

KILMUN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Facebook - @shoresweepersandKCC

Website - www.kilmuncc.co.uk

MINUTES OF MEETING
8th October 2024 @ 7.30PM.
Blairmore Hall Blairmore
Meeting Start -7.30pm

The secretary asked the audience if there were any last-minute items to be added within the agenda. None were submitted.

PRESENT: Diane Nicholson (Convenor), Mark Borland (Vice Convenor), Janet Holm (Secretary), Lachlan Macquarie, Mandy Grout, Graham Revill, and Kerris Bone.
Advisors to KCC - Steve Abbott (Defibrillators), Gordon Holm (Geology).

Also Present: Graham Thompson, Jean Thompson

APOLOGIES: Peter Hunter Douglas, Lyndsey Greer, Russell Humphreys (Treasurer), Caroline Munro, Councillor William Sinclair, Councillor G. Blair, Councillor Y McNeilly, Shonny Iain Paterson (LLTNP Representative) Fraser Macdonald (Forestry Land Scotland).

This session was recorded for the minutes.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

None

3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:

Kerris said from the minutes of the last meeting to highlight that that the directory for the contributions towards maintenance of the for defibrillators were voluntary

The 13th August 2024 minutes were:

Proposed: Mark Borland

Seconded: - *Kerris Bone* ***Carried***

4. TREASURER'S REPORT

Carried forward **£2208.77**

Expenditure

Bank charges 1.75
KCC 20.00

Totals.

General fund **£2171.17**

Funding from Highgate Hall trust for Shore Sweepers (Ring fenced)

Available £99.40

Overall total **£2271.10.**

JH said that she had made an error when applying to the Highgate Hall fund and had not included the cost of the squirrel carving for the Shore Garden. She requested that the £350 compensation that we have received from the bank be put towards this cost. The committee voted agreement to this

In the future there will be a section of the KCC accounts designated for the donations and payments for the maintenance of the defibrillators.

5. POLICE REPORT

No report received.

Kerris said that Inspector Bart Simonis has asked if anyone from KCC would like to have a one-to-one discussion regarding policing matters in our area. Other community councils in the area have done this. Diane Nicholson said that she would organise to facilitate this.

6. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

None received

9. COMMUNITY MATTERS

The Shore Sweepers / Graham's Point

The path at Graham's Point has been completed and the bench has been delivered and is in place. The area will be tidied up in preparation for the winter by Frank Glover.

Cyclamen has been put in the Shore Villages sign which are doing well. The bulbs will be put in at a later date. ABC have used weed killer on the weeds growing along the pavements.

Hole in right of way path / Flooding issues

Mark Borland reported that he had had a response from ABC to his **Freedom of Information Request Response** as follows–

Midge Lane Drains

1. *What was the date the roadside drains and gullies were last cleaned and cleared of debris?*

It is important to draw a distinction between routine safety inspections of the road corridor, which are recorded in our asset management system because these focus on safety issues, versus routine checking and removing of leaves, brush etc, from culvert grates. Each area has a list of at risk culverts and these are regularly checked ahead of any forecast weather event.

In terms of the former, the last safety inspection of this road was on 20th September 2024. These inspections highlight any issues with blocked gully pots and works instructions are raised as a result. No defects were identified during the inspection on 20th September. A works instruction to reset a gully was issued on 19th September and completed the same day.

2. *What was the date of the last survey of the state and fitness for purpose of the roadside drains and gullies?*

As per response to Q1.

3. *When is the next cleaning and clearing of drains and gullies scheduled for this stretch of road?*

The Council has an annual programme of cyclical gully cleaning, and gullies in Kilmun are scheduled for May and September.

4. *When will the next survey of the state and fitness for purpose of the roadside drains and gullies take place for this stretch of road?*

This is routinely attended to during monthly inspections, with the next inspection scheduled for October 2024.

