



## **Dunoon Community Council**

### **Meeting of the Dunoon Community Council held in Queen's Hall, Dunoon on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2025.**

#### Present:

Gill Robertson (GR) (Convener)  
John Jameson (JJ)  
Lindsey McPhail (LM)

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

#### Via Teams:

David Clough (DC)

Timothy Moss (TM) (Treasurer)

#### ABC Councillors Attending:

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

#### Dunoon Observer:

Chris Martin (CM)

#### Police Scotland:

Not in attendance

#### Guest Speakers:

#### Members of the public:

Christina MacDonald (CMD)  
Frauke Thornton (FT)

Audrey Roy (AR)

#### Apologies:

Yvonne Love (YL)  
Tom Warren (TW) (Vice-Convener)  
Councillor Audrey Forrest (AF)

Lester Deemer (LM)  
Paul Graysmark (PG)

1. Gill Robertson (Convener) opened the meeting at 1930hrs 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 09<sup>th</sup> June 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 listed at Annual General Meeting.

4. **Minutes of previous meeting were discussed.** No issues were raised with the minutes from the last meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2025.

**Proposal. Dunoon Community Council accepts the minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2025 as a true and accurate reflection of the meeting.**

**Proposed: GR**

**Seconded: TM**

**For (6)**

**Against (0)**

**Abstained (2)**

**Result: Passed.**

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

a. Resignation – Lester Deemer.

Lester Deemer has submitted his resignation from Dunoon Community Council with immediate effect. The Convener and members expressed their thanks to Lester for his work and support whilst a member of Dunoon Community Council and wished him well for the future.

6. **Presentations** – LM requested a presentation from Dunoon Project and AA suggested a presentation from the Dunoon Pier Group.

7. **Police Report** – Due to PC Cunningham not being in attendance the Convener discussed the alarming increase in Police Assaults being recorded. Police Report disseminated to all members prior to the meeting.
8. **Action points and updates from previous meetings.**
  - a. VE Day Celebrations – The secretary updated members on the VE Day and discussed the event which was a huge success. He informed members that £1770.90 had been collected in cash and was awaiting final figures. He thanked all those who assisted on the day from Dunoon Community Council. He thanked the sponsors, Shearwater Marine Ltd and McNee's building services for their financial support. He thanked the following people for their behind-the-scenes support, Victor Thomas (Dunoon Community Radio) Duncan Collier (Sound Technician) The Army Cadet Force, and the Dunoon Presents Market Team for setting everything up. Jim Anderson and the Cowal Kirk committee and everyone else.
9. **Monthly Reports.** There were no monthly reports this month due to the Annual General Meeting. All reports are attached to those minutes.

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

- a. The secretary covered the diary until the end of June.
- b. DC added meetings between himself and Mr Tim Eagle MSP on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> May regarding ferries.
- c. DC said that he has recently found out that the Scottish Government has now extended the contract with CalMac for the Clyde and Hebrides service without going out to tender.
- d. DC said that the role of the Cowal Transport Forum has been brought into question, and it has been pointed out that it does not have any decision-making powers. He said that the CGTL that has been created needs to gather momentum as this may be the tool that is used to lobby for a better ferry service.
- e. DC spoke about the emergency resilience planning and the need for someone to take the lead as he does not have the time.
- f. DC also spoke about a bus service along the shore road. DC said that he has spoken with West Coast Motors and Strachur & District Community Council. He explained the background of the service but said West Coast Motors are now going to look at the service. He said that the 486 service was being looked at and there is now a good chance this will run along the shore through Hunters Quay and Kirn. This will be passed to the Council for approval.
- g. AA said that nothing has changed on the play park redevelopment, there has been no additional funding. The Playpark must be completed by March 2026.
- h. The secretary read out the current planning applications. The convener mentioned that the Tryst has submitted a change of use application where they want to change to accommodation to house the homeless.

- i. The secretary read out a statement from PG where he says that work on the railings around the Highland Mary Statue will require full planning permission.

