

Southend Community Council
Minutes of Meeting 29th January 2025

Present:

Community Councillors	John Bakes	Convener
	Elizabeth Barbour	Treasurer
	Margaret Bakes	Secretary (outgoing)
	Lorna Bell	Community Councillor (Incoming Secretary)
	Pat Healey	Community Councillor
	Jimmy Umpherston	Community Councillor
	Chris Cox	Community Councillor

Community	John Coffield
	George Hanna
	Jo Hill
	Linda Brannigan
	Michael Healey

Councillor	John Armour	Policy Lead - Roads, Transport and Amenity Services
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1. Welcome.

The Convener welcomed all present and wished everyone well after Storm Eowyn wreaked havoc on the community the previous Friday (26th January).

2. Apologies.

Apologies were received from Comm Cllr June McIntyre and Cllr Jennifer Kean, who sent a detailed Council Report in her absence.

3. Minutes.

The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as a true record. Proposed by Chris Cox and Seconded by Pat Healey.

4. Matters Arising.

Storm Eowyn. The recent storm caused a power outage in Southend and the surrounding area from Friday 26th January. The majority of the village were returned to power late afternoon of Monday 29th January, with the remaining properties getting power by mid-week. The Community Council's Emergency Plan was implemented with Dunaverty Hall opened to the public from Friday, through to Monday. It provided a warm space, soup, hot drinks and shower facilities to the community. SSEN provided a Food-Truck from Sunday. The community spirit shown throughout this event was tremendous, with many Ctte members from Dunaverty Hall and the Community Council and the local community leaning in to help. A leaflet drop prior to winter had

taken place to inform the community of the facilities available should there be a power outage; and some members of the community went door-to-door, checking on neighbours and reminding people of the Hall availability. This worked well as there was a large uptake of the Hall facilities during the power outage.

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Community Council Committee changes. There are a number of changes to the community council, as follows:

- Margaret Bakes stands down as Secretary and Community Councillor. Thanks were given to her dedicated service to the role over the past 2 years and 5 months.
 - Lorna Bell will take over as Secretary.
- June McIntyre has tendered her notice as a Community Councillor. Thanks were also given to her for her service over the past year.
- John Bakes wishes to stand down as Convener this year, so is looking for someone to fill his position.
- John Coffield tendered his interest in being co-opted onto the Committee. 14-days' notice to Argyll & Bute Council is required, so this position will be ratified at the next meeting.

A call for new members has been put out through the cttee members. It will also be circulated through social media.

5. Treasurers Report

Accounts

- Community Council Account: £36,130
- Play Park Account: £889

Funding

- Tangy 2 Fund: £3,155. Closing date for applications is 18 February.
- Community Resilience Fund. The Treasurer has applied for £450 from this fund. Awaiting the results of the application.

Banking. Due to the closure of the Bank of Scotland branch in Campbeltown, and the difficulties using the Post Office, the Community Council will be changing to Virgin Bank. This is the last remaining open branch of any bank in Campbeltown.

6. Roads

Gritting. A discussion on the gritting priorities took place; many of the single track roads were left ungritted during the last period of icy weather. Cllr John Armour explained that A-Roads are

priority, and that on this occasion due to the rain washing away the grit immediately after it was put down on the A-roads, the gritters had to go back round the A-roads again, leaving the B-Roads without grit until much later. This is council policy, as there is a scarcity of gritters, and priorities must be made. Cllr Armour proposed that consideration may be given to placing large grit bins around the B-Roads and for the farmers to conduct their own grit spreading; however, he noted that there is much Red Tape regarding legalities, insurance and Risk Assessments before a final decision on this could be made.

Keil Road. The road along Keil beach toward the cemetery was washed away during Storm Eowyn. The reinforcement cages on the beach side of the road have been deteriorating for a period of years. This road is now only passable on-foot, with vehicles now routing round the hill. Cllr Armour explained that many roads were badly damaged during the storm and that a programme of repair is being put in place, along-side funding applications from the Bellwind Scheme in order to fund the repairs. This will not be a quick process.

