



Dunoon Community Council

Meeting of the Dunoon Community Council held in Queen's Hall, Dunoon on Monday 9th June 2025.

Community Councillors Present:

Tom McCowan (TMc) (Secretary)
Lindsey McPhail (LM)
Paul Graysmark

Debz Wright (DR)
Abigail Apps (AA)

Via Teams:

David Clough (DC)

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)

Apologies:

Gill Robertson (GR) Convener
Tom Warren (TW) (Vice-Convener)
John Jameson (JJ)

Tim Moss (TM) Treasurer
Yvonne Love (YL)
Councillor Audrey Forrest (AF)

1. Tom McCowan (Secretary) opened the meeting at 1930hrs and welcomed everyone to the meeting. He also welcomed those attending on-line. The secretary 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 August 2025 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:

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 12th May 2025.

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

Proposed: DW

Seconded: LM

For (3)

Against (0)

Abstained (3)

Result: Passed.

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

a. Resignation –

6. **Presentations** – The secretary discussed inviting Ann Campbell from DCDT to provide an update on the local place plan at our next meeting.

7. **Police Report** – No issues were raised. DC requested to look for any trends forming from previous Police Reports.

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 is still waiting for an official response. AA asked if the strain on the HSCP is having any effect on the lack of dental services. DH said that he couldn't say for certain. He will push for an official response and hopefully report back at the next meeting. Members discussed the lack of services in Dunoon, all of which DH will feed back. It was pointed out that this is a national issue and not just local to Dunoon. LM pointed out that this is having a detrimental effect on the children's education, because children are being taken out of school for a whole day to attend appointments, rather than for half an hour. DH will provide an update at the next meeting.
- b. Ferry Service Reduction Survey – DC gave members a briefing on the recent ferry service reduction survey that was conducted by Dunoon Community Council and noted that the lack of response could be down to people being fed up with the ferry service. The consensus was that people did not want the morning or evening sailings to be changed and that any changes should be concentrated to the middle of the day in one block. DC was thanked for his enduring efforts with the ferries.

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. The secretary asked for volunteers to take the lead on Education/Youth Engagement and the Emergency Resilience Planning. PG volunteered to take the lead on the Emergency Resilience Planning.

Proposal. Paul Graysmark to take the lead with the Emergency Resilience Planning

Proposed: TM

Seconded: LM

For (6)

Against (0)

Abstained (0)

Result: Passed.

- c. The secretary discussed changing the agenda around to allow members of the public to participate early on, rather than wait until the end. This was discussed and it was agreed to keep the meetings as they are, however, the convener may elect to allow members of the public to speak if appropriate. Members of the public can write to the secretary and request an item be added to the agenda. AA suggested that the screen be moved behind the top table to allow members of the public to see what is going on. The secretary agreed that this could work as the convener and secretary can see the screen on the laptop. This will be implemented at the next meeting.

- d. DC provided an additional update on the bus service along the shore road that was discussed last month. He has spoken with the Council and West Coast Motors, and it is feasible to divert one of the current services (Possibly the 480 service) to run along the Shore Road through Hunters Quay, Kirn and into Dunoon. This now needs to be approved by the Transport Commissioner and will take approximately 3 months. It is likely that these changes will come into effect when the winter timetable starts in October.
- e. DC Spoke about the proposed bus service from Dunoon to Glasgow, reset following on from the recent survey there seems to be a lack of desire for a bus service as most people would continue to use the Scotrail train service from Gourock to Glasgow. Himself and Alan Livingston will look and to these figures in more depth and report back. Members also expressed their concerns regarding parking the two western ferry terminals. Concerns were also raised regarding this service being totally at the mercy of Gordon Ross who has already stated he would not give this service any priority. Questions were raised how this service would keep to the timetable especially when the holiday village is emptying and there is a queue of traffic. AA said that she was concerned that by providing this service this would put the entire CalMac service at risk of being removed. DC informed members that the Cal Mac ferry service currently costs Transport Scotland in excess of £9k per day, compared to £3k per day to run a bus service. This is not something we would do by ourselves, and we would meet to get community backing for this. DC Said that he appreciated people's concerns but pointed out that this process would not be an overnight fix and would take a long time and an awful lot of work to do, however, Transport Scotland and Cal Mac have done nothing over the years to fix the broken service. He also pointed out that Alan Stewart and Mike Breslin have already started the community asset transfer.
- f. DC Raised concerns that Dunoon Presents maybe passing on information to businesses that is different from what is in the Argyll Rally information packs. CM said that the paper normally gets a printout of what roads are being closed and when they are being closed to publish in the paper, but that has not happened this year.
- g. PG said he is having issues with getting a response to his FOI regarding the drains. RM asked for details and would contact relevant departments as this should not be happening. A new FOI has been sent to the Roads and Amenities Dept via the secretary.
- h. PG gave an update on his current projects.