5. *Have reviews of roadside drainage infrastructure taken into account increase in rainfall and increase in hillside run off due to forestry clearing and if so, what mitigations are being implemented to resolve any issues which have been identified?*

Roadside drainage issues are picked up as part of the normal course of business through safety inspections. These are critical to informing future asset management plans in that they highlight particular issues with the network. As a result of feedback from inspections, customer reports, increased rainfall etc. the Council recently invested in additional gully machines, one of the justifications for which was the impact of climate change. This allows for a programme of two visits per year, which is up from the previous programme of three visits every two years.

Flooding Issue Strone Brae

Latest Update - ABC (Jolyon Gritten)

"I drafted a letter to the adjacent landowners, and I had to seek comments from my colleague in Legal Services before the letter can be sent which has taken time. I hope the letter will be sent in the next week or so asking them if they believe that they own or have responsibility for the repair of the culvert. My colleague in Legal Services has written to Forestry & Land Scotland with additional

information and I expect that it will take the organisation time to reach a view and reply. I am afraid that we are making slow progress, but we continue to push forward."

Latest Update - FLS (Fraser MacDonald)

We have had a response back from Gordon Dalgleish and we are working on a reply to this. However, it should be noted that at this present time there does not appear to be a solution to the culvert and drainage issue.

Response from KCC (Mark Borland)

An email has been drafted and sent to all involved so far from both ABC and FLS, including Clir's Blair & Sinclair asking for further clarification on what was included in the response to the site survey from Gordon Dalgleish (FLS) as well as asking what they propose to reply. It also asks if FLS have received the most recent information provided by ABC and how these impacts on any responses to Gordon Dalgleish.

Finally, the email asks FLS to confirm specifically what is meant by at this present time there does not appear to be a solution to the culvert and drainage issue and what further actions, if any, are they planning to take.

Defibrillator(s) / Training

SA asked the committee to consider appropriate/strategic locations for new defibs.

The Caravan Park behind the Cot House has purchased a defibrillator and attached it to their shower block which is around 100m behind the garage. To be fair they have located it to their best advantage. I have spoken to Scott at the Cot House Garage, and he is happy to have a defibrillator on the forecourt where the ATM used to be. It is well lit with a camera.

Steve is considering whether there should be 2 defibs in such close proximity, but the one on the forecourt would be under KCC control and save a couple of minutes in travel.

Other considerations could be:

Strone Primary School
Grahams Point
and Clachaig

The recommended distance to a Defib is 200m or 2 minutes brisk walk. At this time we are not achieving that. The current average in UK is 800 metres.

Steve has emailed ABC re using lamppost installation. It is possible but await procedure. He has also established that with owner's permission we can locate Defib on/in people's homes?

There were 18 persons at HeartStart at Younger Hall Kilmun last night. Great night. £52.50 raised for the maintenance fund.

Another session to be booked at Blairmore in November.

Thanks to Kerris, Heartstart are now part of the discussion for Western ferries having defibs on board.

Bus Timetables

The difficulties with the Pingo bus has been resolved and the emails and the booking from Clachaig should be fixed now.

DN asked if the Pingo bus goes past Clachaig and serve Glendarual and Colintraive? Kerris said it does not and DN considered that it does not serve the whole Cowal network if it doesn't cover these communities. Kerris said that there is a map which shows the areas served.

Kerris says that the use of the busses by under-age 22's has risen and the provision of bus times round the school times has been increased but unfortunately Kerris' suggestion for a late high bus has been rejected. It would also appear that a survey that was done about bus use may not have been accurate

10. DISCUSSIONS A&BC LOCAL COUNCILLOR AND NATIONAL PARK REPRESENTATIVE.

Argyll & Bute Council

Email report from Gordon Blair

- Kerris did well re the Pingo bus which should now be resolved
- Email re the flooding issue received and I'll discuss further with officers

