



DUNOON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held in Queen's Hall, Dunoon on Monday 8 June 2026

Community Councillors Present

- Gill Robertson (GR) – Convener
- Tom McCowan (TM) – Secretary
- Anne Robertson MBE (AR) – Treasurer
- Tom Warren (TW) – Vice Convener
- Yvonne Love (YL)
- Lindsey McPhail (LM)
- Debz Wright (DW)
- Eric Owen (EO)
- Frauke Thornton (FT)
- David Clough (DC)
- Paul Graysmark (PG)

Argyll & Bute Councillors Attending

- Cllr Ross Moreland (RM)
- Cllr Audrey Forrest (AF)
- Cllr Daniel Hampsey (DH)

Press

- Chris Martin (CM) – Dunoon Observer

Members of the Public

- Richard Longster
- Alastair Muir
- Jack Dimond

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- Phil Keetley

Apologies

- Abigail Apps (AA)
- PC Michael Cunningham (Police Scotland)

1. Opening Remarks

The Convener welcomed all attendees and confirmed the meeting was being recorded for minute-taking purposes only, with the recording to be deleted once the minutes are approved on **10 August 2026**.

Members of the public were invited to signal if they wished to speak.

Action: None.

2. Declarations of Interest

No new declarations were made. All existing declarations remain unchanged.

Action: None.

3. Approval of Previous Minutes (11 May 2026)

The minutes of the meeting held on **11 May 2026** were reviewed.

Proposed: FT **Seconded:** PG

Vote: 7 in favour, 0 against, 3 abstentions.

Action: Secretary to file approved minutes.

4. Membership Update

No new members or resignations were reported.

Action: None.

5. Secretary Appointment

EO agreed to take on the role of Secretary. **Proposed:** GR **Seconded:** DC **Approved unanimously.**

A phased handover between TM and EO will take place.

Action: TM & EO to coordinate handover.

6. Police Scotland Update

No officers were present. A written report had been circulated.

Members queried the “wilful fire-raising – undetected” entry and agreed to seek clarification.

Action: TM to contact Police Scotland.

7. Presentation

No presentation scheduled.

Action: None.

8. Updates from Previous Meetings

a. Community First Responders

DW introduced Phil Keetley, who provided a detailed overview of the Scottish Ambulance Service Community First Responder scheme. Key points included:

- Out-of-hospital cardiac arrest survival remains below **10%**.
- AED use within **7 minutes** increases survival significantly.
- Volunteers require PVG checks, driving licence, and four days of training.
- SAS will supply the first kit; additional kits cost approx. **£1,000**.
- Potential for a combined scheme covering **South Cowal, Dunoon and Sandbank**.

Members expressed strong support.

Actions:

- DW & PK to coordinate next steps and plan a public information session.
- DCC to consider future fundraising support.

b. Highland Mary Railings

RM reported a meeting with ABC officers is scheduled within the next fortnight.

Action: RM to update at next meeting.

c. Bogleha Recycling Centre

Members noted improvements following previous concerns, including additional skips. Issues remain regarding paint disposal, traffic queuing, and car park confusion.

Actions:

- RM to continue raising issues with ABC.
- Members to report any further problems.

9. Members Reports

(Full written reports are included in **Annex A.**)

a. Secretary's Report

TM summarised key points from his written report, including:

- Attendance at Police Scotland Youth Volunteers meeting.
- Strong youth interest in local issues and desire for youth-focused events.
- Leaflets for distribution have arrived; planning underway.

Action: TM to coordinate leaflet distribution.

b. Treasurer's Report

AR reported ongoing issues with Bank of Scotland and progress transferring the account to RBS.

Accounts approved:

Proposed: TW **Seconded:** FT **Approved unanimously.**

Action: AR to continue account transfer process.

c. Transport Report

DC highlighted:

- Rally organisers now recommending businesses vacate by **18:00**.
- Ferry survey response rate remains low.
- Engagement ongoing with Transport Scotland, CalMac and ScotRail.
- Issues raised regarding ABC parking/EV information.

Actions:

- DC to continue engagement with relevant bodies.
- Members to promote survey completion.

d. Resilience Report

TM reported:

- Emergency Household Plan booklets ordered.
- Distribution planning underway.
- Boundary mapping and street lists being finalised.

Action: TM to progress distribution.

e. Environment Report

DW reported:

- Forestry & Land Scotland deer management ongoing.

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- Awaiting next steps for Morag's Fairy Glen.
- CFR scheme information circulated widely.

