

Dunoon Community Council

**Meeting of the Dunoon Community Council held in Queen’s Hall, Dunoon on Monday 09th September 2024.**

Present:

Gill Robertson (GR) (Convener) Tom McCowan (TMc) (Secretary) Amanda Graham (AG) (Treasurer) David Clough (DC)

Lindsey McPhail (LM) Paul Graysmark (PG)

Via Teams:

Timothy Moss (TM)

ABC Councillors Attending: Dunoon Observer:

Councillor Ross Moreland (RM) Chris Martin (CM)

Councillor Daniel Hampsey (DH)

Invited Guests:

Frauke Thornton (FT)

Members of the Public: Police Scotland:

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

Members of the public:

Craig Young (CY)

Apologies:

Tom Warren (Vice-Convener) Abigail Apps (AA)

Bobby Good (BG) Yvonne Love (YL)

Councillor Audrey Forrest (AF)

1. Gill Robertson (Convener Elected) opened the meeting at 1900hrs and welcomed everyone to the meeting. He 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 11th November 2024 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. GR I wish to thank the secretary for his efforts on producing the minutes from the previous meeting.
2. **Recording of members attending and apologies received.**

As Above:

1. **Declaration of Interest**.

Gill Robertson – Board of Trustees – Dunoon Food Bank

Amanda Graham –

Councillor Daniel Hampsey – Argyll & Bute Council Planning Committee

Frauke Thornton – Board of Trustees – Dunoon Food Bank

1. **Minutes of previous meeting were discussed**. There were no corrections or alterations made. The secretary informed members that the recording from last month's meeting had significant interference, this was caused by the three Bluetooth microphones, the fans that were in operation in the hall and the size of the hall itself. This made the recording impossible to hear and it required 35 hours off audio cleaning before the minutes could be taken. He told members that he has recorded as accurately as possible however there were sections that were inaudible, these have been identified in the minutes. DC confirmed the state of the recording.

**Proposal. The minutes from the previous meeting are correct and bear a true reflection of the Dunoon Community Council Meeting held on Monday 09th September 2024.**

**Proposed: TM Seconded: AG**

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

*3 x abstentions due to not being at previous meeting. Secretary abstained as normal due to writing the minutes.*

1. **Appointments/Resignations/New Members**.

The following resigned their positions as Officers of Dunoon Community Council, however they would remain members.

* 1. Tom Warren – Convener
  2. Bobby Good – Vice – Convener

**Proposal. To accept the resignation of Tom Warren as Convener of Dunoon Community Council.**

**Proposed: TMc Seconded: AG**

**For (6) Against (0) Abstained (1) Result: Passed.**

**Proposal. To accept the resignation of Bobby Good as Vice - Convener of Dunoon Community Council.**

**Proposed: TMc Seconded: AG**

**For (7) Against (0) Abstained (0) Result: Passed.**

Nominations for the role of Convener of Dunoon Community Council were:

Gillian Robertson

Nominations for the role of Vice-Convener of Dunoon Community Council were:

Tom Warren

**Proposal. To elect Gillian Robertson as Convener of Dunoon Community Council with immediate effect.**

**Proposed: TMc Seconded: AG**

**For (7) Against (0) Abstained (0) Result: Passed.**

**Proposal. To elect Tom Warren as Vice - Convener of Dunoon Community Council with immediate effect.**

**Proposed: TMc Seconded: AG**

**For (7) Against (0) Abstained (0) Result: Passed.**

The secretary noted thanks to the outgoing convener and vice convener for their stewardship and guidance to Dunoon Community Council during their tenure.

1. **Police Report** – No Police report received.

