

Dunoon Community Council

 **Meeting of the Dunoon Community Council held in Queen’s Hall, Dunoon on Monday 12th August 2024.**

Present:

Tom Warren (TW) (Convener) Tom McCowan (TMc) (Secretary) Amanda Graham (AG) (Treasurer) Yvonne Love (YL)

Lindsey McPhail (LM) David Clough (DC) (Arrived Late) Gillian Robertson (GR) Paul Graysmark (PG)

Via Teams:

Kerry Kennedy (KK)

Councillor Daniel Hampsey (DH)

ABC Councillors Attending:

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

Members of the Public: Police Scotland:

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

Guest Speakers:

Ann Campbell (AC) (DCDT)

Apologies:

 Bobby Good (BG) (Vice-Convener) Abigail Apps (AA)

 Christine Cable (CC) David Clough (DC) (Running Late)

1. Tom Warren (The Convener) opened the meeting at 1900hrs and welcomed everyone to the meeting. He also welcomed those attending on-line for the first time. 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 09th September 2024 and the minutes have been approved. He invited anyone not happy with being recorded to leave the room or remain silent. He reminded everyone that questions should be directed to himself and not to talk over people.
2. **Recording of members attending and apologies received.**

As Above:

1. **Declaration of Interest**. All previous declarations of interest still stand.
2. **Minutes of previous meeting were discussed**. There were no corrections or alterations made.

**Proposal. The minutes from the previous meeting are correct and bear a true reflection of the Dunoon Community Council Meeting held on Monday 08th July 2024.**

**Proposed: LM Seconded: GR**

**For (4) Against (0) Abstained (3) Result: Passed.**

1. **Appointments/Resignations/New Members**.
	1. Resignations. Jacolin Brown has notified the secretary that she intends to resign with immediate effect. This has been noted and the convener thanked Jacolin for her work and support over the past couple of months. The resignation was accepted.