Action: None.

f. DCDT Report

TW reported:

- Local Place Plan ready for submission.
- Dunoon Film Festival 2026 successfully delivered.
- Funding decision awaited from NLCF.
- Heritage Map and shop-based trail in development.

Action: None.

10. New Business

a. Dunoon Market

Upcoming dates:

- **27 June**
- **29 August**
- **31 October**
- **21 November**

Action: TM to circulate volunteer rota.

b. Sculpture Project – Use of DCC Bank Account

Richard Longster presented a proposal for a major public artwork by Andy Scott.

DCC welcomed the concept but cannot act as a holding account due to financial limits and audit implications until clarification is received from the CCLO and further investigation with the bank has taken place.

Action: TM to seek advice from Melissa Stewart (ABC).

c. Community Council Elections

Elections will take place on **20 August 2026**. Minimum membership required: **10**.

Action: Members to encourage nominations.

11. Councillor Updates

Cllr Hampsey (DH)

- Ongoing casework.
- Transport Forum scheduled for **30 June**.

Cllr Forrest (AF)

- Significant health and social care casework.

Cllr Moreland (RM)

- Leisure Centre update:
 - Existing pool viable until **2028–29**.
 - New facility expected **2030** at earliest.
 - Consultation underway.

12. Public Questions

Milton Burn Flooding (Jack Dimond)

- Concerns raised regarding blockages and risk of overtopping.
- Flooding concerns at Milton Burn noted.

Actions:

- AF to follow up with ABC.
- TM to report blocked debris trap.
- AF to explore Community Payback involvement.

13. Diary Dates

- **13 June** – Strachur Partners Event
- **19–20 June** – Argyll Rally
- **27 June** – Dunoon Market
- **30 June** – Transport Forum
- **Next Meeting: Monday 10 August 2026**

14. Meeting Close

The Convener thanked all attendees.

Action: Secretary to circulate August agenda.

Distribution:

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All DCC Councillors

Cllr Moreland

Cllr Forrest

Cllr Hampsey

Melissa Stewart

Argyll & Bute Council

Police Scotland

BID Manager

BID Chair

Dunoon Community Development Trust

Chris Martin (Observer)

Queens Hall Reception

Library

DCC Facebook page

DCC Website

**Annex A to
Minutes of the Meeting
held in Queen's Hall,
Dunoon on
Monday 8 June 2026**

**Dunoon Community Council
Members Reports – June 2026**

Secretary Report

New tasks that have been undertaken since last meeting:

1. Routine emails
2. Preparation of monthly minutes and agenda
3. Updating website
4. Created an Anonymous Correspondence Policy
5. 19 May 2026, I attended a meeting with the Police Scotland Youth Volunteers to give them an insight into Dunoon Community Council. The meeting was well received by the approximately 15 young people who attended. The aim of the meeting was to explain what Dunoon Community Council does, how it fits into the town, the consequences of not having a community council, and the importance of engaging with the younger generation.

There were lots of questions from the majority of the teenagers who attended, with one showing particular interest in joining us. Several valid points and concerns were also raised.

One issue raised, which was supported by every person in attendance, was the lack of activities and events aimed at younger people. This was discussed in relation to events such as Punk Fest and Trad Fest. They were informed that these events are organised by Dunoon Presents and are not connected to the Community Council. However, I advised them that I would speak with Dunoon Presents to explore the possibility of organising something specifically for younger people. They also asked about the possibility of Coiln Moulson giving a similar presentation so they can understand how Dunoon Presents fits into the town.

The current bus services in Dunoon were also discussed. Some of the teenagers lived outside Dunoon and said they often found it isolating living in outlying areas because the bus service was

infrequent and travelling in and out of town took too long. I informed them that this was something we may be able to look into further and that I would discuss it with our transport representative. We also discussed the possibility of encouraging younger members to stand for election to the Community Council. We talked about the importance of good youth representation and acknowledged that the current Community Council members are all over the age of 50. Young people are often unlikely to approach or engage with older age groups, whereas having elected Community Councillors aged between 16 and 18 may encourage younger residents to become more involved in local issues.

One young person raised concerns regarding the lack of health provision. She was informed that this was a wider national issue, or at the very least an Argyll and Bute-wide issue, and she was signposted towards Ross Moreland for further information and support.

We also discussed the lack of facilities and safe spaces for younger people. The teenagers explained that they currently tend to gather at the cemetery, the Rose Garden, Castle Gardens, the bandstand, and on the beaches. However, when the weather is poor, there is nowhere warm, dry, and safe for them to spend time together. They explained that they previously used the Queen's Hall as a place to meet, but this is no longer possible.

