



Dunoon Community Council

Meeting of the Dunoon Community Council held in Queen's Hall, Dunoon on Monday 10th March 2025.

Present:

Gill Robertson (GR) (Convener)
Tom Warren (TW) (Vice-Convener)
John Jameson (JJ)
Paul Graysmark (PG)
Yvonne Love (YL)

Tom McCowan (TMc) (Secretary)
David Clough (DC)
Debz Wright (DR)
Abigail Apps (AA)

Via Teams:

Timothy Moss (TM) (Treasurer – Elected)

ABC Councillors Attending:

Councillor Ross Moreland (RM)
Councillor Daniel Hampsey (DH)

Dunoon Observer:

Chris Martin (CM)

Members of the Press:

Chris Martin (CM) (Dunoon Observer)

Police Scotland:

PC Cunningham

Guest Speakers:

Kevin Anderson (KA) (Live Argyll)
Paul Ashworth (P-A) (Live Argyll)

Members of the public:

Frauke Thornton (FT)
Isla Campbell (IC)
Aileen Wilson (AW)

Patricia Rose (PR)
Dinah McDonald (DM)
Nicky Brown (NB)

Apologies:

Lester Deemer (LM)
Kerry Kennedy (KK)
Councillor Audrey Forrest (AF)

Lindsey McPhail (LM)
Bobby Good (BG)

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 10th March 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.

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

As Above:

3. **Declaration of Interest.**

As previously listed.

4. **Minutes of previous meeting were discussed.** No issues were raised with the minutes from the last meeting held on 10th February 2025.

Proposal. Dunoon Community Council accepts the minutes of the meeting held on 10th February 2025 as a true and accurate reflection of the meeting.

Proposed: PG

Seconded: YL

For (5)

Against (0)

Abstained (4)

Result: Passed.

Proposed: TM

Seconded: GR

5. **Appointments/Resignations/New Members.**

a. Appointments –

Education Member – Nominations - Lester Deemer

Proposal. Dunoon Community Council appoint Lester Deemer as the Youth Engagement Member of Dunoon Community Council with immediate effect.

Page 2 of 14

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Proposed: TMc

Seconded: GR

For (9)

Against (0)

Abstained (0)

Result: Passed.

6. Presentations – Kevin Anderson thanked members for the invitation to come along and hopefully dispel some of the rumours regarding the recent announcement regarding the library. He started by stating that Live Argyll is a registered charity. He said that Live Argyll are partly funded by Argyll and Bute Council and the remainder is self-generated funding. The financial operating costs for the financial year 2025/26 are £7.4m. He said that Argyll and Bute Council give Live Argyll £3.2m and Live Argyll are required to generate the remaining £4.2m. He explained that this was generated through a mixture of different services, a significant majority this comes from leisure and the remainder comes from a mixture of room bookings, commercial events and community lettings such as pitch hire. He said the financial position before the start of the financial year 2025/26 is a £211,000 deficit. He said that the primary source of this deficit comes from the implementation of the new National Insurance contributions that the UK government have imposed. This equates to an additional £155000. To reduce the deficit, Live Argyll need to make “space pay”. He went on to say that there are funding difficulties right across the public sector and money isn’t available. Due to this the Live Argyll board met on 26th February to discuss the deficit. The board looked at all their assets across Argyll and Bute, this included leisure centres, halls and libraries. They looked at the current usage, size of asset and the potential income. He explained that when looking at the potential income, they were looking at income that would maintain services and were not talking about income for profit or shareholders. He pointed out that approximately £2.2m of their services are free at point of delivery. These services include, libraries, Active Schools programmes and archives. He said that since inception of Live Argyll in 2017, there has not been the slashing of services in Argyll and Bute as there has been in other local authorities. Live Argyll have been able to maintain their whole service provision subject to small changes. He then went onto discuss the Dunoon Library. He said that it was a fantastic facility that he and his children frequently used, but unfortunately it was seriously under used. He said that the usage figures over the last three months was 550 customers using the facility. This equated to approximately 25 users per day. The average with the book withdrawn of 60 to 66 issues per day. KA explained that 100% of the “live” book stock will be available for use downstairs. The book stock that has been removed has been deemed as dead stock or obsolete stock, the correct terminology for this is grubby stock. The grubby stock equated to 28% off the stock holdings. Grubby stock is books that have not been used between 2 and 10 years. KA said that the harsh reality is that they cannot afford to display books that are not being used. KA went on to say that libraries are not just transactional book services, there are a myriad of different users, and he can confirm that a majority, if not all the services will still be available. He then briefly spoke about the " people’s network”. These are the public computers that are freely available. He informed members that there were previously nine computers available, but this has now been reduced to eight, however he confirmed that he has never seen all nine computers used at the same time. Live Argyll are actually over providing considering current usage levels. KA said that they