**Summary of Actions to be completed**: The secretary to remove JB from the website and from the mailing list.

1. **Police Scotland Report** – Police report was received and emailed to all Community Councillors in advance of the meeting. There were no questions raised from any of the Community Councillor
2. **Presentations –** Ann Campbell (AC) from Dunoon Community Development Trust (DCDT) give this month's presentation. AC give a short update on the activities off the DCDT. She said that she is currently working on establishing a memorandum of understanding between DCDT and DCC. She said that DCDT had received funding to cover the period of 2023 through to 2026 for the improvement of well-being in Dunoon, improving community collaboration and encouraging groups to work together, a programme of community engagement, introducing volunteering for well-being and supporting the development of the local place plan for Dunoon. The development trust operates on a collaborative and place-based approach. All their work is community led and they are a membership-based organisation with an elected board of trustees. The development trust is working towards being totally sustainable where possible with well-being at the core, this includes individual well-being and environmental well-being. DCDT are focused on community wealth building which means keeping money within the community, creating jobs and promoting economic growth. They are continuing to develop and grow existing projects such as “What’s on Dunoon” which is an online calendar that lists the events happening in the local area. They are also sponsoring a column in the local paper on a weekly basis which is being populated with the information that is on the “What’s on Dunoon” website. They are taking on the lease of the gate house that is located at the bottom end of the castle gardens, this will be the home of the “What’s on Dunoon” and they are currently recruiting local volunteers for this project. They will be sharing the gate house with the Dunoon Bothy project. She talked about the “Grow Food Grow Dunoon” Which has now relocated from Kirn primary school to Struan Lodge. They are currently working with Struan Lodge to establish a therapeutic garden for their dementia residents. This is being done in collaboration with Stirling university and their dementia development services. Dunoon Cowal Coal Works group has now been established. It is a group of freelance and self-employed businesses who meet on a regular basis to pass on ideas and information. DCDT are also working closely with ACHA and their projects locally. The development trust is still working on the Dunoon forward app, and this will be getting actively promoted through the gate house when it is up and running. This app will be a mixture of active travel, and some heritage walks that are available locally. She said that they are still working away at the local place plan. AC went on to say that they are working on a programme of thematic community engagement to find out what people want and need locally. Discussions have been held regarding active travel routes and female entrepreneurship Which will tie in with the international woman’s day. This has been done through a series of workshops and events. They have also been working on the redevelopment of the West Bay area, this has been done as a collaboration project between the Development Trust, Dunoon Community Council, Dunoon Business Improvement District (BID) and Argyll and Bute Council. There have been a series of events during July and August. The next series of events will be held in September, this is called second hand September and is being conducted in collaboration with Oxfam. They are engaging with young people and some adults to put on a fashion show using recycled clothes from local charity shops. We have also been learning how the tip operates and using this to promote our recycle, reuse, regenerate ethos. October and November will be focused on shopping and the High Street, and community energy. AC spoke about the memorandum of understanding between Dunoon Community Development Trust and Dunoon Community Council which will outline our main terms of cooperation. AC said we are already working extremely well together on a number of projects however this will just formalise and solidify the arrangement. It will set out shared aspirations for the regeneration of the town. It will detail shared resources and will describe respective roles and responsibilities. She said the document is flexible and can be reassessed at any time and more importantly it is not a legally binding document. The convener asked if AC could share the presentation with the secretary which will allow him to share it to all members. Pete G asked what the development trusts budget was. AC said that she did not know the exact figure but would come back to us. She said that she thought it was in the region off £130000 per year for three years. (***See after note 1.***) AC said that this employ’s herself in a full-time role and two other people in part time roles with the remainder being used to host events and other activities. The lease off the gate house will also come out of this budget. TM asked what format would the events planned for October and November use? AC responded and said that it would be a mixture of working groups and presentations. TM said that he has been speaking to a lot of local businesses and shopkeepers and the common theme that he is picking up as that they want a Chamber of Commerce. He asked if this would be something that the development trust would get involved with. AC said that this is something that they would not be directly involved with as there are other organisations locally who would deal with this. She did say though that they could be used to share the information. AC said their primary role was gathering information and sharing it to the correct people. AC said that TM should possibly approach the BID as they are the organisation that should be driving the Chamber of Commerce. AC spoke about a local business directory that had been created during COVID. AC said that the Development Trust invited local businesses and trades to register to be placed on the local business directory. This local business directory now has over 150 local registered businesses. She said that this has been shared with the local Business Improvement District (BID). This has been advertised several times in the local paper and there is a link to the directory through their social media page. The Development Trust are now