It was pointed out to them that there are a number of youth clubs, groups, sports clubs, and other facilities available within the town. However, they responded by saying they did not necessarily want to join organised groups; they simply wanted somewhere to spend time with their friends in a safe environment. Myself, PC Wells, and the other adult volunteers explained that this has been an ongoing issue for generations and was something many of us experienced growing up ourselves.

The young people were genuinely interested in our plans for the Fairy Glen and also asked questions regarding the Dunoon Project. Overall, it was a very interesting and worthwhile meeting, with several strong personalities getting involved in the discussion. It has certainly given me a lot to think about.

One idea I am now considering is the creation of a Youth Community Council. This could be structured in a similar way to the current Community Council and potentially run during lunchtime on school premises. It would include positions such as Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, and several Youth Members. The idea would also involve one member of Dunoon Community Council and possibly an Argyll and Bute Councillor, and the local press through Chris McMartin, attending in a supporting role.

The meetings could be monitored and documented in the same way as Dunoon Community Council meetings, with minutes published on our website via a dedicated Youth Community Council page. My longer-term aim would be for one Youth Community Council representative to attend Dunoon Community Council meetings and act as a link between both groups.

Ongoing Project Updates:

1. Applying for grants from various sources for Moorings
- 2.

Proposals:

- 1.

New Projects:

1.

Further Updates requiring Dunoon Community Council attention:

1. Dunoon Markets on 27th June, 29th August, 31st October, 21st November. (Please note, I will be unavailable on 31 October due to Poppy Appeal)

Environment Report

New tasks that have been undertaken since last meeting:

1. Distributed an email from Phil Keetly about Community First Responders to member of DCC. The email has also been distributed to other organisations that operate in Dunoon and surrounding areas.
2. Received a report from Forestry and Land Scotland that there is active Deer glade maintenance for wildlife management in Corlarach. This started on the 09/09/2025, which should have ended on the 31/03/2026. No impact on community.
- 3.
- 4.

Ongoing Project Updates:

1. Morag's Fairy Glen: Nothing to report after our tour around Morag's Fairy Glen in April. Waiting to hear what the next steps are.
2. Community First Responders Scheme: Phil Keely has distributed an email round to several organisation, with justifications for the project. These are:

South Cowal, Dunoon and Sandbank CC/ Toward Seaports Club, Mountain Bike Club, Sandbank Sailing Club, Dunoon Hill Runners Club/ Cowal University of 3rd Age/ Bute & Cowal Health & Wellbeing Network/ Cowal Elderly Befrienders/ Dunoon Community Radio/ Dunoon Community Shed/ Innellan Inner Wheel/ Innellan Women's Club/ Rotary Club Dunoon/ plus any individuals that you can all think of. I think that Ann Campbell can distribute to the other local clubs, groups in the area as well. That should get it out there? South Cowal Community Council are super supportive.

3. Justification: You will be aware that we in Cowal live in what is classed as a 'remote area.' Despite there being two ambulance crews in Dunoon, the emergency services are findings themselves hugely stretched. An out of hospital cardiac arrest has a less than 10% chance of survival in Scotland. From collapse, survival rates drop by 50% after 7 minutes without a defibrillator; after 12 minutes there is only a 2-5% chance of survival. Having ambulance trained volunteers in the community does help save lives and the Scottish Ambulance Service has kindly offered to help set up a scheme here in Cowal. Our Community Councils are tasked to build greater community resilience and are supportive of the set up of such a scheme.

4. Responders: Community First Responder volunteers undertake 4 days of training, and are required to undertake 2 hours of continuity training per month; no previous medical experience is required. The volunteers make themselves available when they can to be 'on duty' and are equipped with a comprehensive equipment bag including oxygen and a defibrillator. The ambulance will always respond first, but in the event of a delay, the 1st responder on duty can be tasked to respond within their community to preserve life whilst waiting for the ambulance. There are excellent and well established CFR schemes in Largs and Rosneath that have saved a great many lives already.

5. Volunteer Requirements: In order to volunteer as a responder, you must be over 18 and have a driving license, with access to a vehicle, and able undertake a criminal records check. Volunteers can provide as much or as little 'duty time' as they can. There will also be opportunities for other people to volunteer to support the scheme, with training, fundraising, social media etc. I have attached an information leaflet and a personal role specification.

