



Dunoon Community Council

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

Present:

Gill Robertson (GR) (Convener)
David Clough (DC)
John Jameson (JJ)
Bobby Good (BG)
Yvonne Love (YL)

Tom McCowan (TMc) (Secretary)
Lester Demmer (LD)
Debz Wright (DR)
Paul Graysmark (PG)

Via Teams:

Timothy Moss (TM) (Treasurer – Elected)
Councillor Daniel Hampsey (DH)

ABC Councillors Attending:

Councillor Ross Moreland (RM)
Councillor Audrey Forrest (AF)

Dunoon Observer:

Chris Martin (CM)

Members of the Press:

Chris Martin (CM) (Dunoon Observer)

Police Scotland:

Members of the public:

Frauke Thornton (FT)

Ron Dingwall (RD)

Apologies:

Tom Warren (Vice-Convener) TW
Lindsey McPhail (LM)

Abigail Apps (AA)

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 either meeting held on 11th November 2024 and 13th January 2025.

Proposal. Dunoon Community Council accepts the minutes of the meeting held on 11th November 2024 as a true and accurate reflection of the meeting.

Proposed: TM

Seconded: GR

For (5)

Against (0)

Abstained (1)

Result: Passed.

Proposed: TM

Seconded: GR

Proposal. Dunoon Community Council accepts the minutes of the meeting held on 13th January 2025 as a true and accurate reflection of the meeting.

For (6)

Against (0)

Abstained (1)

Result: Passed.

5. Appointments/Resignations/New Members.

a. Appointments –

Youth Engagement Member – Nominations - Lester Deemer

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

Proposed: TM

Seconded: GR

For (8)

Against (0)

Abstained (1)

Result: Passed.

6. Police Report – Police Report was received and distributed on 10th February 2025

Members have concerns about the terminology of the report and asked for clarification on what they mean.

Concern was raised about the numbers of crimes being reported. There seems to be an increase. Is this due to the way crimes are being recorded or is crime on the increase in Dunoon.

Action Point (s):

Secretary to seek clarification on the above points.

7. Presentations – No presentations were given.

8. Action points and updates from previous meetings.

Emergency Resilience Planning Meeting – The convener apologised for not attending the last meeting. DC updated members on a recent meeting he held with the Largs Resilience team. Date of next ERP meeting was set for Monday 03rd March 2025 in the Foodbank at 1900hrs

Rose Gardens – Councillor Moreland updated members on a recent meeting that he attended recently regarding the Rose Gardens. He informed members that there is a schedule of work to be undertaken to cut back the bushes and trees. He said that the Council will work with the Community Payback Team for the removal of the graffiti and repainting of buildings. They are reviewing access to the lower walkway, there is currently a gate by the surgery, this is currently unlocked. Doctors surgery is being approached to ask them to lock their gate to restrict access to the rear of the building. The team responsible have offered to hold further meetings with PC Cunningham and others to ensure the issue is resolved. Councillor Moreland said he would keep members updated.

DC raised the issue of a similar issue arising in the Cemetery where youths are congregating.

9. Monthly Reports.

a. Conveners Report –

- (i) The Convener informed members that a baby has been born in Dunoon Community Hospital. Unfortunately, the parents were not willing to give a name or allow pictures of the baby until all their family has been notified. The baby was presented with a certificate, a silver spoon with the Dunoon Crest mounted on it and a box of chocolates.

b. Secretary & Community Engagement Report –

- (i) Website Update – The secretary said that since the website has been launched, we have had 14782 views, 1016 of these views have been within the past 28 days and of the 14782 views, 3320 of these have been redirected from our social media site with 452 being in the past 28 days.
- (ii) The Secretary thanked the staff of Argyll and Bute Council for their outstanding response in the wake of the recent storm. Significant damage was done throughout the area, and the Council staff were out at 1700hrs dealing with it.
- (iii) Upgrading of the Microsoft account. Currently Secretary is paying for Microsoft on his own account to include teams. Cost per year is £122+ VAT.

Proposal. Dunoon Community Council upgrade their current Microsoft package from Microsoft essentials to Microsoft business at a cost of £122+VAT.