in the process of developing a community directory, this will be like the business directory however will be geared up towards social clubs, sports clubs, and local organisations. This will work in conjunction with the “What’s On” page. The “What's on” page will focus on events and activities that take place on a specific date and the community directory will focus on clubs and organisations. DH wish to thank AC and the rest of the team for all their hard work, particularly the work involving the gate house in castle gardens. He said that he would look at his schedule and see if he could volunteer to help the project in the gatehouse. AC said that they were having a drop-in session at the gatehouse for volunteers. This is taking place on Wednesday the 21st of August 2024 at 11:00 AM. RM said that he thought it was great that the Development Trust and Dunoon Community Council were working together and creating a memorandum of understanding, he asked if the Development Trust had any other memorandum of understandings with other local organisations. AC said that they have the same agreement with the POP Shot and KICK who they also work very closely with. She said that it is an aspiration to create a memorandum of understanding with any organisation that was willing to work with the Development Trust. CM asked if there would be a memorandum of understanding created with the Business Improvement District (BID) AC said that she would prefer to have one as they do work together, however, there isn’t one now. CM also asked about the timeline of the active travel route that the Development Trust are funding. He asked how that would work if the Development Trust’s funding runs out in two years’ time. AC said that the active travel route is separate from what we are doing. She said that they were working more at lower-level interventions than infrastructure projects such as this. She said that they had carried out numerous research projects around active travel and the feedback is that people are looking for company or help whilst getting out and about she said that people are looking for activities that get people together, she said that people were also looking for activities that were held in the town centre and that were themed. She said that there were a number of concerns raised regarding active travel locally such as the state of the pavements, overgrown bushes which obstruct the pavements and vehicles parking on pavements making them impassible to the public. She also said that the lack of public toilets came out several times during their consultations and the old favourite of dog mess on pavements was also raised numerous times. These are all inhibitors to getting people out and active. She said that their role as an organisation is to deal with these issues along with other organisations in the area to help people get out and into the town centre, this will then increase footfall into local businesses and help stimulate economic growth. She said that the Development Trust’s was more around the soft errors whilst the infrastructure project is down to the council and the Scottish Government. She said that they are looking at different areas such as making outdoor clothing available to those on low incomes, she said that they were also looking at the availability of bikes for families struggling to keep up with the growth of the children. She said that they were looking into the possibility of setting up a library where people could come along and borrow such items as they are expensive to buy initially. She said that they were also looking to tap into people's expertise such as running bike repair workshops. LM Asked if AC was aware of the “beat the street” programme that was recently run in the area. She said that it was immensely popular with young children as there was a competitive edge to it, at also involved the families. It was also very popular due to it being a short-term programme. AC said that the “beat the street” was run by the Assisting Transport team at Argyll and Bute council. AC said that they worked very closely with this team and was feeding back information to them regarding this event. She said that the Development Trust would continue to work closely with the Assisting Transport team in the future as they are able to obtain funding for these types of projects and events. The convener asked how the Development Trust works with other local organisations such as the Pier group. AC responded by saying that Dunoon Community Development Trust is a SCIO (Scottish Charity Incorporated Organisation) which has a bank account, a full Board of Trustees and an established administration team, this has been offered out to local communities to use as an umbrella for their groups. She gave an example of a local group who they assist to get funding to help grow that group, that group operates using the Development Trust’s policies and procedures. She said that this has now been extended to other organisations in the area. She said that she has reached out to Mr A Mclay regarding the Dunoon Pier group and offered to assist with setting up the group formally as a working group under the umbrella of DCDT. She said that the group would be able to utilise the board structure of the trust when applying for grants which DCDT would assist them with. She said that as this group grows and starts looking at commercial gains, they would assist with setting up their own independent boards etc. She also gave an example of the Kirn Gala and said that when it was winding up that were funds still available in their bank account, this was transferred to the development trusts bank account and ring fenced so should a group come along and re-establish the Kirn Gala that would be money available. She said that she has been in discussion with the organiser of this year’s Kirn Gala that is being organised by the grammar school. The convener also pointed out another example and where the Development Trust and Dunoon Community Council Were working together to improve the play area in the West Bay. AC said that the West Bay playpark was part of a wider scheme which included even more community collaboration between different groups. AC finished off by saying that whilst there is a lot of public facing activities there is even more work being done behind the scenes to ensure that the Development Trust receives funding for the future in order to make it more sustainable. The convener thanked AC for her presentation and update on the work that is being carried out by the Dunoon Community Development Trust.