**Action Point (s):** The secretary to speak with Inspector Simonis to get reports for September and October.

1. Presentations - No presentation were given this month.
2. **Action points and updates from previous meetings.** 
   1. Giants Burn Wind Farm - the results of the Giants Burn Wind Farm survey that was conducted by Dunoon Community Council between May and September this year were made available to those present. The results were very surprising especially for those residents in Dunoon that had responded. There were only a couple of percentage points difference in the results. The secretary explained that the survey was split down into community council districts and those for the Dunoon were extracted. The results were discussed amongst those who were present. There was a feeling that questions were not answered by StatKraft at the last meeting, it was also felt that there was a lack of information. It was pointed out that the lack of information was partly due to there not being detailed planning yet and this may be forthcoming once the application is ready for submission. It was suggested that after Statkraft give their next presentation another survey be commissioned to gauge public opinion once all the information has been made available. That was a considerable amount of time spent discussing the transportation and construction of the turbines as this seemed to be a major issue following on from last month's meeting. The convener pointed out that the lines of communication must be kept open between Dunoon Community Council and Statkraft. The survey results do not give a clear indication on public opinion as it is split right down the middle and therefore it would be wrong for Dunoon Community Council to take a side as we are elected to represent the entire community. The secretary said that he had also collated the results for Kilmun Community Council. He said that their results were in stark contrast to ours and their residents had clearly voted to reject the proposal.

**Action Point (s):**

The secretary to publicise the results on our website.

The secretary to continue to liaise with Statkraft and pass on information as required.

The secretary to distribute the results off the survey to StatKraft.

* 1. PG give members an update on the bench refurbishments. There are now two benches that have been completed, one has already been installed and the second is awaiting installation. There are 6 benches awaiting renovation and this will be carried out over the next couple of months. The cost of the refurbishment is approximately £400. PG has provided all members with a detailed breakdown of costs. It was agreed with CM to get this advertised in the local paper. PG described the issues he was facing trying to get the benches refurbished. The biggest issues seemed to be like off volunteers. He is now working with the community payback team who are assisting and allowing him to use their premises.

**Action Point (s):**

PG to provide all receipts to the treasurer.

PG to submit photographs to the secretary for inclusion on to the website.

PG to write a short article for the newspaper.

**Proposal. Dunoon Community Council spend no more than £400 on the refurbishment of the 10 benches identified in need of refurbishment.**

**Proposed: TMc Seconded: AG**

**For (7) Against (0) Abstained (0) Result: Passed.**

1. **Monthly Reports.**
   1. **Conveners Report** – The convener did not give a report due to only taking over the role. The previous convener has not submitted a report.
   2. **Secretary & Community Engagement Report** - the secretary spoke about the statistics for the website. He also said that the website renewal fees were due. This is £187.06 inclusive off VAT. The secretary also spoke about the annual best dressed property competition. The convener and the treasurer along with their grandchildren will be this year's judges. Judging will take place on the weekend of the 13th of December 2024. Timings to be confirmed. Do not make a mess the secretary also about the Christmas markets on the 23rd and 30th of November. Stall has been booked for 23rd off November. The secretary spoke about the 2024 Dunoon Poppy Appeal. He informed members of the dates and locations of the stalls. He also informed members that the Poppy Appeal will have a stall at the autumn market on the 26th of October. The secretary then covered the diary until the end of this year.

**Proposal. Dunoon Community Council pay the renewal fee on an annual basis for our website. The cost of the website for this year is £187.06**

**Proposed: TMc Seconded: AG**

**For (7) Against (0) Abstained (0) Result: Passed.**

**Proposal. Dunoon Community Council Purchase £75 in vouchers from Dunoon Presents as prizes for the best dressed property competition.**

