



Dunoon Community Council

Meeting of the Dunoon Community Council held in Queen's Hall, Dunoon on Monday 11th August 2025.

Community Councillors Present:

Gill Robertson (GR) (Convener)
Tom Warren (TW) Vice-Convener
Lindsey McPhail (LM)
David Clough (DC)

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

Via Teams:

Tim Moss (TM)

ABC Councillors Attending:

Councillor Ross Moreland (RM)
Councillor Daniel Hampsey (DH)
Councillor Audrey Forrest (AF)

Dunoon Observer:

Chris Martin (CM)

Police Scotland:

PC M Cunningham

Guest Speakers:

Ann Campbell (AC) (Dunoon Community Development Trust)
Hannah Clinch (HC) (Dunoon Community Development Trust)

Members of the public:

Chris Ficestone

Apologies:

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1. Gill Robertson (Convener) 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 08th September 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 09th June 2025.

Proposal. Dunoon Community Council accepts the minutes of the meeting held on 09th June 2025 as a true and accurate reflection of the meeting.

Proposed: DC

Seconded: PG

For (7)

Against (0)

Abstained (2)

Result: Passed.

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

6. **Presentations** – Ann Campbell and Hannah Clinch from Dunoon Community Development Trust gave members a comprehensive update on the progress being made on the Local Place Plan. DC raised questions regarding the viability of a Hydro Electric scheme at the Bishops Glen reservoir.

7. **Police Report** – PC Cunningham gave the Police report for the months of July and August. Members discussed the continues rise in Police assaults and drug related crimes. The secretary read out a complaint received from a resident regarding the Pro Palestinian protesters at the Burgh Hall. The complaint was concerned by the language being used and that they had a sign saying, “I support PA” which he said that it blatantly meant “

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Palestinian Action” He went onto to say that Palestinian Action is now a proscribed terrorist group, and any support is therefore illegal. PC Cunningham confirmed that there was an arrest by the person has been released due to the sign not saying Palestinian Action. The secretary asked what would happen now with these protesters and asked if their behaviour could be monitored. There was a discussion regarding an increase in speeding along Alexandria Parade. PG asked if there were any reports available to see any statistics regarding speeding in this area. AF said there probably wouldn't be, but would investigate, DH also informed members that this was discussed at the Cowal Transport Forum this morning. Police Scotland are going to increase the number of Speed Checks in the Cowal area, Including along Alexandria Parade. The secretary pointed out, that these checks needed to be more frequent and in different locations along the road. DC asked if he could get a report that covered last years Cowal Games. PC Cunningham will investigate and report back to the secretary. DC briefly spoke about the CalMac service on the Cowal Games Saturday and requested figures on violent and alcohol related incidents at last years games. PC Cunningham requested to provide these details.

8. **Action points and updates from previous meetings.**

- a. **Dental Services** – DH gave members an update on the ongoing lack of NHS dentistry in Dunoon. He said that he has written to the Scottish Health Minister and the chair of the HSCP. He believes the Health Minister has raised questions regarding the issue and has requested that he is copied into the response. CM informed members that Argyll Smile are now scaling back the NHS dentistry provision. DC pointed out that this is not an Argyll and Bute Council problem, this is a Scottish Government policy, and until the Scottish Government start to pay the going rates for dentistry, this problem will only get worse.
- b. **Education and Youth Engagement** – This post remains open. DW said that she knows someone who would be interested in being co-opted onto the Community Council and would be interested to take the role. She will liaise with the secretary.

9. **Monthly Reports.** There were monthly reports from the secretary and the transport member. These were distributed to members by email.