Page 3 of 14

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plan to run the book bug sessions from the top floor next to the soft play area this will introduce learning and play which is a recommended practise. He then went on to say that the children's library has now got its own dedicated room and has 100% of its book stock available. He said that there will still be individual study areas made available throughout the building, these can be accessed upon request to the duty officer or any member of staff. In terms of arts and crafts groups, there has been a dedicated area set aside upstairs. He said that they have looked at who uses the library and have tried to accommodate almost everyone albeit in different areas of the building. KA said that it is unfortunate and disappointing, he understands people's frustrations and concerns, but the harsh reality is there is no funding available in public sector organisations. He said that they need to maximise the usage of space, and this will protect the longevity off libraries and non-income producing services. KA said that he appreciates that the timeline given was not adequate and very quick. He said that the board had agreed the efficiency savings plan on the 26th of February 2025, the Argyll and Bute Council budget setting meeting was on the 27th of February 2025. He said that it wasn't until the 27th of February 2025 that they discovered that they would have a £211k shortfall in their budget. That meant there was no time for formal consultations, but he pointed out that there was no legal requirement for a formal consultation as they are not reducing the service, they are just spreading the service out throughout the building. He said that they would like to have had more consultations with their members however, this had to be implemented by the 1st of April to start generating income to help cover the deficit. He said that he wanted to dispel some of the rumours circulating on social media regarding the staff not being informed. He said that staff were informed of the potential changes two weeks in advance. He said that the notion that the staff were informed on the day is false as is the rumour that only 50% of the stock was available. He also pointed out that the stock that has been removed, is available upon request, this stock will be stored at the Central Library services building in Sandbank. The convener opened the floor to questions from community councillors. DC said that he had a couple of questions, the first one being, he said that there was considerable ambiguity on the social media post that was published thus resulting in the rumours and gossip, there was a distinct lack of information in the post where it said that the space would become a multi-purpose room. This caused rumours to circulate stating that it would be used as a bar or a gym. KA responded and said that the statement clearly stated that it would become studio space, event space and conferencing space. DC said that he hoped that future decisions that have an impact on the community there would be proper consultations put in place and decisions would not be undertaken until the last possible moment. He went on to say that this should have been known weeks ago and would not have just popped up out of the blue. He said that both Live Argyll and Argyll and Bute Council where both at fault for this lack of communication. DC asked for clarification on the usage numbers. He said that the number of users was quoted as 550, was this, 550 individual users, or was it just 550 uses where members used the service several times. KA confirmed that it was 550 individual users. He also reiterated that the average was 66 book withdrawals per day, and this was used to give a flavour of the usage over a three-month period. KA addressed the issue of the consultation, He said that in an ideal world that this would have been done. He said that the harsh reality was down to budgeting and government announcements, in particular from the Scottish Government and local