**Summary of Actions to be completed**: The secretary is to liaise with Ann Campbell and get a copy of the presentation sent out to all members of Dunoon Community Council.

1. **Action points from Previous meeting –**
	1. **Play Park Update** – The treasurer said she has had several meetings recently with the Development Trust and Argyll and Bute Council. She said that so far there have been two companies who have come back with quotes for the work required. She said that one company has come back with a quote for a £50k project and another company has come back with a quote for a £100k project. She said that there were two quotes for two different amounts because there is approximately £50k already available for the refurbishment, but this has strict criteria on what it can be used on. She said that they have asked for quotes on a project up to £100k because she is currently applying for grant funding for the additional £50k. The treasurer said that so far two companies have responded the first company, Kompan UK where the company who did the other side of the play park originally, this company is based in Livingston near Edinburgh. the other company is called Scotplay, and they are based in Glasgow. The treasurer has also spoken with a company called creative play, who are based in Mould, Flintshire. They have had meetings with these companies and whilst they have to have the two inclusive parts to the play area, the company was giving ideas on what could be done with the dead areas in the play area to enhance it. Some of the ideas included having seated corners with possibly a covering to allow parents/carers somewhere to sit whilst supervising their children. It would mean that older children such as teenagers would have an area to congregate without them using the apparatus. She is still waiting for these plans to be drawn up, hopefully she will be in receipt of them within a couple of weeks. She explained that they needed to have three plans, the third plan would be the intergenerational plan as the other two plans are very similar. Part of the survey that was carried out by DCDT set that people wanted more congregational areas within the play park. The treasurer is working on all these plans and these will be submitted to Dunoon Community Council in the format of a presentation in October. The grant application to Argyll and Islands Community Local Development Fund was not successful. The main reason for the unsuccessful application was that this fund required plans, and at the time of submission no plans were available. The treasurer is still waiting for confirmation from the Land Trust, The Co-op and Grantscape. She is hoping to hear back from these organisations by the end of August or the beginning of September. The treasurer said that there were more funding rounds coming up between November and January, now that the plans are in place, she will be resubmitting grant applications. She also said that because we are looking at intergenerational spaces, this will open up more grants that can be applied for. The treasurer said that part of the grant application process is to have letters of support, most of the applications require four of these letters. The letters must come from people or organisations that are not part of Dunoon Community Council. So far, she has asked Jim Anderson and Craig Wilson. She said that she is thinking about asking Katrina Smith, however her husband is an Argyll and Bute council employee so is unsure if this will be acceptable. She is also going to speak with CLAN and ask if they would be willing to write a letter of support. The treasurer said that she has been in discussions with CLAN to see if they wanted to put the funding that they have raised into the same pot as everything else. This would go into our second bank account and be ring fenced. The funding that CLAN received had strict criteria regarding how it was spent, the treasurer said that they were working to see if this could be accommodated. The treasurer said that the last thing she wanted to discuss was starting a go fund me page. She said that this would enable the local community to help raise funds for the play area. She said that there were several companies that did the crowdfunding and would therefore have a look at what suited our needs best. The convener asked if there had been a recent crowdfunding page set up for the West Bay. The treasurer said that there was it was organised by a lady called Katrina Smith, however there was an issue as she had left the money in the account for so long it was then all returned to the people that had donated. The convener asked for clarification on the letters of support as he thought it would need to come from an organisation rather than an individual. The treasurer said that the letters of support can come from anyone in the community ask long as they are not affiliated to Dunoon Community Council. AC said that she would be happy to write a letter on behalf of the Dunoon Community Development Trust. The convener said that Argyll and Bute council had a budget off £40k, and that Dunoon Community Council are trying to raise additional funds. He asked what is happening with these funds, will there be placed into the account with Argyll and Bute council or well they have to be kept separate. RM said that Argyll and Bute council had conducted a survey last year to ascertain what the public wanted. He then went on to say that the council had received a grant funding from the Scottish Government that's had to be used over a period of three years and the plan is to install 2 knew play apparatus and do some basic groundworks. He asked if what the treasurer was trying to achieve was something similar or was it to enhance what the council are going to do. He also asked for clarification if Dunoon Community Council was going to give the money, they have raised to Hugh O'Neill for him to use it whilst the companies are installing the apparatus or are we going to wait and approach the companies ourselves and add to the playpark later. The treasurer said that as far as she is aware, Argyll and Bute council had issues trying to get companies to tender for this project. RM set that this was caused by the Scottish Government releasing the funds throughout the country at the same time. The treasurer said that she spoke to Hugh O'Neill who told her that she needed to have three quotes which she has done. She said that all money raised will be given to Argyll and Bute council for them to spend on the West Bay playpark. The convener asked if there were any barriers to doing this and was the council happy for this to happen. RM said that the money given by the Scottish Government had to be spent within a specified time frame. He said that it was good that we were applying for grants, but this can be a long-drawn-out process and what would happen if the money from the grant came in after the council had to spend the money allocated from the Scottish Government. The treasurer said that she had asked for a £50k quote because that is what is currently available to spend on the play park this is made-up with the £40k grant from the Scottish Government and the remaining £10k is made-up from money raised by local groups. She said she has also asked for quotes for £100k as ideally, they like to see match funding in the applications, and this would then allow the council to get four bits off equipment rather than the two. The convener suggested that we investigate the legalities of handing over the money to Argyll and Bute council sooner rather than later and getting this done in writing before anything happens. RM agreed and said the last thing he wanted to see was the West Bay Play Park missing out or being the last one to be completed due to a legal technicality on handing over the money. The secretary asked if there was any update on the skate park in Ardenslate. The treasurer responded and said that there was a group established that was taking the lead for the skate park and this was nothing to do with Dunoon Community Council. She said that she believes that it is DCDT who are involved with the skate park. AC give a brief update on the skate park where she said that the group has now been re-established and are looking into what they can do with the funds to improve it. She said that the issue with the playpark is that its current structure is made of steel which does not last long. They are looking into building a new section made from concrete however this is extremely expensive. She said that the convener (Who is also chairman of DCDT) had had several meetings on site with local parents. AC said that things were at the very early stages, but the group will be working under the Development Trusts umbrella. The treasurer said that herself and AA had travelled over to the skate park in Gourock, and to put things into perspective, that play park cost over £200k five years ago. The budget for the skate park in Dunoon is £25k.

