



## **DUNOON COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**Meeting of Dunoon Community Council held in Queen's Hall, Dunoon on Monday 11th May 2026**

### **Community Councillors Present**

Gill Robertson (GR) (Convener)

Tom McCowan (TM) (Secretary)

Anne Robertson MBE (AR) (Treasurer)

Tom Warren (TW)

Lindsey McPhail (LM)

David Clough (DC)

Paul Graysmark (PG)

Frauke Thornton (FT)

Eric Owen (EO)

Debz Wright (DW) (*arrived late*)

### **Argyll & Bute Councillors Attending**

Councillor Ross Moreland (RM)

Councillor Daniel Hampsey (DH)

### **Police Scotland**

Not in attendance.

### **Press**

Chris Martin (CM) – Dunoon Observer

### **Members of the Public**

Nye Warren

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## Apologies

Yvonne Love (YL) Abigail Apps (AA) Councillor Audrey Forrest (AF) Debz Wright (DW) (*apology submitted but member later attended*)

### 1. Opening Remarks

The Convener opened the meeting. Recording for minute-taking purposes was confirmed. No opening address was required.

**Action:** None.

### 2. Declarations of Interest

Members confirmed that all previously declared interests remain unchanged. No new declarations were made.

**Action:** None.

### 3. Approval of Previous Minutes (13 April 2026)

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 April 2026 were reviewed.

**Proposed:** Frauke Thornton **Seconded:** Anne Robertson MBE

The minutes were approved by majority, with two abstentions.

**Action:** Secretary to file approved minutes.

### 4. Membership Update

No new members, resignations or changes were reported.

**Action:** None.

### 5. Police Scotland Update

No officers were present. A written report had been circulated. Members noted a continuing downward trend in incidents over recent months.

**Action:** None.

### 6. Presentation

No presentation was scheduled due to AGM-related timetable pressures.

### 7. Updates from Previous Meetings

#### a. Argyll Street Christmas Event

A detailed discussion took place following GR's attendance at the BID meeting.

## Key Points

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- BID reaction was mixed; some supportive, others sceptical about trader participation.
- Concerns raised about timing, trader engagement, and potential clash with other events.
- General agreement is to proceed with event
- Members agreed to canvass businesses directly rather than rely on BID.
- Provisional preferred date: **First Thursday in December**, avoiding school events and ensuring Christmas lights are already on.

**Actions:**

- Members to canvass Argyle Street businesses before June meeting.
- AR to liaise with schools regarding date clashes.
- RM to advise on road closure lead-in times (16 weeks minimum).

**b. Emergency Household Plan Booklet**

Quotes reviewed:

- **£350.99** – Vistaprint (2,000 copies)
- **£660 + VAT** – Local printer

Members expressed preference to support local business where possible but noted budget constraints.

Distribution challenges discussed, including:

- Royal Mail cost approx. **£700**
- Potential use of Community Payback, Scouts, or volunteers
- Need for reliability and spot-checks

**Decision:** Members voted to approve **up to £400** for printing, defaulting to the cheapest option unless a local supplier can match or approach the price.

**Actions:**

- CM to obtain one further quote.
- Secretary to proceed with order once final quote received.

**8. Members Reports**

**a. Secretary's Report**

No additional updates provided.

**Action:** None.

## **b. Treasurer's Report**

Monthly financial report presented. Accounts reviewed and approved.

**Proposed:** TW **Seconded:** FT

**Action:** None.

## **c. Transport Report / Argyll Rally**

DC provided updates:

### **Key Points**

- Proposal for a joint Community Council transport meeting to strengthen collective representation.
- West Coast Motors contract renewal and lack of ABC consultation noted as concerns.
- Members supportive of a joint approach; DC to progress.
- Rally road-closure timings clarified:
  - Vehicular access stops at 5pm
  - Pedestrian access ceases when the "Safety-car" passes (approx. 6:30pm)
  - Members requested a fixed time be communicated to avoid confusion.

### **Actions:**

- DC to organise joint CC meeting.
- RM to raise need for consistent, fixed road-closure times.

## **d. Infrastructure (Highland Mary)**

PG queried progress on railings, storyboard and site improvements. RM advised ABC officers are reviewing funding options. Further update expected.

**Action:** RM to report back.

## **e. Planning**

Aldi planning application submitted. Members noted previous discussions and no new objections. Concerns from nearby residents regarding delivery times acknowledged. Aldi reportedly exploring morning ferry deliveries to minimise disruption.

**Action:** DCC to monitor and raise issues if required.

## **f. Public Health & Social Care**

GR updated members on women's health provision:

- Some progress reported in addressing backlog.

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- Awaiting confirmation of dates for specialist provision returning to Cowal Community Hospital.

**Action:** GR to continue engagement with HSCP.

#### g. Environment

DW not present for this item. No report submitted.

#### h. BID Update

GR provided a summary of the BID meeting:

##### Key Points

- BID levy notices being issued.
- Digital sign planning permission approved; uncertainty remains over:
  - Who will manage content
  - Charging structure
  - Maintenance responsibilities
- Pump track:
  - Land ownership still unclear
  - No funding secured
  - Ground considered “shovel-ready”
- Concerns raised about banners being removed by ABC due to height/safety rules.
- Fire site: BID expressed concern that owners had not been contacted; RM clarified that engagement is ongoing but complex.

**Action:** None.

#### i. Dunoon Community Development Trust (DCDT)

TM provided update:

- **Local Place Plan** nearing submission; neighbouring CCs notified.
- **Dunoon Film Festival** successfully delivered; funding secured for 2027.
- DCDT to provide **monthly updates** to DCC.

**Action:** TM/TW to coordinate monthly reporting.

#### j. First Responders

DW raised interest in establishing Community First Responders. Members noted SAS may not support due to proximity of ambulance station, but agreed value in exploring.

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**Action:** DW to seek clarification from SAS.

#### **k. Bogleha Recycling Centre**

DW reported ongoing issues:

- Weekend skip capacity reached quickly
- No weekend skip-relief drivers
- Resulting closures leading to queues and frustration
- Concerns raised about fly-tipping, including recent incident at the pier

Members discussed potential solutions including:

- Later opening times
- On-site staff presence during closures
- Additional garden-waste capacity
- Long-term need for a larger site

**Action:**

- RM to raise with ABC and report back at June meeting.
- DCC to write formally requesting weekend skip-relief provision.

#### **9. Local Place Plan**

Document reviewed. Members had no objections or amendments.

**Action:** TW to feed back “no comments” to DCDT.

#### **10. Councillor Updates**

##### **Cllr Hampsey**

- Continuing casework.
- Transport Forum engagement ongoing.
- Awaiting appointment of new Transport Minister.

##### **Cllr Moreland**

- Updates on Morag’s Fairy Glen site visit:
  - Work feasible in phases
  - Estimated cost approx. **£1.5m**
  - Volunteer model similar to Helensburgh’s Friends of Hermitage Park
- Swimming Pool:

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- First report to Policy & Resources on **21 May**
- Report to be published **14 May**
- High-level costings only
- Pool will be included in any new leisure centre
- Site not yet named pending consultation

**Action:** None.

## 11. Public Questions

One question raised regarding recycling centre garden-waste capacity. RM to include in his report to ABC.

## 12. Meeting Close

The Convener thanked all attendees. Next meeting: **Monday 8 June 2026 at 7pm, Queen's Hall**

**Action:** Secretary to circulate agenda.

### Distribution:

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

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