authorities. He said that there isn't sufficient time to go out and hold a public consultation. He said that the way that government budgets work is that there is considerable movement in money being allocated right up until the budget is announced and this has a serious knock-on effect to local authority budgets as changes are made right up until the very last minute. And the knock-on effect is that it makes having a consultation impossible. JJ asked if the usage had grown since the library was established in this building. KA set that library usage nationally was in decline; however, Live Argyll were able to maintain usage which bucked the national trend. He went on to say that post COVID there has been a slower return to normal usage. He said that during COVID, many users adopted online usage and many of these users have not returned. Councillor Moreland said that KA was correct with regards to the funding from the Scottish Government. He set that the amount given to the council by the Scottish Government is announced very late, therefore this causes issues when it comes to planning the council's budget. They can pre-empt the grant given by the Scottish Government however this is not always accurate, and things do change. Councillor Hampsey also pointed out that it is very common for the government to announce extra money for councils then only to ring fence this money for specific spending. FT asked about the accessibility for those in wheelchairs, she asked if there is enough space between the shelves for somebody with limited mobility to move around. She also pointed out that the children's library is now on an upper level and that the left has now been shut off for quite a while, how are parents with prams and buggies supposed to be able to access the children's library and when they do get there, where are they supposed to store their buggies as the library is now much smaller. KA confirmed that the new library spaces are fully DDA compliant, with regards to the lift, there is a work order in place and this should be rectified as soon as possible. With regards to the buggy storage, there is plenty of space throughout the building to securely store buggies and Prams. He also went on to say that with the usage of the service there are not that many people where the storage of prams and buggies would become an issue. Those attending the book bug club, this is held on the top floor where there is a huge amount of vacant space. There should be no accessibility issues due to the current usage within the site. AA asked if this was such a last-minute move is there a business plan in place for this and is this something that you have been planning or was this just implemented on the 28th of February 2025. KA said that Live Argyll have an libraries efficiency plan that has been agreed by the board. AA asked if they know of any users who will not be using the site after the move around, and has a cost-benefit analysis being carried out. KA responded and said that when looking at making spaces pay, we look at the current usage levels and look at the yield generated, we then look at the proposed usage and the yield that it potentially will generate. He then gave an example of where changes may happen, for example the bank may not be in the same location; however, they will be moved to a suitable location within the building. He then pointed out that the users of meeting room one will now be relocated up into the space that is currently being used for this meeting, again this has no impact on the client using the site. The same services are available just in a different location. He said that over the next few weeks there will be significant works such as partitioning off sections of the room with temporary partitions that can be moved around to configure the room dependent on the users' requirements. He said that there has already been significant interest in using this area and has already secured a substantial

Page 5 of 14

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booking. He also said that he has received a long-term booking from a local organisation who require a regular space. He said that post decision they are seeing a lot of enquiries about future bookings. AA then said that she understands that the book bug club is already oversubscribed however having the book club beside the soft play area will cause a huge distraction for parents trying to get their children to read rather than play. She said that the whole idea of the book bug club was to have children surrounded by books and surely this would be better served in the children's library. KA responded and said there will not be playing in the play area during book bug and that it will be a fully functioning book bug club. He then went on to say that the party room already has several books situated with in. He said that when they moved the children's library out of the old library room into its new location, they also moved books into the party room. This is because Live Argyll are keen to push the learn read and play agenda. P-A said that they were introducing packs that can be given out when people join, he also pointed out that the entire top floor would be booked out for the book bug club. AA said that there was also another issue where many parents like to leave their children in the children section whilst the browse the adult section for books, but this will no longer be possible. KA said that this would be the single downside to this move. AA asked if Live Argyll were aware that it was world book day when they made the announcement. P-A said that it was the week where it caused the least impact. DW pointed out that Live Argyll had fantastic signage advertising their gym and fitness facilities yet there was nothing advertising the library. She said that she has been a resident here since 2023 and was unaware of the location of the library until she asked someone. She said that there are people with recognised medical conditions who do not take well to sudden changes, this change was sudden and will have an impact on them and asked what the plan moving forward was for advertising the library. KA said that there was signage on the building however this was removed in 2024 due to it being out of date. He said that in regard to their advertising he mentioned earlier that Live Argyll are bucking national trends with the usage of the library. He said that library usage nationally has been on a decline however they have been able to maintain steady numbers. He said that they have a dedicated Live Argyll libraries website which is updated regularly. He said that across the 10 libraries and the one mobile library that they operate, they have regular lines of communication; he did say that there was however always room for improvement. He said that they have got a development plan and will continue to develop and promote the usage of libraries in Argyll and Bute. DW asked in terms of the dead stock, were they using the library database to identify the dead stock or were they just checking the date stamps on the books. KA set that the notion of them going through every book and looking at the date stamps is incorrect. He said that there is a full library management database that they use, they have a librarian who has 41 years' experience and is very familiar with the stock editing process that is used by libraries and confirms that proper process was used when going through the library stock. P-A set that it was around 28% off the books were identified and removed from the library into the library store, these books are still available to members of the public upon request. DW asked about the study spaces and asked if people would be charged for using them. KA said no, all library services will continue to be free at point of delivery. He said that they are trying to generate sufficient resources as an entity to ensure longevity and to remain sustainable. DW asked what provisions would be made for private study spaces. KA said spaces would be made available depending on