Line Painting. The subject of Line-painting was raised again, with Pat Healy explaining that driving at night has become difficult, with no centre-line and poor edge lines (overgrown or faded). The road between Auchencorve and Killelan was resurfaced a year ago and is yet to have lines painted. Cllr Armour explained that they are awaiting the White-Line machine to become available; the council cannot afford to buy one, so must wait for one to become available to rent. Of note, Campbeltown town centre is also waiting for line-painting.

7. Police Report

The police have published their report. It was felt it was not particularly detailed. Cllr Armour advised that the Council should bring it up at the Mid-Argyll Community Planning Forum on 6th February.

8. Councillors Report

Cllr Armour congratulated the Community Council on the success of the Emergency Plan, with the Hall opened and well used.

The Argyll & Bute Council budget will be announced at the end of February. There are lots of pressures and competing priorities. Council Tax will have to rise significantly to address this.

There are 3 consultations ongoing at the moment: Aspiring Places (Community Project), the Budget Survey, and the Visitor Levy

Consultation. Cllr Armour urged the ctte to participate in the consultations, as it is important for the community to have a voice.

The Kidney Dialysis facility in Campbeltown is unavailable at present; there are no qualified medical staff available.

The Rest and Be Thankful consultation through the A83 Taskforce was discussed. The ctte asked how secure the funding for the project was and expressed concerns about the heavy use of the Old Military Road. Cllr Armour explained that the 4-year project was secure in its funding at present. He has another taskforce meeting soon to discuss measures to relieve pressure on the Old Military Road; this could include diverting the heavy lorries and campervans, and use of ferries. The cttee raised concerns that there may be an impact on the local tourist industry if the route is considered too difficult for visitors.

9. Visitor Levy

There was a meaningful discussion about the proposed Visitor Levy in Argyll & Bute, with concerns raised as to the impact on the Tourist Industry for local business owners, and confusion over the charging and administration of the levy and who it would be aimed at – just tourists, or workers too. Cllr Armour explained that it could provide a significant uplift to the council budget and that consultation with the community on the matter was essential to understand all aspects of the impact it would have. The consultation will last for 12-weeks, on-line and would seek to engage with local residents, visitors and local businesses; Cllr Armour stressed it was important that people engaged with the consultation to ensure their voices were heard. A link to the Consultation is on the Community Council's Website and the Argyll and Bute Council Website.

10. Presentation

The ctte agreed that a presentation should be made to Ian and Francis Hill for their service to the Community over the 30-years they ran the Village Shop and Tea Rooms. Ideas for an appropriate presentation were requested. It was decided that by the next meeting a decision would be made and an appropriate gift purchased, with the intention to present it at a Hall event in the near future.

11. Community Notice Board

The requirement for a Community Notice Board has been recognised by both the Community Council cttee and the Dunaverty Hall cttee. It was decided that the two cttees will work together to purchase and install an appropriate notice board. This

will be discussed at the next Dunaverty Hall cttee meeting on Monday 10th February, where the Community Council have been invited to attend to discuss the matter.

12. Correspondence

A Thank-you card has been received from Linda Brannigan for all the Seniors Christmas Dinner in December.

13. Events

The Southend Womens Rural Institute is hosting the Scottish Air Ambulance Service at their next meeting on 3rd February. It is an open meeting with a presentation/talk by the Scottish Air Ambulance Service and a fundraiser for them. All are invited to attend.

14. AOCB

Scam calls are in abundance at the moment and people are urged to be cautious. Chris Cox suggested the use of an app 'True Caller' that will identify if a call is a scam.

Seniors Christmas Dinner. John Coffield noted a decline in numbers and suggested personal invites to all over-60's as a means of encouraging attendance. Other ideas were discussed. This issue will be discussed further as the cttee begins to plan for this year's event.

Digital Phones. During the recent power outage there was no access to communications unless people had an analogue phone line. BT are digitising all households over the next 2-years. This is a serious concern to the community. Cllr Armour recommended that as it was such a serious issue the Convener speak to the local SMP at their next surgery.

15. 200 Club

December	January
Kenneth Galbraith - £30	Pat Healey - £30
Helen Munro - £10	Cameron Barbour - £10
Ailie McCorkindale - £10	Hugh Galbraith - £10

16. DONM

Wednesday 26th February, 8pm.