6. Way Forward: I would be most grateful if you could circulate this email to anyone that you consider might be interested in volunteering or supporting the scheme in our communities. If you or anyone you know is interested, please could you email me to express an interest, and let me know if you live in Toward, Innellan, Dunoon or Sandbank. Once we have some indication of the support we will hold an open meeting in Innellan Village Hall to further discuss the scheme and answer any questions. The training can then be arranged either here in Dunoon or at Braehead.

Proposals:

1. Is DCC willing to show support for the CFR Scheme?

2.

3.

Further Updates requiring Dunoon Community Council attention:

1.

2.

3.

Report Compiled By: Debz Wright

Date: 03/06/2026

Transport Report

Tasks that have been undertaken since the last meeting.

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1. Requested Mull Car Club to publish an actual road closure time for pedestrians as agreed at our last DCC meeting.
2. Ferry options Community survey has gone live. Disappointing level of response so far. There were some initial issues with the hard copies, but they are now available at Dunoon Library and Burgh Hall. Have circulated all Cowal CC's with responses by CC and asked for them to encourage residents to complete it. I'm awaiting a call from Dunoon Community Radio to arrange an interview on Ferries.
3. Written to Jenni Minto requesting meeting with Transport Scotland to draw Transport Scotland senior management's attention to its responsibility to be open and transparent with Community Councils, and to respond in a prompt manner to requests for information. At present I feel that Transport Scotland are regarding Dunoon Community Council as an annoyance and are failing to respond to reasonable requests.
4. Met with a Sandbank resident who is keen on the idea of a bus service as per option 4 of the survey – has offered to provide assistance if required.
5. Contacted Ewan Tait (Scotrail) to enquire if the new 'partnership' between them and CalMac will include through ticketing. Been advised "We are aware of the current limitations with multi-modal ticketing and as part of the partnership agreement there is a workstream focused on how to reduce these". I've replied asking for timescales and likelihood.
6. Raised issue of what appears to be inaccurate information published by ABC on car parking charges / EV locations. Have heard back from Mark in the Roads and Infrastructure team and he is investigating.
7. Police presence on late night ferries during Cowal Highland Gathering. Been following this up with Craig Wilson (Ingrams) who first raised this issue with me 2 years ago I recall. Dunoon Presents have advised they can't grasp what the issue is, so I've advised them that this isn't going anywhere and I've advised CHG, Police Scotland and CalMac accordingly.
8. Anonymous e-mail communication about the Ferry survey has been dealt with by the Secretary.

Items requiring discussion/approval from members.

1. None ?

Items requiring further action by Transport Lead member.

1. Rally Resident's Information packs are about to be printed – anyone else available to assist with distribution?
2. Attending a Dunoon Community Radio interview jointly with Mull Car Club on 15th June to talk about the Rally.
3. 6 monthly all CC's liaison meeting to ensure we are all together on Transport issues (agreed from last report – still to be actioned).

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4. Attending Gourock CC meeting on 15th Jun to talk about Ferries. Anyone else want to come?
5. Encourage residents to complete the Ferry options survey with associated marketing in local press and with other CC's.
6. Further investigation as to what constitutes an official ABC Committee to get recognition of the Cowal Transport Forum (no action this month).
- 7.

Report compiled by: David Clough

Date: 3rd June 2026

Resilience Report

New tasks that have been undertaken since last meeting:

1. Booklets have been ordered and are due for delivery in next few days.
2. Preparing a distribution list to deliver the booklets.
3. Creating a clear boundary map/ separating the different polling districts within our boundaries and creating a list of streets within our boundaries.

Report Compiled By: Tom McCowan

Date: 05/06/2026

DCDT Report

New activities that have been undertaken by DCDT since the last meeting:

1. The Dunoon & Kilmartin Local Place Plan (LPP) is ready to submit to Planning following the notice period for CCs and Councillors. The LPP boundary was selected by DCDT to match the DCC boundary.
2. Dunoon Film Festival 2026, 8th-10th May (DFF26) was successfully delivered and attracted national press coverage [link here](#). It was the 12th year of Dunoon hosting the Film Festival. This year was the first time that DCDT had been the main funding applicant and commissioning organiser. Funding for 2027 is already secured.
3. DCDT is awaiting a funding decision from NLCF (National Lottery Community Fund) in June to continue the volunteer support project.