**Proposed: TMc Seconded: AG**

**For (7) Against (0) Abstained (0) Result: Passed.**

* 1. **Treasurers Report** - the treasurer informed members that the main bank account currently has £6462.29 and the saving account which holds the ring-fenced money for the play park has£745.39. The treasurer said that she is concerned with the spending. The treasurer informed members that we are rapidly going through the operational grant which is used for the day-to-day running off the community council. She asked all members to be vigilant of this when putting in requests for funding. She explained what the operational grant could be used for. She said that she is aware there has been heavy spending on things like the website and to purchase our equipment which should last for several years and hopes the spending will curtail in the future. The treasurer reminded everyone that all financial records are available to everyone on the shared drive. The treasurer spoke about a letter that she has recently received from the bank asking about tax liabilities etc. She said that she has never came across this before and has contacted the bank who could not help. She asked for permission to engage the services of Ian Reed who did our audits for advice. It was agreed that she could speak with Ian Reed.
  2. **Transport Report** - DC said that he had been extremely busy over the past couple of months. He has attended numerous meetings regarding the Cal Mac ferries where they are trying to adjust the timetable, so it has better connection times with the trains and local buses. These meetings have included the transport secretary from the Scottish Government and our local MSP. DC then discussed the survey that had been conducted recently where the overwhelming majority chose option 3C which was for better connectivity in the mornings and early evenings. He also mentioned that ScotRail have recently changed their timetables, he said he is now investigating how this affects all our bus services. DH said that he has told Cal Mac not to adjust their timetables until it is known what West Coast Motors are doing with their timetable. There have also been meetings the local community councils where the ferries have been discussed. In addition to this he has also held meetings where they are investigating the practicalities of laying on a bus service from Dunoon pier through to Glasgow by using the subsidies given by the Scottish Government to Cal Mac. FT expressed her concern about disabled access to the buses if this was to go ahead. Concern was also raised about the removal of the ferry service. It was pointed out that this is still only at discussion stages. DC spoke about the results of the ferry survey that was conducted on behalf of the Cowal Ferry Group. He asked if the results could be published on our website. DC said that he has had several meetings with Richard Hadfield (Ferries Strategy, Transport Scotland he said that the focus from Cal Mac is a single vessel service due to financial constraints. DC said that there are real concerns over the statistics produced by Cal Mac regarding the footfall on the service. Discussions were held about the way Cal Mac have gathered their information regarding the footfall on the Dunoon to Gourock route. DC said that he has requested Transport Scotland gather this information from Cal Mac. The consensus is that, to get a better service Cal Mac will require a bigger boat, once they have a bigger and more reliable boat, the numbers are likely to increase. DC said that Transport Scotland accept that reliability is suppressing demand for the service, and this will not improve until the service improves. DC Said that during the meeting he was informed that evidence supports the requirement of a ferry service, what shape this service will take is unknown. DC requested permission to write to Transport Scotland regarding the data provided being flawed. Discussions were held on the merits of holding a public styled meeting with Transport Scotland regarding the ferry service. This idea was dismissed until further options have been laid out. DC then clarified current and future tasks that he will be working on. CY pointed out that one of the questions he raised at the public meeting was regarding the passenger numbers that had been made public where Cal Mac confirmed that these were accurate numbers taken from the clicker as passengers board the vessels. The treasurer also asked for clarification on the numbers. When passengers are redirected to western ferries during times when the ferries are cancelled and given free tickets, are these number also taken into consideration? CM asked if this community council had been approached by members of the South Cowal Community Council regarding these issues. DC pointed out that there is no new ferry group called the “Cowal Ferry Group” where members from each community council on the Cowal Peninsula attend regular meetings were this is discussed. DC was given approval by Dunoon Community Council to continue with his investigations and proposals. A short discussion took place on the merits of having island status.

**Action Point (s):**

DC to clarify statistics regarding passenger numbers and how they are obtained.

DC to write to Transport Scotland regarding figures provided.

