Dunoon Community Council

September 2026 Meeting Minutes

Meeting at 7pm 10th September in the Argyll Suite, The Queens Hall, Dunoon

1. **Opening address by Gill Robertson, (Convener), (chair)** An audio recording of this meeting is being made for compiling the minutes. This recording will be destroyed once the minutes are approved. If anyone present does not wish their contributions to be recorded in this way for publication in the minutes, they should remain silent during the meeting, or leave the room now thanks. *Also, please do not talk over others, as it interferes with the recording*.

   Can everyone also please remember to sign in on either the **visitors form** or the **regular and invited attendee**s form, as appropriate.

2. **Dunoon Community Councillors Present**
   Gill Robertson (GR) – Convener; Eric Owen (EO) – Secretary; Anne Robertson MBE (AR) – Treasurer; Tom McCowan (TM); David Clough (DC);Kay Denman (KD); R Dingwall (RD); Yvonne Love (YL); Will Morlan (WM);

   Argyll & Bute Councillors Attending
   Cllr Ross Moreland (RM); Cllr. Daniel Hampsey(DH),-

   Non voting Members Present
   Chris Martin (CM), Dunoon Observer

   Members of the Public
   None in attendance

   Apologies
   Police Scotland; Frauke Thornton; Debz Wright; Tom Warren; Cllr Audrey Forrest

   Declarations of Interest
   YL – none
   RD – none
   WM - none
   KD – Chair & Sec of Senior Citizens Club, Dep Session Clerk Kirn Kirk
   TM - Trustee of Food Bank
   DC - Hon local rep of Cruising Association Memb. Dunoon Community Shed, Development

Approved

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Trust, Memb. The Dunoon Project, Assists with Dunoon Presents.
EO – Memb Dunoon Community Shed
GR – Food Bank Trustee, V.P. Inner Wheel
AR – Food Bank Trustee

3. **Minutes of previous meeting,** from 10th August 2026,were taken as read.

Motion to accept the minutes as a true reflection of the previous meeting

Proposed By: - TM **Seconded By: -AR**

Votes For:- 5 Against:- Abstain:- 4 **Passed**

4. **Minutes of the inaugural meeting,** from 24th August 2026 were taken as read

EO advised that we had had a letter from the council indicating that the wrong version of the papers for signing at the inaugural meeting had been presented by the council's representative for signature by the incoming office bearers. The correct papers were now to hand and were to be signed by these office bearers. This action was completed at the close of the meeting.

Motion to accept the presented minutes as a true reflection of the inaugural meeting

Proposed By: - **EO** **Seconded By: -DC**

Votes For:- 7 Against:- Abstain:- 2 **Passed**.

5. **New Members/Appointments/Resignations**
Two potential new members have been in contact but names were withheld until more formal contact is made.

6 **Police update** –
A report isattached

7 **Presentation**
Jonathan Speed of Argyll and Bute Council's presentation has been cancelled for the present but he will keep in contact with a view to making a presentation in the future, perhaps to a smaller group of DCC representatives.

8 **Office bearer's Reports**

Convener's Report – GR
Nothing minuteable

Secretary's Report – EO
1. New member possibilities as above

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2. A letter on hand from a person who was working on a renewable energy contract. The meeting suggested that Tom Warren be advised, since he (TW) is associated with Cowal Community Energy.
   EO to action.
3. TM asked to produce a list of software, and/or subscriptions which are payed by him or shared with DCC.
   TM to produce list.
   EO/DCC to arrange for amendment of arrangements to ease TM transition away from secretarial responsibilities.

Treasurer' Report – AR
Presented monthly accounts were discussed.

Motion to accept the financial statement as correct subject to annual audit.

Proposed By: - TM **Seconded By: -YL**

Votes For:- 8 Against:- Abstain:- 1 AR **Passed**

(The Financial Report is available on the Shared Drive)

9 Discussion and election of specialist briefs for Dunoon Community Council members.

BRIEF	**ELECTED**
a.Transport /Argyll Rally -	DC

DC spoke to his report. In addition he advised that South Cowal Community Council had contacted him with the view that they would never support the Bus Consultation since they felt that they would never get a car ferry back if there were a bus shuttle service. DC advised that a shuttle bus service was rated highly by most of the respondents to his recent ferry survey, irrespective of their community council area and therefore that the views of SCCC should not alter his ongoing discussions with interested parties as DCC Transport Lead. The meeting agreed that DC should continue to discuss a bus service with interested parties as and when that topic arose.

b.Emergency Resilience Planning	TW
c.Planning & Licensing	YL
d.Education & Youth Engagement	Vacant
e.Infrastructure	
f.Public Health & Social Care	GR
g.Community Council Liaison –	TW
h.Environmental	DW
i.BID –	Contact with Colin Moulson to be reactivated
j.DCDT -	TW is chair

