Community Council support the activities of the Cowal Gourock Transport Link Group.**

**Proposed: DC Seconded: AA**

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

**Proposal. Dunoon Community Council continue to conduct surveys on behalf of the Cowal Gourock Transport Link Group.**

**Proposed: DC Seconded: GR**

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

1. Ferry Numbers - DC said that he has been trying to get accurate figures for the number of passengers that have been using the Cal Mac ferry service between Dunoon and Gourock. He has not been successful so far. He is frustrated that he cannot get the numbers from Argyll and Bute Council and so far, Cal Mac have not responded to any of his requests. There have been concerns raised about the numbers quoted in the Stantec report. This was discussed at length by members present. The only possible way of getting these figures from either Argyll and Bute council and Cal Mac is to submit a formal FOI.
2. Traffic Management Plan – DC spoke briefly about the traffic management plan at Western Ferries. He said that although not in our ward, He was going to raise it at the Cowal Transport Forum in January as this does affect Dunoon residents.
3. Ferry and bus timetables – DC said that there was an issue with timetabling when Cal Mac had changed their ferry timetable and West Coast motors hadn't. This has now been resolved. DC pointed out that an article recently in the local paper stated that it was the transport bosses that had changed the timetable, DC said it was not the transport bosses, but it was the Cowal & Gourock Ferry Group.
4. Stantec Report – DC said that he is going through the Stantec report and preparing a response. This is not ready yet but will endeavour to get it completed as soon as possible and distributed to members before any action is taken. DC spoke about several issues contained in the report, including the reliability of the service and the number of cancellations. He also spoke about the subsidy that Cal Mac receive. He informed members that this is now available on the report after it was originally redacted. Discussions were heard regarding the report from those present including the issue of Island status.
5. DC will be responding to the request from British Motorsport regarding the 2025 Argyll Rally. Following a recent survey conducted by Dunoon Community Council where 87% of Dunoon respondents were in favour of holding the Argyll Rally next year, he will be responding in favour of the Rally subject to ongoing community council liaison meetings and there being no change in the route.

DC and AF left the meeting to attend the Community Council Liaison meeting with Mull Car Club.

**Action Point (s):**

DC to prepare a formal FOI for the secretary to submit on behalf of Dunoon Community Council.

DC to provide CM with background notes to the ferry timetable changes.

Members are to contact DC with any additional points they wish to include in the response to the Stantec Report.

Secretary to add the topic of island status to the next agenda.

* 1. **Play Area Redevelopment** – No update provided
  2. **Planning & Licencing** – YL read out on the current planning and licencing applications for the Dunoon Community Council area. There were no objections raised.
  3. **Education** – TM (Via Teams) said there was nothing to report locally, however the introduction of VAT and National Insurance contributions at private schools was causing some problems nationwide. He is unsure if it affects any of our residents.
  4. **Infrastructure and redevelopment** –