Proposed: YL

Seconded: GR

For (9)

Against (0)

Abstained (0)

Result: Passed

- (iv) Monthly Reports - The Secretary discussed members submitting monthly reports in advance of meetings to allow more time at meetings. This was agreed. All reports are to be submitted to the Secretary by 1200hrs on the Wednesday prior to the meeting. These reports should use the pre-prepared form which will be added to the minutes of the meeting as Annex A.
- (v) Queens Hall Booking - The Secretary discussed the recent changes to the booking system used by Live Argyll. He suggested that we book and pay for the whole financial year. This was agreed.
- (vi) Hill Street Disposal - The Secretary spoke about his disappointment in the way Argyll and Bute Council dispose of excess properties giving community groups two weeks' notice is not appropriate. Councillor Moreland will raise this issue and see if any more notice can be given.

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

www.dunooncommunitycouncil.co.uk

- (vii) Dunoon Pier Proposal – The Secretary spoke about the recent proposal that has been published on social media by Douglas Smith regarding his plans and proposals for Dunoon Pier. The merits of this proposal were discussed by members and it was agreed to invite him to give a presentation on his plans.
 - (viii) Diary Dates - the Secretary covered the diary until the March meeting and reminded all members to inform him of any meetings they have planned.
- c. **Treasurers Report** – The Treasurer informed members that he still does not have control of the bank account. He will provide a report next month. It was agreed to use Ian Reid to conduct our audit again. It was also agreed to look at using someone else next year to ensure transparency. FT informed members that the Bank of Scotland will now be charging certain non-profit organisations for banking services. This was to come into effect in January. The Treasurer said he will investigate and report back.
- d. **Transport Report** – DC provided the following update.
- (i) **Direct bus service to Glasgow** – DC informed members that there is a concern with the design of some coaches and that they may catch on the linkspan when moving on and of the ferry. He also informed members that he held a meeting with Gordon Ross (MD Western Ferries) regarding the bus service being given priority. This will not be happening which will then render the project unworkable. He is now investigating the feasibility of going around by road as the time difference is not that much.
 - (ii) **Argyll Rally** – The resident's letters are due very soon and DC will arrange distribution, He will put out and appeal via our Social Media platform for volunteers. He also pointed out that Kilfinan Community Council are now quorate, However, all the members are also members of the group who are opposed to the Argyll Rally, He is not sure how this will work with them requiring to declare this as a declaration of interest and therefore being unable to partake in and discussion regarding the rally.
 - (iii) **CalMac Ferries** – DC discussed the recent email that was sent to all members regarding the consultation regarding the cancellation of ferries. He is concerned that CalMac have sent out this email but have already cancelled the service. This is not what a consultation is about. DC also informed members that work is about to start at the Gourock terminal in the near future. He is in direct communications with CalMac and keep members updated. DC also spoke about the manning and staffing levels and said that CalMac do not have the budget. DC will be speaking with Transport Scotland regarding this issue.
 - (iv) **SPT Concessionary Fares** – DC said that there were significant changes coming to the concessionary fares from SPT in April. More detail will be published on our Social Media platforms and website when they become available.
 - (v) **West Coast Motors** – DC went through the figures for passenger numbers using the West Coast Motors services. There is a significant reduction in passenger usage. It was highlighted that this is because the service has never returned to

pre covid levels, one service is the late-night service which is having an impact on people coming into the town in the evenings. BG said that people were not using the service anymore because of reliability. He also said the issue is not West Coast Motors but with Argyll and Bute Council, as they are responsible for the service and therefore should be holding West Coast Motors to account. JJ said the issue is the connectivity between the busses and ferries. He also said things were that poor, there was no guarantee that people who used public transport could get home. The Convener thanked DC for all his efforts and hard work.