The last two require discussion on reactivation of reporting

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10 New Business

a) Rearrangement of time for public questions(DC)

DC spoke on this issue, which he had raised some time ago after attending another meeting where questions from the floor were taken earlier than is the DCC practice. In discussion which followed the meeting decided by agreement move **Questions from the Public** to an earlier position in DCC Meeting Agenda to spare the public having to listen through procedural issues, etc., before their chance to speak. **EO to implement this in the October agenda**.

b) West Bay Moorings Project(TM)

TM spoke on the Mooring Project largely to establish that this project will be subject to reporting separately from secretarial issues, and also to report that it is progressing satisfactorily. Future Mooring Project reports will be tabled as required and the Project will be added to the standing agenda for meetings. **EO to add The West Bay Moorings Project**

c) Cowal Gathering/Sunset Ceremony(KD)

KD reported on her own observations and referenced a letter she had received advising that the solemnity of the Sunset Ceremony especially a lone piper playing a tribute, were spoilt by the loud music emanating from the fairground, which is in close proximity. No immediate fix was suggested but it was felt that it would be good to know for future reference whether Dunoon Presents had advised the contractor for the fairground of a need for silence during the lone piper's performance. **EO to contact Dunoon Presents for information**.

d) School Bus Contract issue(DC)

DC advised this topic was covered in his report.

e) Seeking of new younger members. (TM,TW)

There was general discussion around this topic but no definitive ideas were tabled to be carried forward.

f) Leaflet Delivery(TM)

TM presented a list of routes in the DCC area, for voluntary distribution of the Resiliance booklet. The task was progressed with routes being chosen by many of those present. The distribution is a big task which continues.

11 Updates from/Questions to Argyll & Bute Councillors

There was considerable discussion between ABC Councillors and DCC Councillors present, largely based around difficulties being experienced by DC in making contact with council operatives to carry forward his brief as DCC Transport Lead. This resulted in no clear way forward being evident and differences of opinion being aired around what level of contact between DCC elected representatives and ABC councillors and their assigned operatives, was acceptable or allowable. This subject was believed to require further discussions around agreed procedures and accepted practices.

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12 AOCB.

13 Questions from the public
There were no members of the public in attendance at the meeting

14 Next meeting – 12th October 2026 at 1900hrs in the Argyll Room, The Queens Hall.

Distribution: {*Via Email*}

All DCC Councillors, Cllr Moreland, Cllr Forrest, Cllr Hampsey, BID Manager, BID Chairman

Chris Martin, Melissa Stewart, Queens Hall Reception, Library, Police Scotland

DCC Facebook page, DCC Website

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Annex A to

Minutes of the meeting held in Queen's Hall

Dunoon on Monday 14th September 2026

Dunoon Community Council

Consolidated Members Reports

Transport

Dunoon Community Council

Transport Report – August 2026

Tasks that have been undertaken since the last meeting.

1. **Following the single vessel timetable announcement from CalMac from September to March 2027 inclusive I've been pressing CalMac for more information on the extension of life works – I've been promised it but nothing received after 7 days.**
2. **Arranged a meeting with Jenni Minto MSP, Stuart McMillan MSP, Chris Wilcock (Director of Ferries and Ports Transport Scotland), possibly Tim Eagle MSP and Neil Bibby MSP, Daniel Hampsey Chair of the Cowal Transport forum, CalMac and CMAL plus a representative from each of South Cowal CC, Strachur CC, ColGlen Cc to discuss the pathway to new vessels.**
3. **Had success in getting further questions asked of Stephen Flynn by MSP's – same response coming back.**
4. **Just haven't had the time to analyse the results, so I turned to AI. See attached demographic of respondents and an Executive Summary of 3 questions in relation why people don't use CalMac.**

Note that the scores for the possible options put forward are as follows;

Rank	Option	Total score	Average score / 10
1	Option 3 – Continue to support CGTL / seek an alternative operator	2,541	6.53
2	Option 4 – Replace existing CalMac service with combined Bus/Ferry service	1,872	4.81
3	Option 5 – Build a bridge	1,510	3.88
4	Option 2 – Await Transport Scotland/Holyrood updates	1,506	3.87
5	Option 6 – Build a tunnel	1,397	3.59
6	Option 1 – Do nothing	802	2.07

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5. **Chris Wilcock is having a 1 to 1 with me post the main meeting to discuss how to progress investigations into the feasibility of the Bus Service replacing the current CalMac service at least for the period of time up to the arrival of fit for purpose vessels. This is purely to understand the process, not how to implement it.**