1. Benches - PG informed members that two benches have now been re-installed along Alexandria Parade with the third being installed tomorrow. DH has provided PG with a workorder reference number to log the bench installations against, so it is recorded. PG thanked the team at the community payback. He said that it is working really well. He said that there are other benches that require work, but this is being done by the HELP project. His funding is for the 8 benches along Alexandria Parade.
2. Highland Mary – PG said he has been in contact with Mr Hogg regarding the state of the Highland Mary statue. He has also spoken with Mr Currie regarding the railings. He said that the team that cut back all the overgrown bushes and grass around the Castle Gardens did this off their own backs and in their own time. Unfortunately one of the team has moved on.
   1. **Public Health and Social** Care - No updates were provided.
   2. **Community Council Liaison** – No updates were provided.
   3. **Youth Engagement** - No updates were provided however the secretary said that he had read that there will be a youth club opening in its previous location of Kirk Street. He asked how this will affect the foodbank. The convener said that it would have no effect. She did say that she was slightly concerned that it was on the same night as the other youth club in Dunoon. RM said this was being organised by Rachel Wells from Police Scotland.
3. **New Business:**
   1. **Argyll Rally -** This was discussed as part of the transport update.
4. **Updates from Argyll and Bute Councillors:**
   1. Ross Moreland – Has been busy with local case work and committee tasks. He said that there have been new lights installed in the Black Park. He informed members that Milton House will be put up for auction in next couple of weeks.
5. **Any other business:**
   1. Kilmun Community Council - the secretary said that following last week's open letter to the Dunoon Observer, he was furious. It appears that at no point did Kilmun community council communicate with us directly to express their concern or displeasure with the survey. Checking their minutes, the survey had been mentioned numerous times. He is also unsure how Kilmun community council could say they have a mandate to object to the wind farm proposal when 56 people voted against the proposal. 56 people out of a population of 1300 is not a mandate. He said that were numerous other in accuracies with the letter. The secretary explained how the survey was conducted. he pointed out that all community councils were listed, this was to enable him to extract the responses from residents in Dunoon. If this was not done there would be no way of tracking which respondents were from Dunoon and which respondents were from elsewhere. He said the allegation of repeated responses was dealt with. There were a couple of people who had responded more than once to the survey; however this is easily identifiable and those responses were deleted from the survey. He also questioned the validity of the open letter. In the paper it clearly states an open letter to the Dunoon Observer and Dunoon Community Council, however Kilmun Community Council did not send us a copy before publication. The convener confirmed that she also had received no correspondence from Kilmun community council. She said that she was not willing to respond to the letter via the paper. She will contact the convener of Kilmun community council and discuss this and other issues in the near future

**Action Point (s):**

The convener requested to liaise with her counterpart at Kilmun community council.

* 1. Parking at Queens Hall - the secretary said that he has written to RM as this is an ongoing problem which seems to be getting worse. RM informed members that this is now being addressed and the Council are looking at erecting either bollards or planter to stop people parking there.
  2. Pro Palestine Protesters - the secretary informed members that he had received a formal complaint regarding the pro Palestine protesters that have located themselves outside the Burgh Hall. He said that he had responded to the complainant and informed them that there was nothing that he could or would be willing to do as the protesters have a democratic right to protest. He informed the complainant that if the protesters were causing a public order issue, they should report that to the police. He said that all local counsellors and Inspector Simonis from Police Scotland were copied into the response. Ironically on 2nd November 2024 whilst on the Poppy Stall one of the protesters spat at the secretary. This has been reported to the police and the offender has been charged. The secretary also wanted to thank Inspector Simonis and his team for providing extra policing in Argyll Street on Saturday the 9th November 2024 when the army cadet force where collecting on behalf of the Poppy Appeal.
  3. Local Grocery Shop - PG asked if there had previously been a grocery shop and the town and asked if they got their stock from local farmers. It was confirmed that there had been a shop, but they did not get their produce locally. That was a discussion regarding markets and the possibilities of having a farmer style market and the tone similar to what is held regularly in Gourock. The convener said that it would be fantastic if Dunoon could have something similar however she is led to believe that the organiser of the Gourock farmers market is not willing to travel over to the town due to the costs of the ferry. If something like this was to be organised this would need involvement from the BID as this falls into their remit.

**Action Point (s):**

The secretary to liaise with the BID.

* 1. AA asked if there was a management plan for the West Bay. She said that it had been recently scraped off the weeds, but this now caused an issue regarding access to the beach. There is only one access point that people can easily get onto the beach. RM said that they are working on a management plan with DCDT.

1. **Questions from the Public:**
   1. CY raised the issue of a number of broken stairways leading from Alexandria parade down onto the beach. He asked if these were going to be repaired or where they being left to fall into the sea. That was a bit of confusion as to which stairs that were being discussed. RM said he would visit the stairways and report back.
   2. CM asked about demand notices that are being sent out by Argyll and Bute council to local businesses. CM said that the business in question had raised issues regarding the bill, this was backed up by the BID manager who said that they should not need to pay, yet the council have threatened legal action.

**Action Point (s):**

RM requested to investigate and report back.

The Convener thanked everyone for attending. The next meeting will be held on Monday the 13th January 2025 at 1900hrs, in meeting room 1, the Queen's Hall, Dunoon.

Signed by:

{Original Signed}

T McCowan

Secretary Dunoon Community Council

Distribution:

All DCC Councillors

Cllr Moreland

Cllr Forrest

Cllr Hampsey

Melissa Stewart

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