- e. **Play Area Redevelopment** – No update provided
- f. **Planning & Licencing** – YL said that there are no new planning or licencing applications for Dunoon. There is one planning application for Brandon Steet that is awaiting approval.
- g. **Education** – TM (Via Teams) said there was nothing to report.
- h. **Infrastructure and redevelopment** – PG said that there are a few issues with some of the benches and this is being worked on. The Secretary asked if the bench by the pool could be moved back slightly as it does not allow easy access as it is too close to the railings. Several complaints have been raised about it. PG will deal with issue. PG said he was in the process of getting quotes for machinery to clean and pain the railings around the Highland Mary, he is also looking at the concrete plinth and getting that repaired. The Secretary pointed out that this may be more complicated as the statue is a listed building. PG will bring a formal proposal next month. He pointed out that there is another bench that belongs to the Loch Lomond National Park highlighting that it needs urgent repair. PG has also reported to Argyll and Bute Council that the seating in Argyll Gardens need urgent refurbishment. PG also spoke about the amount of Dog mess around the town. There was a discussion on how stop the disgusting practice.
- i. **Public Health and Social Care** – The Convener said that she has seen a report that HSCP funding has been cut. She will investigate further and report back next month.
- j. **Community Council Liaison** – No updates were provided.
- k. **Youth Engagement** – Be brief plan of action was given on the new role.

10. New Business:

- a. **VE Day Celebrations 08th/10th May 2025** – The secretary said that in his role as the Area Coordinator for Poppy Scotland he was asked to ensure the event was marked in Dunoon. The Secretary gave a brief outline of what he wanted to do, this would include a market, a community picnic and live entertainment in the bandstand. He

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asked if Dunoon Community Council would support this event and take the lead in organising in collaboration with Poppy Scotland and other local partners such as the BID, DCDT and the Cowal Combined Services Club. It was agreed that Dunoon Community Council would lead this event. YL volunteered to assist. More details will be provided when they arise.

- b. **Argyll and Bute Council Visitor Levy Consultation** – The Secretary spoke about the proposed visitors levy consultation and urged all members to complete the survey. This will be featured on a regular basis on our Social Media platform. Councillor Forrest said that they have been receiving feedback from both sides and urged people to complete the survey. She assured members that this was not a done deal and feedback is critical.

Action Point (s):

The secretary to advertise via social media and website.

11. Updates from Argyll and Bute Councillors:

- a. Councillor Hampsey spoke briefly but the internet connection.
- b. Councillor Forrest said she has been busy with education at the moment, she has been dealing with MC Pathways which is a mentoring service within the schools. Like all Councillors the budget preparation is taking up a lot of time. She has also been busy with health and social care casework.
- c. Councillor Moreland – Has been busy with preparations for the annual budget. He has also been having other meetings. He will also be dealing with the Council officer responsible for parking and getting the planters installed around the Queens Hall and War Memorial.

BG asked if there were plans to introduce FPN to those who park on pavements? Councillor Moreland said that this would be introduced next month.

FT asked if the damage to the sports centre in Helensburgh would have any impact on the repairs required to the Dunoon swimming pool and health suite? Councillor Moreland assured members that it would not affect the Swimming pool. He was asked if he knew when work would start, he responded by saying nothing would be decided until after the budget.

FT also enquired whether the Council have insurance on its building for events such as storms. Councillor Moreland said that, in general, yes, however those that are leased out to other organisations, this would depend on the contracts.

CM asked what has happened with Clyde Cottage Nursery, He said that almost immediately after the announcement the Council responded and said that they would not be taking over responsibility, but within three days, the Council had changed direction. Councillor Forrest said that the Council could not take over the nursery as it is a private business. She said that initially there was a concern regarding the lack of provision, however there has been a lot of work with the Care Commission and

this will now be resolved. CM said that he found it strange that the Council could not take over the voluntary side of the business, yet when threatened with closure, within 3 days the Council changed their stance. Councillor Forrest responded by saying she could not comment as this was before her time, but she was please at the current outcome.

DC asked what is happening with the bins on the West Bay that were washed away during the recent storm. DC to email Councillor Forrest with details.

FT raised the issue with the lack of cash availability in Dunoon. She asked if there was any way that Dunoon Community Council could put pressure on the local cash machine providers to ensure the machines were stocked adequately and frequently with cash. This is not within the scope of a Community Council, however, the Secretary agreed to speak with the providers to make them aware of the position.

12. Any other business:

13. Questions from the Public:

The Convener thanked everyone for attending. The next meeting will be held on Monday the 10th March 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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Approved

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