6. **CalMac Single Vessel service adjusted by 30 minutes from end August and issued press release covering connectivity as the current single vessel service being provided by CalMac did not provide good connectivity with the 489 Bus Service for Toward and Ardentinny and the 484/486/478 services for Strachur. After consultation with South Cowal, Strachur and Ardentinny Community Councils CalMac agreed to adjust the current single vessel service by 30 minutes. Connectivity with Scotrail is not affected.**

7. **The initial analysis of the Ferry responses has highlighted the issue of ferries departing Gourock just as trains arrive (although my argument is they are not connecting services) which is to meet the connections at Dunoon with the 489 and other services. Therefore I've contacted West Coast Motors to see what the implications are of delaying the current 489 timetable by 15 minutes allowing all quarter past the hour train arrivals at Gourock to connect with a 30 minute past the hour CalMac service from Gourock.**

8. **I've been pressing for details on the retendering of the local Bus Services to ensure that the Community Council is involved in drawing up the specification. It appears ABC are not going to do that, instead stating they will draw up a specification, then circulate it for consultation which appears the wrong way round to me.**

9. **Have established that the Bus service contract has been extended until the start of the 2027 academic year in August. This required contact with the David Logan, Head of Legal and Regulatory Support, Argyll and Bute Council before I got a satisfactory response, and my follow up question to Roads and Infrastructure remains unanswered.**

So, to be absolutely clear, insofar as engagement with Community Councils are concerned, once you have the school bus requirement specified you will then consult with the Community Councils prior to the development of any specification for the public bus services.

Any ideas / suggestions about the specification are likely in the case of Cowal Community Councils to come through the Cowal Transport Forum, and that Forum needs to be acknowledged and that appropriate two way communication takes place over the coming months to ensure you have sufficient time to incorporate it into the specification.

I've contacted our 3 ABC Councillors.

Ref my e-mail below dated 31st August to Roads and Infrastructure.

As at today I can find no evidence of a response. In order to get the response I did receive on 31st August (in which my name was spelt incorrectly) I had to get David Logan involved.

What is it about Roads and Infrastructure (Martin Arnold I presume) that makes them believe they can just ignore reasonable requests from Community Councils?

My next step at Monday's meeting of Dunoon Community Council is to request that we make a formal complaint using the ABC procedure.

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***Items requiring discussion/approval from members*.**

1.South Cowal have contacted me expressing concern about the idea of a Bus Service;

"*The community council was unanimous in its view that this was a dreadful idea. Once in place, we think that would mean the permanent end to a town centre to town centre ferry. It would be a gift to Western in their quest to be the monopoly ferry service from this side to Inverclyde. In practical terms, it would also hugely increase the overall journey time to get from here to Glasgow and beyond. A bus service would not be like the bus replacement service because a scheduled bus service would need to stop on demand at every stop between Dunoon Pier and Hunter's Quay, then again from McInroy's Point to Gourock. That was the advice I got from West Coast Motors a few years ago when I asked how this might work. And that assumes we would get a dedicated bus service. In fact, we might end up having to use the 489 service which would add more time to the overall journey*."

I responded;

"……appreciate your comments, but our job is to represent the views of the Dunoon Community. Initial responses to the recent DCC survey indicate strong support for the CAT, but close behind in 2nd place is the bus option. So we will pursue further enquiries as to how it might work, and what support if any TS will provide. Once we have all the required information we will then bring it to the Cowal Transport forum for discussion".

I've had a follow up response going into enormous detail about the issues but have not responded.

I've also asked for an update on the Community Asset Transfer (no response) and I've also made it clear it's an option that needs investigation as it came second in the Ferry Survey.

Do DCC support the investigation of the bus service option?

Do DCC support the sending of a formal complaint about the lack of response from Roads and Infrastructure to requests for clarification on the consultation process for Bus Services.

Do DCC support me sending each Cowal CC and Gourock CC their respondents responses to the Ferry survey (anonymised for GDPR).

Items requiring further action by Transport Lead member.

1. **Analyse the positive and negative responses to the Rally survey (will be using AI again as this is still o/s)**
2. **Circulate each individual CC with their results.**
3. **Further analyse the Ferry Survey responses.**
4. **6 monthly all CC's liaison meeting to ensure we are all together on Transport issues (agreed from penultimate report – still to be actioned).**
5. **Further investigation as to what constitutes an official ABC Committee to get recognition of the Cowal Transport Forum (no action – Daniel dealing?).**
6. **Need to establish timetable for ABC tendering bus services in Cowal and ensure we get Community engagement in the specification.**
7. **Discussions with West Coast Motors as to how we best resolve the connectivity with the CalMac service by adjusting the 489/486/484/478 timetables. Consultation with the Community will be required.**

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Report compiled by: David Clough