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

- a. **Secretary** - The secretary briefly discussed the two surveys that have been undertaken since the last meeting.
The secretary said there had been several complaints, many featuring pavement parking. He asked RM if there were any updates on the proposed planters around the War Memorial and Queens Hall. RM informed members this would be discussed at a meeting this coming Thursday.
The secretary said there had been complaints made that Dunoon Community Council did not attend the recent meeting of Save Cowal's Hills. There was a discussion regarding the position of Dunoon Community Council. Members discussed whether to hold another survey, but it was felt that as there had not been

any change in location or an increase in size and number of turbines, there was no requirement to run another survey. It was agreed that nothing had fundamentally changed with the proposal, and we would maintain a neutral position regarding the Giants Burn Wind Farm proposal.

b. **Treasurer** - The treasurer said that there was no formal statement this month, work commitments have taken priority over past couple of weeks. He informed members of the current balances in our bank accounts and covered recent transactions. The secretary asked what is being done about the money in the savings that was raised for the play park. There was a discussion as to what the money could be used for. The secretary is to establish the wording of the appeal and contact Hugh O'Neil regarding the distribution of the money.

c. **Transport** - The Transport member said that as there were no questions raised regarding his report, he would take it as all members were happy with what was reported, and he will carry on with his tasks. Members were advised that, if there were any concerns, they should be raised directly with DC rather than wait until a meeting.

DC also updated members on the Cowal Transport Forum that happened earlier. He told members that there is an issue with the new SPT cards, He also wanted to point out that Dunoon Community Council never agreed to the 3-sailing reduction on the CalMac service, this was thrust upon us by Transport Scotland, what Dunoon Community Council has agreed to, is which of the sailings were to be cancelled. DC spoke about complaints being received about people cycling on pavements, particularly in Argyll Street.

DC spoke about the timetable changes to CalMac service coming into effect on the 19th August 2025 and hoped there would be a joint announcement between Scotrail, CalMac and West Coast Motors regarding the changes.

DC said that the free travel for under 22's on the Dunoon/Gourock route was discussed.

DC advised members that Scotrail have announced that from 01st September, all tickets will be charged at off peak rates and there will no longer be a difference between peak and off-peak tickets.

DH also pointed out that the CalMac service will continue to be a single vessel service until the end of September.

LM said she was concerned about the service and cancelled sailings on Friday 29th August. DC said that CalMac still have not released their plans for sailings over the Cowal Games weekend.

d. **Emergency Resilience** – PG requested that DC provide any information he has on the ERP.

PG also said that he has received the information regarding the drains from Argyll & Bute Council.

PG requested that the secretary put a post on social media telling people to contact us regarding us regarding faults. The secretary said this was not feasible as this would make Dunoon Community Council responsible. He said that in the past he has put up posts on how to use the report is page and would do a fresh post.

PG said the damaged bench that formally belonged to Loch Lomond and Trossachs park is now being repaired by Dunoon Grammar School at no cost to Dunoon Community Council.

PG said that the railings around the Highland Mary statue required planning permission to repair/repaint. There was a discussion regarding whether this should be done by Dunoon Community Council. DH said that this would need the appropriate permissions as the statue and surrounding area is a listed monument but would forward PG the relevant paperwork needed. The convener said that if the objective was to create a noise around the state of the railings, that was fine but said that this was not really within our remit and if there was a cost involved, this would need to be formally voted on. It was suggested that PG contact Claire Hallybone from CARS for guidance. PG was requested to provide full details of the project, clearly stating what is required and costings.

- e. **Planning/Licencing** – YL updated members on current planning and licencing applications. There were no objections raised.
- f. **Health & Social Care** – The convener reported that there was only one matter that had arisen, this involved Cragroy and ACHA. Cragroy are looking to employ staff without NVQ qualifications as they are struggling to recruit staff. DC attended a recent meeting with staff and residents.

10. New Business:

- a. **Lack of ATMs.** The secretary spoke several complaints raised recently where residents have complained about the lack of access to cash. There are currently four ATM sites in Dunoon, but these are often out of cash, especially at weekends. It was agreed that there was very little that the Council could do, however, Councillors agreed to push for a Banking Hub, but they warned that due to Dunoon having a bank, it would be unlikely that we would get one. DH said that national statistics show an increase in use of cash, especially in rural areas. The secretary will write to each of the ATM providers to highlight the issue and request they fill the machines more regularly.