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4. The GFGD (Grow Food, Grow Dunoon) at Struan Lodge Open Day is on Saturday 13 June. Visit to see progress. BBC Scotland's Beechgrove Garden is filming there in early July.
5. *Dunoon on the Move* full programme is available on *What's On Dunoon* website.
6. Targeted engagement activities underway in Milton - Valrose area, focussed on gardening.
7. Heritage Map and shop-based trail is in development to encourage footfall in shopping areas (Kirk Parade, Hillfoot St, Argyll St), building on the *Forward Dunoon* Walking and Cycling App commissioned by A&B Council Active Travel team in 2021.

Please see <https://whatsondunoon.co.uk/> for full event details and updates
<https://www.dunooncdt.org/>

Further Updates requiring Dunoon Community Council attention: Non

Report Compiled By: Tom Warren

Date: 04/08/2026

Police Update

. As we find ourselves well into the month of May, I'm delighted to share this update on our local policing efforts. Spring is a time of renewal and growth, and it's also an opportunity to reflect on the important work we've accomplished as a community to enhance safety and security. Our dedication to maintaining visibility, fostering engagement, and implementing proactive crime prevention strategies continues to be our main goal.

Monthly Activity Summary

In the past month, we received a total of 193 calls to Police Scotland, reflecting an increase from the previous month. On a positive note, we recorded 43 crime reports, marking a decrease compared to the previous period. This suggests that our targeted efforts in crime prevention are having an impact, even as call volumes fluctuate.

Priority Areas and Partnerships

To effectively address community challenges, we are collaborating with local organizations on key issues:

- **Antisocial Behaviour Prevention:** Regular patrols and partnerships with housing associations

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enhance security and address recurring problems.

- **Road Safety:** Static speed checks throughout Dunoon and the wider community continue to be carried out.

- **Rural Crime Prevention:** Due to a recent rise in quad and agricultural thefts across Argyll and Bute, we are proactively engaging with local farmers to provide crime prevention advice and hopefully in the next few weeks we will get out and mark their equipment with DNA marker kits. This is even more prevalent as we recently had a theft of quad bike in Toward.

Initiatives

Operation Stardrop

Operation Stardrop is a weeklong programme running from 15-19/06/26 and 27-28/06/26 (due to other operational commitments). A group of approx. 15-20 youths will be identified by Guidance Teachers within Dunoon Grammar School (possibly S1/2 pupils) to complete the whole programme with the intention of preventing violent crime and protecting children and young people from violent crime. The programme will include learning about Trust, Respect, understanding conflict and emotions, Choices & consequences, Positive Alternatives, Social media safety and Peer pressure, Community action day and a celebration and reflection event.

Preventing youth violence works best when you combine support at home, in schools and in the community, this programme will include each of these factors to encourage young people to be open to making more positive choices and teach their peers the skills following on from the workshops.

Between the dates above the number of Incidents and Crime Reports respectively are 192 & 43

 SERIOUS ORGANISED CRIME You identified drug dealing / drug misuse as a priority We identified human trafficking as a priority	Possession of Class A/B/C drugs 1 x detected
 ACQUISITIVE CRIME You identified homes being broken in to as a priority We have also identified fraud as a priority	Theft by shoplifting 1 x detected. Theft 1 x undetected 1 x detected. Fraud 1 x undetected

 ROAD SAFETY AND ROAD CRIME You identified road safety as a priority We identified drink / drug driving and reducing road casualties as priorities	Fail to Stop/report after accident. 5 x Undetected No MOT 2 x detected.
 VIOLENT CRIME You identified violent crime as a priority We have also identified domestic abuse as a priority	Assault 6 x Detected. 3 x Undetected
 PUBLIC PROTECTION You identified protecting children and adults at risk of harm as a priority We identified missing persons, sexual crime and the management of registered sex offenders as priorities	Stalking 1 x undetected S.38 4 x detected. 4 x undetected Breach of bail 5 x detected. Vandalism 1 x detected. 1 x undetected

	S.127 comms act 2 x undetected Consume alcohol in a public place. 1 x detected. Wilful fire-raising 1 x undetected Intentionally expose genitals for others to see without their consent 1 x detected. Carry a knife. 1 x detected
Useful Links/Contacts	Crimestoppers – Crimestoppers in Scotland Crimestoppers (crimestoppers-uk.org) Distress Brief Intervention - Distress Brief Intervention - Connected Compassionate Support DBI.scot Scottish Partnership against Rural Crime - Scottish Partnership Against Rural Crime Scottish Partnership Against Rural Crime (scottishparc.co.uk) Women's Aid - Home - Women's Aid (womensaid.org.uk) Citizens Advice – 08081646000 Trading Standards - 08081646000