individual requirements. Users would be required to speak to a duty officer, or a member of staff and they will be directed to an appropriate study area. DW ask that being a charity, do Live Argyll apply for grants or funding. She mentioned several funding organisations and said that they could have applied to these for funding so that these changes would not have been necessary. KA set up they do have someone who applies for grants and funding however the organisations mentioned do not provide the type of funding to cover the deficit. Funding is normally only available for capital projects and does not cover operating costs. He said that they do monitor for grant funding opportunities and when applicable they do apply. They have recently received funding from one of the wind farm projects and other local funding sources. Despite applying for every source of funding available to them, Live Argyll still have the large deficit of £211k. DW pointed out that the Dunoon grammar school does not have a library. She also said that primary school teachers are spending a lot of time teaching every child to read and they quite often brought the children to the library where children were impressed by the number of books available. She said that teachers will now have to spend their budget to take the children over to a decent library. KA said that statement was factually incorrect, as previously mentioned, 100% of the books are still available. DW said it was not about the book stocks but rather the room space and to show the wide variety of books available. JJ asked if there would be more staff required to run the services now the library has been distributed throughout the building. KA said that no additional staff would be required. TW said that he was very unhappy with the decisions taken by Live Argyll, but he wanted to address the elephant in the room. The big-ticket item for Live Argyll is the main hall. TW asked if the recent destruction of the leisure centre in Helensburgh has an impact on what is happening in Dunoon. KA said that the £211k deficit has been worked out as though Helensburgh is fully functioning. Live Argyll have had to take remedial action in regard to what is going on in Helensburgh, but this does not impact the deficit. Live Argyll are trying to mitigate the loss off £126k per month from the loss of the leisure centre in Helensburgh Although the leisure centre in Helensburgh is out of action, this has not been factored into any of the decisions made around the Dunoon library. KA went on to say that they have been exploring a huge range of options regarding the usage of the main all. He said this ranges from having sell out gigs with our capacity of 1000 people to opening the area to allow people to play badminton. He said that the main effort was to make the building pay, every hour that building is open it should be generating income. KA said that the events market is very slow, and everywhere is struggling to sell tickets for events, Since Covid, sales of tickets nationally has been on the decline. He said the leisure side of the market has been improving since COVID. He said that there is another facility in the town which as people know is struggling to attract events/business. Live Argyll have tried a wide range of different genre to play in the main hall, these are artists that are selling out in parts of the country, yet when they come to areas like Dunoon, they struggle to sell the number of tickets required. He went on to discuss the different options available to bands, form completely taking over the building and doing their own marketing to shared ventures where Live Argyll get a percentage of the proceeds. He also pointed out that to encourage larger conferences, they need to be able to provide a “break out” room for the delegates. Without a suitable “break out” area, Live Argyll are losing out as companies will go elsewhere. TW asked if the board have gone through a study to identify what that income