11. Updates from Argyll and Bute Councillors:

The convener extended her congratulations to Councillor Daniel Hampsey in achieving a “First” in his degree in History and Politics.

- a. Councillor Forrest said she has only just returned to work after a period of absence and is busy catching up and dealing with local case work. She said that she is awaiting the results of the School exams.

- b. Councillor Hampsey said that he has been busy with local case work and also the Cowal Transport Forum. He said he has had meetings regarding the bus service and the ferry service.
- c. Councillor Moreland said that he to had been on leave and is now returning to local case. In addition to this, he has attended several meetings in his capacity as Harbour Board Chairman. He will be attending meeting this week to discuss the planters around the Queens Hall and on the War Memorial. He also has a meeting with the developed building the AI farm in Toward.

12. Questions to Argyll and Bute Councillors.

- a. The secretary said that Key Housing have a four-bedroom property on Queen Street. The rent for the property is being paid for by Argyll and Bute Council and has been for past 18 month, however the house is empty as they are still waiting for funding to be released to complete the renovation and bring it up to standard. This house is to be used for respite for families with disabled people. There is a sever lack of respite in Argyll and Bute. The secretary said he was appalled that there was a facility sat there but isn't being used because funding has been agreed but not released. Councillor Moreland said that he would investigate and report back to the secretary.
- b. CM said that recently the issue regarding Tryst change of use planning application. He said recently there had been a new Facebook page set up to protest illegal immigrants being housed in Dunoon. He said there had been several threats made against the building, including to burn it down. He also said that the new owner of the former Hunters Quay Hotel, is seriously considering not moving to Dunoon because of similar threats. He said that several objections have been raised regarding the Tryst change of use where the owner wishes to convert the building into high end air BnB. Councillor Moreland condemned the threats and reminded everyone that they should not be feeding these rumours. PC Cunningham said that threats made would be a criminal offence and investigated accordingly. CM said that the treats were taken down. Councillor Forrest said that planning applications are decided on the structure of the building, not the future plans for the building. CM asked would the objections have any effect on the application, Councillor Forrest said that it may be decided at officer level, however if there are a significant number of objections, it is possible it may go to full planning committee.

13. Any other business:

- a. PG suggested signage pointing out where the town centre shopping and other areas of the town are when you come of Western Ferries to direct people to the town. It was pointed out that there are several signs already in place and to place a new sign up would need to be done in liaison with Hunters Quay Community Council.
- b. DC pointed out that the free car park at the Coal Pier is yet again closed. This has been closed for the Revival Weekend by Dunoon Presents. It was pointed out that the section where people are required to pay is still open. It was suggested that

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when the free section is closed. The remainder of the car park should be made free for the duration of the closure.

- c. Councillor Moreland spoke about the recent article in the local paper regarding Dunoon Presents. He said that he personally supports the idea of a BID (Business Improvement District) but is shocked and concerned that the BID manager has not released the spreadsheets showing the figures he has claimed. He said that there are still unanswered questions regarding the amount of money generated into the local economy by hosting these events. He mentioned the pump track that has been promised for past 10 years but is still to materialise. DC said that he thought the purpose of this term was to move away from being event focused and move into improving the town but has yet to see any evidence of this. Councillor Moreland said that one of the letters he received said that this BID term was to focus on town improvements and nothing seems to be getting done. The secretary said that Dunoon Community Council were approached by Dunoon Presents for a comment to be included in the article, however this was received whilst the secretary was on leave, and the paper had already published the article.

14. Questions from the Public:

There were no questions from the public.

The Convener thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 2100hrs. The next meeting will be held on Monday the 08th September 2025, 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

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Melissa Stewart
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