**Proposal. That Dunoon Community Council set up a crowdfunding page to raise money for the West Bay Play area**

**Proposed: AG Seconded: TW**

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

**Summary of Actions to be completed**: The treasurer to liaise with Hugh O'Neill regarding the legalities of handing over monies raised for the play park.

* 1. **Bench Update** – PG gave a brief update on the benches. He said that the project has currently stalled as one of the benches he is working on is in the men's shed and they are only open three days a week. He is also struggling to get volunteers to help and is having to do the work himself. GR said that she has spoken to Stephen from the community payback team. She asked if these benches can be moved and taken somewhere else to which PG said yes, they could. GR said that the community payback team would be happy to take this project on as it would give the guys something to do over the winter. PG said that the plan was, that once this bench was finished the council would replace it and remove another bench for him to start work on. He was hoping to use the assistance of the HELP project. GR said that the community payback team had the manpower to do the job, we may need to cover the cost of materials but was unsure. The convener asked if PG could liaise with the community payback team to get things started. The treasurer said she wished to speak about the finances for these benches as in December only £100 was agreed. If any further expenditure is required a full breakdown off costs is required. PG said that he has already spent £262 out of his own pocket. He said that the problem is he has had to buy the paint, the paint purchased will do more than just one bench and the same with the bolts and other parts. He is hoping that the parts he has will stretch out to repair approximately 6 benches. He went on to explain the process of repairing the benches and it was not as simple as just sticking a bit of paint onto the wood. He went on to say that he would possibly need around £400 but at this moment he could not say how much each individual bench will cost to repair as some need more than others. The treasurer said she understands, But due to the amount of money required she would need a proper written estimate of the costs involved.

**Summary of Actions to be completed**: PG to submit a full costed report for consideration at the next meeting. PG also to speak to the community payback team.

* 1. **Argyll Rally**– In DC’s absence there was no rally update. The convener noted that Dunoon Community Council had conducted a survey on the rally on behalf of Mull Car Club. This was confirmed by the secretary who said that the information had been passed on to DC for onward transmission to relevant parties.
	2. **Giants Burn Windfarm** – The convener confirmed that Statkraft will be giving a presentation to Dunoon Community Council on Monday the 9th of September at 1900 hours. Due to the anticipated public attendance, the main hall has been booked. That will be a meeting held on Tuesday 27th of August at 1900 hours in meeting room 2 off the Queens Hall to conduct a sift off the questions received either through the survey or via other communications to the community council. The convener will then pass these on to Statkraft to allow them to provide answers to the questions. KK, DC and the secretary will conduct the sift, if anyone else is available they are more than welcome to come along and assist. The convener noted that the survey will close on Friday 13th September 2024 at 12 noon. The convener said that priority would be given to members questions and then onto questions from the public. He said that he hoped that the written questions would stop hundreds of questions being raised from the floor as they may have already been answered.