would look like. KA said that they have a notional target that they have to achieve, this target is not just for this facility but for all of their facilities. TW asked that from an operational role, there must have been prior planning to work out the costs. would it not have been possible to do a consultation 6 months ago. He said that he understood the financial constraints and timings, but these were on the cards and known about, from a financial perspective, what is being said makes sense, however these options should have been brought to consultation. Setting aside the commercial sensitivity, these conversations should have been held earlier to avoid the current optics. KA said that the National Insurance increases were announced mid-year. He pointed out that they do have a budget and a financial plan. He pointed out that when the budget was set last year, they were not aware of the £155k National Insurance contribution. This year's budget has only just been set. CM asked Councillor Moreland why Argyll and Bute Council does not increase the allocation to Live Argyll by £211k to offset this NI rise. Councillor Moreland pointed out that the budget for Live Argyll was scheduled for a cut off £311k but this was never agreed by either the current ruling body, or the opposition. To increase the spending to cover this would result in a council tax increase of 0.5% for every resident and Argyll and Bute. The convener pointed out that this discussion was not appropriate for this topic and should be brought up at another meeting. The convener then opened the meeting to allow members of the public to ask questions. NB said she is a resident of Dunoon and a user of the building in many ways. She wanted to start by commending Live Argyll for keeping 100% of the library services. She asked if there was anywhere that the description of a full library service could be found. KA set that there has been conversations and speculation around the service reduction. He said that they are still maintaining on the previous functionality of the library, just in different areas throughout the building. NB said that was not what she was inquiring about, she asks where she can find a document that describes what a full library service is because everyone has their own interpretations of what a full service is. Councillor Moreland said that there is a legal requirement of what the council via Live Argyll must provide. This is a national framework and is covered in legislation. He went on to say that the legal requirements are very minimal. Councillor Hampsey said that he had spoken to the head of the council's legal support for clarification. He said that the council's legal department have no concerns regarding this move. KA explained that the government statutory duty on local authorities is to provide an "adequate" service. The legislation is very vague as to what an adequate service is. P-A said that there was nothing documented that provided a full description. P-A said that he has personally spoken to the Scottish libraries board for clarification. He said that he recommended to the Scottish libraries board that they should be lobbying the Scottish Government for clear definition. NB asked if Live Argyll would be willing to sit down with the community to define what a library should be and what the community would like. She asked if Live Argyll would be willing to have an in-depth review of the facilities that this building offers, but to involve the local community. KA is willing to work with the community on the use of the facility and he is also willing to work with the community regarding the library. He said that they are currently in the process of setting up "friends of the library" group and he is keen to get the community involved with this. NB but if it only took five days to make the decision to move the library how quickly can we expect to see movement on the "friends of the library" group. KA said that this could start as soon as tomorrow. DM introduced herself and said that she owns a book

shop in the town. She said that as far as she is aware Live Argyll are a charity that has two functions, one as a service provider and the other as a fundraiser and a money raising organisation. KA confirmed that this is correct some services are fee generating and others are free at point of delivery. DM asked how much fund-raising Live Argyll have done in the past year, how many grants have been applied for, not just for the library but for running a multi-million-pound organisation. KA said that last year they were in receipt of approximately £300k to £350k in grants. DM asked if Live Argyll and the Burgh Hall work together as they do provide similar facilities. KA said that they are a separate entity from the Burgh Hall but that has been several approaches over the years between the two organisations to assist each other. He said that the Queen's Hall and the Burgh Hall tend to have different genre off music events. DM said that she would put it that this space would compete with many of the voluntary organisations. She also said that she understands that there is no business plan in place for this and therefore does not have a figure in mind that you would like to achieve as a surplus. KA pointed out that they do have target figures set. DM said it sounds like they are trying to take business our way from local businesses in the community. KA said they plan to try and organise conferences. He was interrupted by DM who told him nobody would come to the conferences as there was not the accommodation, KA said that we need to try and encourage people to come to the town. These conferences can attract up to 400 people at any one time, whether they are coming for the day or staying overnight. This is partly why they need to ensure that there is a breakout room that is capable of holding 300 to 400 people. He said that going back to an earlier point, Live Argyll need to make best use of the main hall but not just as a hall but as the whole building, again going back to making the whole building pay. AW introduced herself and said that she was an educator of children between the ages of two and 25, she is also a student and a Live Argyll member. She said that she has huge concerns about what has happened and the way it has happened. She said that she has a daughter who is in S6 at the grammar school. There is no library at the grammar school and her daughter uses this library as a quiet space. She is neurodivergent and does not do well with the noises and distractions up at the school. This library provided her a beautiful space to study in quiet surroundings. She said it also provided her with a beautiful space to study that was away from household distractions. She said that she used to bring her class too this space but unfortunately, she will no longer be able to do this with the new location as they will not all fit. The children's library is up a half flight of stairs, and the lift is continually out of order. She also said that she has a huge issue with the recent report where it clearly states that every child is a library member. She asked what is Live Argyll doing to promote this. P-A they are introducing the ecard where every child when born is automatically enrolled and becomes a member. He said that they were trying to encourage more people to use the library by promoting the book bug club and giving out books to its new members. He said that at the moment there are 178 children members aged between five and eleven. He said that plans are being put in place by the development team to try and push membership. AW said she is currently teaching a class of 25 and would love to bring them down however now the facilities have been reduced they can only fit nine children in there at any one time. She said that she had brought her class down last week for world book day as this was pre booked. She said the staff were amazing in trying to accommodate them. She then went on to say that the area upstairs is not appropriate. She said, as a mother of a