* 1. **Play Area Redevelopment** - the treasurer gave a brief update on the status of the play park redevelopment. She said that there would be more details given next month when she will give the community council a full briefing. A go-fund-me page has now been created and has been publicised on social media platforms. More grant applications will now be submitted. Members were informed of current and previous grant applications and their status. All equipment proposals submitted by the manufacturers are now available on our shared drive. The treasurer wished to thank the Dunoon Community Development Trust as they have been invaluable with their assistance.
  2. **Planning & Licencing** – The secretary said there were no updates provided from YL. The proposal for Argyll Street where they plan to erect new shops, a hot food takeaway and guest accommodation was discussed. There were numerous opinions expressed with the pros and cons discussed. DCC would not raise any objections and if members wished to do so in a private capacity, then they would be free to do so. The expiry date for objections is 14th October 2024.
  3. **Education** – TM (Via Teams) thanked Argyll and Bute council on their recent social media campaign for free courses for those on benefits or low incomes.
  4. **Infrastructure and redevelopment** - PG set on a recent visit to the Castle Gardens and the Highland Mary statue he noted that little change had been made in the past year and the defects reported have not been rectified. He said that he has also visited Argyll Street where there are several shop fronts that are in desperate need of a lick of paint. PG was reminded that the shop frontages are private properties and therefore neither Dunoon Community Council nor Argyll and Bute council had any legal powers to enforce them to re-paint their shop frontages as they are private property and not under public ownership. There was a discussion regarding the CARS scheme and that several properties did not participate due to the restrictions being imposed such as the colour of the shop frontage etc. PG was reminded of a meeting that happened at the highland Mary statue where he was advised to follow up with relevant parties. To date this has not happened. It was also pointed out that there had some been some work carried out on and around the Highland Mary statue in the past couple of days. It was noted that there are a couple of gardeners who are working to improve the appearance of castle gardens. This is being done in their own time and by using plants donated by members of the public.

1. **New Business:**
   1. **Emergency Resilience Planning Review -** DC recently attended an online webinar regarding emergency resilience planning. He said that in comparison to other areas our resilience plan is good. Additional work is required, and this will be completed over the next couple of months. One point that did come from the webinar was communication where mobile phones may be affected if there is a significant power outage that lasts for any length of time. The use off PMR radios was discussed and will be investigate it further.
   2. **Social Media Content -** the secretary spoke about a recent surge in posts on our social media platforms where people are requesting to post items for sale and job adverts. The secretary said that all posts where items are being sold have been rejected and wanted to clarification for post advertising job vacancies. After a brief discussion it was decided that our social media pages would not allow job adverts nor allow people to advertise items for sale. Our social media sites are for the passage of information from Argyll and Bute council and other statutory bodies. That was no issue in supporting local events or charities but would be decided on a case-by-case basis. The secretary informed members that he is admin on several of the largest local Facebook groups, this allows us to get information passed to the widest possible audience whilst monitoring and moderating the comments some of which are rather disturbing.
2. **Updates from Argyll and Bute Councillors:**
   1. Daniel Hampsey – Has been busy with local case work and committee tasks.
   2. Ross Moreland – Has been busy with local case work and committee tasks.
3. **Any other business:**
   1. LM asked if there was any update on the Dunoon project? TW is the lead for this project. This will be added to next month's agenda. CM said that they have contacted the Dunoon project and heard nothing back. There were several public meetings scheduled to happen, but these have all been cancelled to date.

**Action Point (s):**

TW to provide an update at the next meeting.

1. **Questions from the Public:**
   1. CY asked about safety barriers along the West Bay pointing out that the drop between the promenade and the shingle beach is now quite significant and could potentially cause a hazard.

**Action Point (s):**

RM requested to investigate and report back.

* 1. CM asked if the CARs project is still running. RM informed him that the project has not received any additional funding. There is still a little left which Claire Hallybone is using to finish off projects such as the Dunoon bothy in the Castle Gardens

The Convener thanked everyone for attending. The next meeting will be held on Monday the 11th of November 2024 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

Police Scotland

Chris Martin (Observer)

Queens Hall Reception

Library

DCC Facebook page

DCC Website

Michael Burke (SCH)

Brendan O’Hara MP

Jenni Minto MSP

Cllr Sinclair

South Cowal Community Council

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Iain Robertson

Ruth Semple