**Summary of Actions to be completed**: Invites to Brendan O’Hara MP, Jenny Minto MSP, All Local A&B Councillors and All Community Council Conveners to be sent out be secretary.

1. **Convener Update** – There was no update from the Convener.
2. **Secretary Update** –
	1. **Website Update** – The secretary said that since the website has been launched, we have had 9959 views, 927 of these views have been within the past 28 days and of the 9959 views, 2782 of these have been redirected from our social media site with 297 being in the past 28 days. He said that we have a current performance ranking of 96/100 with google search, which means if anyone types in Dunoon into Google, our page will be at the top of the search menu. He will update the website this week with the new photos and bios.
	2. **Market Stall 27th July 2024** – The secretary said that markets stall was very well received by members of the public. It was great to see our local councillors come along and support us. The secretary said that he would like to continue with these market stalls as it is an invaluable tool to engage with the public. During the day that was a snap poll conducted regarding the Giants Burn Wind Farm proposal. It followed on from the First Ministers statement on renewable energies where he said appropriate renewables in appropriate locations. The snap poll was a one question poll with the question being: Do you think that the Giants Burn Wind Farm proposal is in an appropriate location? 52 people were asked the question. 35 people (84%) said no they do not think it is in an appropriate location, and 17 people (16%) said yes it was in an appropriate location. The secretary said that the next market was on Saturday 31st of August which is Cowal Games. He said he has not booked a stall as he did not believe that we could cover it. The next market stall booked is on Saturday 26th November. This has been booked for the Poppy Appeal as this is the start of the 2024 appeal. If members would like to assist with this year's appeal, there is a section on our website where they can register their interest. Old members are requested to give assistance.
	3. **Purchase of Display Boards -** The secretary said as we planned to continue doing the markets he thought it advisable that we have a display board where we could pin our information to. We have been putting laminated pictures/posters/information leaflets on 2 tables but we end up continually picking these up as they are blown around with the wind. The secretary spoke about purchasing a notice board for the cost of £204 excluding VAT for future use. The convener said that he thought he may be able to get one donated and would confirm during the week. He said to carry on with the proposal rather than waiting to find out that the display board is not available. The treasurer pointed out that this will come out of the operational budget for the year.

**Proposal. That Dunoon Community Council purchase a set of display boards for use at events and market stalls with a maximum cost of £250.00**

**Proposed: TM Seconded: TW**

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

* 1. **Email Addresses** – The secretary said that he has so far set up e-mail accounts for TM, GR and CC. The email address format is Joeb.dunooncc@gmail. If any member wishes an account set up for them, please let the secretary know.
	2. Diary Update – The secretary went through the diary for the next two months.
1. **Treasurer Update** – The treasurer said the expenses for last month where £75. She informed members that we have now received our annual operational grant. This is £1225.70. She said that we have already spent £490 from that grant prior to receiving it. In the main bank account, there is a total off £6485.27 and in the savings account which is where the money for the play park is ring fenced, there is £743.41. She said that the financial spreadsheet is available on the shared drive for everyone to see. She said she is still waiting for payment from the ferry group for the printing that we done on their behalf.

**Proposal. The financial report accepted as correct subject to audit.**

**Proposed: AG Seconded: TW**

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

1. **New Business** – No new business was raised.
2. **Planning/Licencing Applications** –
	1. Planning – YL reported that there were the following applications:

A window alteration at 39 Cromwell Street. The date for objections has already passed.