Date: 9th September 2026

Approved

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Survey respondent's demographic

Community Council representation of respondents

389 survey respondents by the Community Council area they identified with.

community_council	responses
Dunoon	218
Sandbank (When quorate)	35
Kilmun	29
South Cowal	29
Gourock	22
Hunters Quay	17
Strachur and District	8
Ardentinny	8
Colintrive and Glendarual	3
Kilfinnan	2
Skelmorlie	2
Other / individual areas	16

Aggregated

The survey has a **strongly older respondent profile**:

- **65 or older:** 150 — **38.6%**
- **55–64:** 106 — **27.2%**
- **45–54:** 71 — **18.3%**
- **35–44:** 27 — **6.9%**
- **25–34:** 27 — **6.9%**
- **18–24:** 7 — **1.8%**
- **Under 18:** 1 — **0.3%**

Key finding

256 respondents — almost two-thirds (65.8%) — are aged 55 or over.

And **327 respondents (84.1%) are aged 45 or over.**

Only **35 respondents (9.0%) are under 35**.

What this means for interpreting the survey

This is important context for the overall ferry findings. The survey gives a **strong representation of older members of the community**, while younger age groups are much less represented.

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Executive Summary

The survey responses show that the **Dunoon–Gourock ferry is an important part of the community's transport network**, supporting leisure, shopping, healthcare, employment, education and onward travel by train and bus.

The **dominant concern is reliability**. Repeated cancellations, delays and uncertainty have significantly reduced confidence in the CalMac service. Many respondents have consequently changed their travel habits, choosing **Western Ferries or travelling by road** instead. Poor integration between ferry, rail and bus services is a further significant concern, while cost is a secondary issue.

It is important to recognise that **not everyone who rarely uses CalMac is dissatisfied**. Some respondents simply have little need to make the journey frequently. However, there is clear evidence that others have reduced or stopped using CalMac because they no longer consider it sufficiently reliable or convenient.

There is **no single consensus on the preferred future solution**. Suggestions include improving the existing CalMac service with suitable vessels, greater involvement by Western Ferries, a bus-and-Western model, a return to a vehicle-carrying ferry, and, for some respondents, a bridge or tunnel.

Despite differing views on the solution, there is strong agreement on the **outcomes required**:

- **Reliable** – a service people can depend on.
- **Frequent** – sufficient sailings to meet everyday needs.
- **Well integrated** – coordinated with trains and buses.
- **Affordable** – fares should support regular use.
- **Fit for purpose** – vessels and facilities must be appropriate for Clyde conditions and passenger needs.

Key conclusion

The survey indicates that the issue is **broader than a choice between CalMac and Western Ferries**. The fundamental requirement is for a **dependable, affordable and well-integrated transport connection between Dunoon and Gourock**.

The immediate challenge is to restore confidence in the service and provide a credible long-term solution that reflects the way people actually travel.

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Police Report and Update

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Community Policing Update: September

Good evening, everyone. As we move into September, I am pleased to provide you with this update on our local policing activities. This month represents a time of continued community engagement and proactive initiatives aimed at keeping our area safe. Our focus remains on visibility, strong partnerships, and effective crime prevention strategies.

Looking back at August, I am sure you will all agree it saw one of the busiest Cowal Highland Gathering games in recent years. I can happily report that from a policing perspective, this was remarkably uneventful for our officers, which is fantastic news. While there was one reported disturbance on the Saturday involving a stand-up fight, this was in no way connected to the Cowal Games event itself.

Monthly Activity Summary

For this reporting period, Police Scotland received 181 calls within our local area, reflecting an active month for our teams. Notably, we recorded 31 crime reports, which is down on the previous month. We will continue our targeted enforcement, visible patrols, and preventative work to manage these trends and support the community.

Upcoming Initiatives & Community Events

Our focus is now shifting toward autumn engagement. Planning is officially underway to host a prostate cancer screening event at the Queens Hall with a date confirmed for 30th of October 2026. I have been working directly alongside Prostate Scotland to bring this vital free testing and awareness event to our local area. A Note for the Local Council: We would greatly appreciate any support from the local council in helping us promote this event to ensure we reach as many residents as possible and maximise its impact. More details on how to get involved will be shared as the date approaches.

Priority Focus Areas Our targeted work continues to address key community priorities in collaboration with our partners:

- Antisocial Behaviour Prevention: We are proactively patrolling the streets on foot when resources allow to help reduce ASB. In addition, we are directing extra patrols to Ardentinny beach in response to ongoing antisocial behaviour issues associated with visitors to the area.

- Road Safety: Static speed checks continue to be carried out within Dunoon and the surrounding area to promote safer driving. Additionally, planning is currently underway for road safety inputs at the fire station, with dates to be confirmed shortly.

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