toddler it is impossible to try and get a child to read a book when the soft play area is right there in view. She asked if Live Argyll had a good look at the business case before, they made any decisions. She also mentioned that it was inappropriate to have other providers such as Skills Development Scotland using the same area as the general public. It would be inappropriate to hold private meetings in public spaces. P-A said that they have their own private office space and that is where these meetings would be conducted. They would not be in public. IC said that when this library was designed, it was designed as a multi-purpose space, she said that the shelves that held the books were on wheels to allow them to be moved around the area. She said that this has been done on several occasions very successfully but in her opinion not nearly enough. Was this not taken into consideration when doing their business account. She also asked if they are continuing to struggle financially year on year why are they not applying for more funding or grants. KA said that all these things have been tried in the past. He said he has a dedicated team that works locally who actively try to pursue business. This has proven not to be successful, when applying for grants every avenue has been exhausted. There is a difficulty in funding ongoing revenue costs through grant funding. Most grants are for specific one-off projects and or capital type projects. Councillor Moreland understands why he had to do it but asks what would happen if they had not made this move. KA said that there were several options available when trying to align their cost base. One option was a more draconian option, and this was to look at the Active School's programme. He said that discussions were held with Sport Scotland regarding the withdrawing from the partnership with Active Schools. This alone costs several hundred thousand pounds. He said that this is not an option they have chosen to take, he said that as with any publicly funded service available resources are diminishing. He said that he would love to have the lead end time and to be able to communicate but this was not the case. Due to a busy agenda, the convener closed this section of the meeting. KA, P-A and other members of the public left the meeting room.

7. Police Report – Police Report was received and distributed on 7th March 2025

PC M Cunningham covered the police report and answered questions from members. There was a discussion regarding the Police responsibilities when it comes to people parking on pavements. PC Cunningham said that unless it was dangerous parking. The responsibility laid with the Council. He did say that if there was instances of dangerous parking, members of the public could report the issue using 101.

8. Action points and updates from previous meetings.

Emergency Resilience Planning Meeting – Update on Emergency Resilience Planning meeting as per report. This can be obtained through the secretary.

Rose Gardens – PC Cunningham and Councillor Moreland said that they had held a meeting that involved Argyll and Bute council. People may have noticed that work has

Page **10** of **14**

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begun on clearing the overgrown bushes and trees around The Rose gardens. Work will continue over the next couple of weeks to improve the area. There have been discussions regarding ownership of the CCTV cameras. It is believed that the cameras are owned by the council but managed and run by the police. They are looking at moving the cameras to a more appropriate location.

VE Day Celebrations – The secretary updated members on the plans for the VE Day celebrations being held on the 8th and 10th of May 2025. The secretary asked members for a donation of £300 towards the costs of putting on the event. There was a discussion held regarding setting up a crowdfunding page to purchase bunting for Argyll Street approximate cost for the bunting is £3500 however there will be a cost to having it erected. It was agreed it is a good idea however further investigation regarding legalities and permissions must be had prior to asking for donations. The secretary also announced that the total raised by the Dunoon Poppy Appeal 2024 surpassed the £10,000 target that we set. Dunoon Poppy Appeal raised £10484.70.

Proposal. Dunoon Community Council donate a sum of £300 to the organisers of the VE Day Celebrations on 8th & 10th May 2025.

Proposed: TMc

Seconded: YL

For (9)

Against (0)

Abstained (0)

Result: Passed

9. **Monthly Reports.** (All monthly reports have been distributed to members prior to the meeting and are available upon request to the secretary)

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

Proposed: TM

Seconded: GR

For (8)

Against (0)

Abstained (1)

Result: Passed

In addition to the monthly reports there were discussions held on the following subjects.