The erection of a dwelling house and vehicular access at 11 Edward Street. This is still awaiting decision.

* 1. Licencing – YL reported that the following licencing applications have been received:

Elisabeth Mcurdie submitted an application for Saturday 30th August 2024 in Argyll Gardens. No further details.

 No objections or comments were made.

*David Clough Entered the meeting.*

1. **Argyll and Bute Councillors –**

The convener invited the Argyll and Bute councillors to give any updates.

* 1. **Councillor Hampsey:** - DH thanked Dunoon Community Council for facilitating an online meeting. This will enable him and others to attend meetings where they may not have been able to. He said that things have been relatively quiet over the past month due to the council being on stand down. He said that in the past couple of weeks he has attended numerous meetings including a round table with Jenny Minto MSP, and representatives from all community councils. This meeting was regarding the current issues facing the area and the service provided by CalMac. He said that the meeting was very successful as some very real issues were raised. He looks forward to the follow up meetings that have been planned. DH said that the CTF has now been moved forward one week.PG raised the issue of the lack of coordination between CalMac and ScotRail and acknowledged that DH and the Cowal Ferry Group are working towards a resolution. DH said that DC had suggested that CalMac attend the next meeting in person, then they would be able to see for themselves the frustration caused by the poor level of service we receive. DC added a correction and said ScotRail where at the meeting, it was Cal Mac that were late, and they only turned up after Jenni Minto’s office had phoned around and insisted a representative attended the meeting. DC also said that he was under the impression that Jenni Minto MSP was arranging the next meeting, but he has not heard anything about it. DH responded and said that he would speak with Jenni Minto MSP and if all else fails he will organise and chair the next meeting in his capacity as chair of the transport forum.

**Summary of Actions to be completed**: DH is requested to liaise with Jenni Minto MSP to organise the next meeting of the Cowal Transport Group.

* 1. **Councillor Forrest: -** AF said that during the council recess she was busy working away at the education portfolio and dealing with the day-to-day local casework. AF thanked Dunoon Community Council for inviting them to the market stall.
	2. **Councillor Moreland: -** RM said that he has also been busy with local casework. He said that he was pleased to see that the abandoned and derelict vehicles have been removed from Hanover Street car park. He will be closely monitoring this area, and should vehicles reappear he will advise the relevant teams.

**Questions to Argyll and Bute Councillors.**

* 1. DC asked RM if that was any updates on the knotweed that had been previously discussed. RM said that he has not heard anything but will chase it up.
	2. GR raised the issue of the cemetery on the High Road. She said that although it is not a Dunoon Community Council responsibility, there is a funeral taking place later this week and the fact it has been in the local paper, will anything be done to tidy the place up. AF responded and said that it has already been dealt with.
	3. PG said that a few years ago the shop fronts in Argyll Street where a topic that was discussed. He wanted to know if there were any budgets set aside for that from either Argyll and Bute council or Dunoon Community Council. RM said that this was done by the CARS project where a number of properties were renovated. He said that there is currently a property under renovation on Argyll Street. He said that as far as he is aware Claire Hallybone is still working on a number of projects. DC said that he has raised an issue with the Crown Bar and the state of the woodwork around the entrance. It was pointed out that this was not a CARS project and was completed by the owner.
	4. LM asked if there were any plans for Milton House as it has been lying empty for quite a while, she said that the front door has been forced open. She was under the impression that CAMS moving into Milton house. AF responded and said that was no longer happening as all capital funding had been withdrawn by the Scottish Government, this was taking place due to the hospital redevelopment but as that is cancelled, so has everything else.
	5. The convener asked if the “report it” spreadsheet was being monitored and used correctly. PG said that nothing is being done. There are still jobs on there that have been outstanding for months. DC responded and said part of the problem is that the jobs have been duplicated. The page needs cleaning up and those duplicate jobs that PG has submitted needs to be removed.