## 10. New Business:

- a. Footpaths around Dunoon. JJ raised the issue of the deteriorating footpaths in and around Dunoon. He highlighted several issues and raised questions regarding funding for maintenance and repair. He asked for clarification on what the budget was for repair and maintenance. He also asked if there was a plan to bring the pavements up to standards. He pointed out that there is an issue with bins being left out and over hanging hedges and bushes. It was pointed out that you can report these directly to the Council who will take action with property owners. DH said that these are predominantly done on a case-by-case basis but would be happy to sit down with JJ and take any issues further. JJ said that he has reported things before, but nothing has happened. RM said to contact him directly if there are issues with things not being done when reported.
- b. Ferry Service Reduction Survey. DC said that the response has been very slow to the survey and there seems to be some confusion regarding the Survey. He pointed out that CalMac do not have a choice in the reduction, this has been imposed by the Scottish Government, the survey is to establish which part of the service to reduce. He will be speaking with all the other Community Councils that are in the CGTL. DC also spoke about the introduction of the new shoreside ticketing system being thrust upon us.
- c. Review of the Scheme of Establishment for Community Councils. The secretary spoke about the current review of the Scheme of Establishment for Community Councils being undertaken by Argyll and Bute Council. All members were sent an email with the proposals several weeks ago. The secretary said that he has emailed the CCLO regarding the financial aspects of the review and she has confirmed that this will not change. He also said to members that he has not got any issues with any of the proposals and some of them will benefit from the secretaries of Community Council. There were no objections or points raised regarding the changes, and this will be fed back to the CCLO.
- d. Camping at Bishops Glen. The secretary spoke about the amount of litter and damage being done around Bishops Glen due to wild campers. There have been numerous complaints regarding rubbish and an incident where a dog cut its foot in the water on broken glass. The secretary will contact PC Cunningham and request increased patrols in the area. There was discussion on a poster campaign to highlight the issue and remind people to take their rubbish home. The secretary said the last thing he wanted was a ban on camping, however, this may come if people don't respect the surrounding area.
- e.

## 11. Updates from Argyll and Bute Councillors:

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Convener: [convener@dunooncommunitycouncil.co.uk](mailto:convener@dunooncommunitycouncil.co.uk) Secretary: [secretary@dunooncommunitycouncil.co.uk](mailto:secretary@dunooncommunitycouncil.co.uk)

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- a. Councillor Moreland, like usual has been busy with local case work. He spoke about the Rose Gardens and the recent works that have been carried out in the area. The secretary passed him a newspaper article passed to him by Jack Diamond regarding turning the Rose Gardens into a Car Park. Councillor Moreland confirmed that this would not be happening. He said at a recent meeting there was £100k available for CCTV improvements and he would be speaking with PC Cunningham. Councillor Moreland said he attended both the VE Day events and was impressed with the turnout. He also praised the roads and amenities team and the Community Payback team for making Argyll Gardens look so good.
- b. Councillor Hampsey said that he has been busy with local case work and also the Cowal Transport Forum where the recent meeting had Scottish Government Ministers attend. He also plans to get around some of the Community Councils locally to have a chat regarding the ferry timetables

## 12. Questions to Argyll and Bute Councillors.

- a. AA asked if there were any updates regarding child dental services in Dunoon. Councillor Hampsey said that he sent emails after a meeting a while ago, but he would chase this up and report back.
- b. JJ asked for an update on the plans for a new swimming pool and asked if the public would be consulted on the design and style of pool to be built. Councillor Moreland said that it was very early stages. The money has only just been approved to carry out a business case study and no plans have been thought about yet. He said that the new pool would also incorporate a leisure centre. AR asked at what point will the community be engaged with during the business case study. Councillor Moreland again said that it was very early days, but he is confident that the community will have a say in the process. AR also said that there needs to be more information regarding this issue given out to the public whether it be through the Community Council or Argyll and Bute Council. DC said that he hoped that the new design would be better than the old one and lasts longer. CM said that when the pool was last updated/refurbished the press and public were ejected from all meeting regarding this and he has never been able to get access to the minutes for these meetings. CM said that he is aware that the proposed active travel route failed to get funding at the last round and asked if the Council were given a reason for this. Councillor Moreland said that the issue became political when the Green Party left Government, the criteria for funding was then changed. He also said that the Council were now waiting to see what the new criteria is and how much the funding will be. CM raised the issue of shopping trolleys being thrown into Milton Burn. He asked who is responsible for the clearance of these bearing in mind that there is a flood defence grid on the burn. He said that the Council have offered to remove the trolleys, but at a cost to Morrisons. Councillor Moreland will look into the issue and report back to CM. CM informed members that on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May, the Police raided the “old tax office” on Argyll Road and discovered a sizeable cannabis farm. He said that this

morning they conducted another raid at a property in Kilmun where another sizeable cannabis farm was discovered. Both are being linked to the recent cannabis soil dump in the Holy Loch and asked if there were any comments. Councillor Moreland gave a brief comment.

**13. Any other business:**

- a. The secretary said that following on from our meeting in March where members discussed starting a crowd funding page to purchase bunting for Argyll Street, he has since been approached by the Cowal Highland Gathering and Dunoon Presents asking if Dunoon Community Council would like to contribute towards the cost. There was a discussion with pros and cons. It was decided that as Dunoon Community Council does not get any funding other than the operational grant, we are not able to help.

**Proposal. Dunoon Community Council is not in a financial position to assist with the purchase of bunting for Argyll Street**

**Proposed: GR**

**Seconded: DC**

**For (6)**

**Against (1)**

**Abstained (1)**

**Result: Passed.**

**14. Questions from the Public:** No questions were raised from the public.

The Convener thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 2055hrs. The next meeting will be held on Monday the 09<sup>h</sup> June 2025, in the old library room, the Queen's Hall, Dunoon.

Signed by:

{Original Signed}

T McCowan

Secretary Dunoon Community Council

Distribution:

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