- a. Bank charges for non-charity organisations. The treasurer to investigate.
- b. Letter received in response to communications sent by DC regarding the Cowal and Rosneath Community Needs Assessment.
- c. There was also a discussion about the CGTL group that was set up as a joint caucus between community councils on the Cowal peninsula and Gourrock. The vice-convenor confirmed that this group is still in operation.

Page 11 of 14

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- d. There was also discussion on the 907-bus service to Glasgow. If this proves to be financially viable there may be a requirement to conduct a survey to ascertain what the community want from the service.
- e. YL said that there was a couple of planning applications but there is nothing contentious. She did however have an issue trying to submit the monthly report.
- f. TM said that he is in discussion with LD regarding the handover and takeover of the education portfolio.
- g. PG talked about the railings around the Highland Mary statue and the feasibility of getting money from the community council to pay for the repairs. He was informed that this is a grade B listed monument and therefore this is not something that the community council should be touching. He also talked about approaching the council to get a map of all the drainage areas in Dunoon. He was advised to speak to the secretary offline. PG also spoke about another bench that is in serious need of repair and requested a sum of £100 to fix it. The secretary suggested that a plaque should be put on the bench, so people were aware who were responsible for the repair

Proposal. Dunoon Community Council spend up to £100.00 in the repairs to the bench located at the swimming pool bus stop.

Proposed: PG

Seconded: TM

For (8)

Against (0)

Abstained (1)

Result: Passed

10. New Business:

- a. **Kerry Kennedy.** The secretary informed members that Kerry Kennedy had joined Dunoon Community Council in May 2024 as a Co-opted member. Since May she attended the meetings in August and September and nothing since. Sometimes apologies are received, with no communication at other meetings. The scheme of establishment for community councils Section Disqualification of Membership 6.9 sub paragraph b. *“A member of a community council who fails throughout a continuous period of six months to attend any community council meeting, with or without submitting apologies will cease to be a member of the community council unless the community council is satisfied as to the reason for the absence”*

Proposal. Dunoon Community Council remove Kerry Kennedy from the Community Council under the scheme of establishment for community councils’ section 6.9 sub paragraph B.

Proposed: TM

Seconded: GR

Page 12 of 14

Convener: convener@dunooncommunitycouncil.co.uk Secretary: secretary@dunooncommunitycouncil.co.uk

Treasurer: treasurer@dunooncommunitycouncil.co.uk

Vice-Convener: vice-convener@dunooncommunitycouncil.co.uk

For (9)

Against (0)

Abstained (0)

Result: Passed

Action Point (s):

The secretary to inform Kerry Kennedy in writing.

11. Updates from Argyll and Bute Councillors:

- a. Councillor Hampsey informed members that he and the other councils have been busy with the recent budget. In addition to this he has been busy with local casework and transport related matters.
- b. Councillor Moreland – Has been busy with the budget which has now passed.

FT Asked members if they would be taking the 22% pay increase as it has been reported that some members are not taking the increase. Councillor Moreland informed FT that councils could not turn down the basic increase as this was set by the Scottish Government. Those councillors who receive additional money for other roles can turn that payment down. The 22% pay increase brings councillors to just above the minimum wage based on a 40-hour week.

AA asked if there are any updates on the lack of provision of dental services in Dunoon. Councillor Hampsey said that he had not heard anything but would investigate and report back for the next meeting.

The vice convener asked about the £200k that has been set aside for a feasibility study on the swimming pool and asked if the Councillors could provide more information and put it into context for the next meeting. Councillor Moreland gave a brief breakdown but is happy to discuss in more detail at the next meeting.

12. Any other business:

13. Questions from the Public:

- a. CM raised the issue of the recent levelling up fund that has been released recently and noted that there is no significant investment in Dunoon. Councillor Moreland said he was not happy with the announcement however this document of those signed today was negotiated long before himself or Councillor Hampsey were elected. The secretary said he was frustrated as it looks like out of the six major towns in Argyll and Bute, Oban and Helensburgh always seem to get the most funding, followed by Rothesay and Campbeltown. Dunoon and Lochgilphead always seem to get left out.

The Convener thanked everyone for attending. The next meeting will be held on Monday the 14th April at 1900hrs, in the old library room, 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

Police Scotland

Chris Martin (Observer)

Queens Hall Reception

Library

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Page **14** of **14**

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