**Summary of Actions to be completed**: PG to go through the “Report It” spreadsheet and remove all duplicate entries.

1. **Any Other Business.**
	1. The secretary suggested that on the agenda for future meetings there is a section for members to give an update on their portfolios I was. He advised members that transport example is an extremely busy role and DC should be able to have an available slot to update members. The secretary said he would look at the agenda and find an appropriate point to add this to the meetings. This was agreed by members present.
	2. The convener reminded all members that next month's meeting will be in the main hall due to the Statkraft presentation. He said that the meeting started at 1900 hours and requested members turn up early, so they were there before members of the public started to arrive.
2. **Questions from the Public.**
	1. AC asked what was happening with Escape as it has no closed down. She asked if there was anything in the education department or the local authority to help with the after-school provisions for children. AF said that this is an absolute nightmare, Escape has been an invaluable resource for the town, but there is no statutory requirement for the council to provide after school provisioning, and the way the councils budgets are there is no scope for this at the moment. AF said that she is under the impression that it closed due to lack of staffing and if the council were to take it over, they would be in exactly the same position. The convener suggested it be looked at as an economic improvement. The secretary pointed out that several people in the local area have now lost their jobs or are at risk of losing their jobs due to the lack of after school childcare. AC said that because it is an inspected service there was a requirement for staffing to have certain qualifications. DH said he understands the frustrations locally but there is not the scope within the council to provide this service. AF said that the council have had a big push on trying to get people registered as childminders, but there does not seem to be the interest. The convener said that this brings up the point he raised earlier, it may have an educational aspect to it, but it also has an economic impact due to people being unable to work. TM asked if the training is available locally rather than people having to travel to either Oban or Helensburgh. He suggested that if UHI are running courses, surely, they would be able to provide staff for Escape as part of the student’s course. This could benefit both students and parents, the students will gain experience, and parents would get the child care they need. LM said the UHI do childcare courses locally which are advertised but is not sure if this is what Escape need. CM clarified the reason for closing was purely down to the lack of qualified staff.
	2. CM asked if there is any news on the Dunoon Project as there are rumours circulating that it is finished. RM and AF said that they have not heard anything recently. RM said the last that he heard, the project has applied for numerous grants but had been unsuccessful. The convener said that the “Dunoon Masterplan” was still at planning for consideration. GR said that the Dunoon Project gave a presentation to the Dunoon Inner wheel and the whole theme of the presentation was around match funding. She said they were told that there is lots of money available, but they can’t access it because it requires match funding. LM asked if they could come and give Dunoon Community Council an update. The convener agreed this could happen. The secretary advised that the agenda between now and Christmas is full, so it would need to be in the New Year.
	3. CM said that he has learnt this evening that the High Kirk has been sold and asked Dunoon Community Council for a comment. The convener said that this is the first we have heard of it and would be unable to make a comment at this time. CM informed the Community Council that this was a private sale and not to the group that was formed to try and do a community buy-out. The community group are drafting a letter for the paper. CM said this sale goes against the mandate set out be the General Assembly last year. He said that he is aware that the community group had applied for an extension until September, but this was rejected. The convener said it would be advisable to wait and see what the new owner plans to do with the building, as it is doubtful that it will remain a place of worship, it will require a change of use planning application. This may be the appropriate time for a comment.
	4. RM said that he was going through the minutes from last months meeting. He said that so far, no funds for this project have been approved by the Scottish Government. He said that the proposal is due to be discussed at the Area Committee on 3rd September 2024. He said that there are two more design stages to go through. He would update us at the next available opportunity.

The Convener brought the meeting to an end at 2050hrs and thanked all those who attended. The next meeting will be held on Monday 09th September 2024 in the Main Hall, Queens Hall, Dunoon at 1900hrs.

***After Note 1.*** *The exact amounts of our core grant funding for 2023/24 are:*

*Scottish Government Investing in Communities Fund -  £89,448*

*National Lottery Communities Fund - £27,501*

*Total Grants received: in total for this financial year. £116,949*

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