10. New Business:

- a. Holy Loch Nature Reserve. The secretary spoke about the holy book nature reserve and its attempts to obtain the parcel of land that was previously occupied by the council's roads and amenities department. The Holy Loch Nature Reserve is asking for letters of support from local community organisations. The secretary said he

would be happy to write a letter of support if members agreed. This was agreed the secretary will write a letter of support to the holy Loch nature reserve.

11. Updates from Argyll and Bute Councillors:

- a. Councillor Moreland, like usual has been busy with local case work. He said that concerns have been raised about the Argyll Hotel extending their beer garden into Argyll Gardens. This is all above board and has been approved. Concerns have also been raised regarding the rendering being put on the old crown buildings. This is now being investigated by the Council. He is planning to hold a meeting with the harbour team in near future.
- 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.

12. Questions to Argyll and Bute Councillors.

- a. FT said that it was reported in last week's paper that the HSCP budget is under review and cuts will have to be made. She raised several concerns, having been both a care provider and a care receiver, she is extremely concerned that any cuts will have a detrimental effect on both staffing and the care received. Councillor Moreland responded and said the issue with staffing lies with the pay. If carers were paid properly, there would not need to pay agency staff which is draining the budget. He said that several suggestions are being put forward on how to reduce the budget without having a significant impact on the care provided. He said that nothing has been decided at this point. He did warn members that this is not just an Argyll and Bute issue, It's a national problem.
- b. CM asked that in the light of the recent redundancies announced by Live Argyll, will the Council be providing any extra funding to offset these redundancies. Councillor Moreland said he can not comment on this now; however the Council will step up and protect Live Argyll.
- c. CM said that Paul Lambert who is the current Harbour Master is retiring and there is no plan to replace him. He said that all Dunoon Harbour Master duties are now being transferred to Rothesay, this is the first time Dunoon has not had its own dedicated Harbour Master. Councillor Moreland said he would investigate this further and report back.
- d. CM asked what is going on with the parking bays in and around Dunoon. They have now become so bad that people are not adhering to them because they know the parking attendant can not take any action. He has heard that the Council has purchased a new line painting vehicle. Councillor Moreland said that the Council has indeed purchased a brand-new line painting vehicle and that the operators are currently been trained up to use it. He also pointed out that there is an issue with the TRO, but this is being addressed.

- e. The secretary asked what is happening with the planters that were promised for the area around the Queens Hall and the War Memorial. He said that this issue was first raised over three years ago, and the planters were promised in October. Councillor Moreland will chase this up. The secretary said the simple solution to the dangerous parking around this area would be to have the parking attendant work in the evenings randomly during the month, he would then be able to target parking hotspots such as the Queens Hall, Church Street and Queen Street. Once a few tickets are issued. People will soon stop parking irresponsibly.
- f. CM asked if the Council would take an urgent look at Milton Road. He said that the road is becoming extremely dangerous with HGV's going up and down this very narrow road, there is substantial damage to the pavements where the large vehicles are cutting the corners because the road is so narrow. There have already been injuries because of the damage. He and the residents are asking for an urgent review and hope the road can be turned into a one-way street with no parking. He said it is a miracle nobody has been hurt, but it is only a matter of time. Councillor Moreland will speak with the roads team and report back.

13. Any other business:

14. Questions from the Public:

- a. FT asked if there were any updates on the planning application for the building that was previously occupied by Tyrist. She said that that was concerns locally that the building would be used to house illegal immigrants. She said that she was under the impression that the building would be used along similar lines to the current Caledonian Hotel where it is a homeless shelter. RM said that as far as he knows, the plan would be to increase homeless accommodation in the area. DC Said that he would make further enquiries. The secretary pointed out that Argyll and Bute Council currently use the Caledonian Hotel and Bedford House in Dunoon as homeless shelters, these are at capacity and the Council are now having to use the Royal Marine Hotel. There is a desperate need for homeless accommodation in Dunoon. There was a discussion amongst members about the pros and cons of the location and proposal.
- b. CMD said that there is an issue with the school busses on Thursdays and Fridays where the Grammar School finishes early, the busses are late in returning to collect the children at Kirn Primary to take them home to Innellan. She asked if there was anything that could be done. It was pointed out that very little could be done as the parents have chosen to send their children to a school outside of their catchment area and the parents should contact South Cowal Community Council who can then take the issue further.

The Secretary thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 2040hrs. The next meeting will be held on Monday the 11^h August 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

Cllr Forrest

Cllr Hampsey

Melissa Stewart

Police Scotland

Chris Martin (Observer)

Queens Hall Reception

Library

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