- Colleague Shonny Paterson and I having discussion with SPT RE CONCESSION FARES and also bus connections. Kerris was at the meeting where this mentioned.
- As area chair I will be calling a business day with reps from community councils and designated officers at the beginning of December to improve specific dialogue with officers to try and get more funding to Area Committees to spend on the issues locally. The new administration is about to debate discuss budgets cuts for 2025/26 so it will be difficult,
- Good work Community Council!! I am hoping the new one in Cowal, Kilfinnan can add more power to our COLLECTIVE elbows as we move forward supported by this NEW council ADMINISTRATION.
- Update re Sandbank Nature reserve -council preparing transfer of old depot beside Holy Loch Nature Reserve to development trust and this could have influence into Kilmun area in the future.
- Could future meetings include zoom facility?
- I will be holding Councillor Surgeries every first and third Friday at 163 Argyll Street from 11 to 1.00

44.33

Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park Representative

An email report from our representative Iain Shonny Paterson. He has asked to have a meeting with one of our community councillors. Lachie Macquarie has volunteered to meet with him.

The implementation of our own Mission Zero route map (to be a net zero organisation by 2030) saw significant investments at our headquarters – Carrochan - in Balloch, including the installation of photovoltaic panels and air source heat pumps to reduce our consumption of fossil fuels.

This year saw the continued development of our Future Nature programme of work which has seen the expansion of our Peatland Action Programme in Ardvorlich, Cashel, Glen Falloch and Glen Finglas and the acceleration of our nature restoration programme through woodland improvement, water body improvement and the removal of invasive non-native species.

We've continued to enable and support key landscape-scale projects such as Wild Strathfillan and the Great Trossachs Forest, alongside developing new funding and policy options to deliver for biodiversity and climate. We continue to invest in the National Park as a place, and this year saw significant work undertaken to improve visitor infrastructure and enhance the visitor experience across the National Park.

We commenced a multiyear plan to reconfigure the picnic site at Tarbet to better serve users whilst also making greenspace improvements, alongside the continued work to complete Strategic Tourism Infrastructure Development Studies for Strathard and The Trossachs and Callander.

We have worked closely with communities throughout the National Park, helping to deliver Local Place Plans for Callander, Drymen, Arrochar, Tarbet & Ardlui,

Numbers of day visitors remained high, especially over warm summer weekends, but there were less issues with irresponsible parking than in recent years. Reports from staff and volunteers showed an 18% drop in the number of car parks being marked full or almost full at weekends from 22/23. Notably, Police Scotland did not have to close roads in the park this season for visitor management reasons. For the first time, the Park Authority was able to recruit Permanent Seasonal Rangers, which helps reduce recruitment pressures, retains experience and provides additional job security to the staff who provide this vital support during the visitor season.

On 17th July 2024, Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands, Mairi Gougeon MSP announced that Galloway has been confirmed as the proposed location for Scotland's third National Park with a further investigation to be carried out on its suitability.

The financial position across the whole of the public sector for 2024-25 continues to be extremely challenging, particularly in light of the pressures on pay. As a result, the Scottish Government has taken action to reduce pressures in year and the National Park Authority has been asked to contribute savings to ensure a balanced Scottish Government budget is delivered.

Forestry and Land Scotland – Fraser MacDonald

Fraser said he hasn't had time to get a proper update for next meeting. There is no real change to last report with exception of events which have already taken place. Kilmun Arboretum works are currently on going but should be finished next week.

DN received an email from Ardtaraig Estate. KCC was identified as a consultee stakeholder for the Ardtaraig Estate Long-term Forest Plan Consultation. Information on this can be found in the attachments included with these minutes

Strone Primary School

Kerris had received a detailed newsletter from Strone Primary School with lots of information of all the activities that the pupils will be doing. This is attached to the minutes.

Younger Hall

NTR

Blairmore Hall

NTR

Historic Kilmun

GH reported that the season of guided tours of Historic Kilmun will end at the end of this month. There are a number of used book sales held each month. There will be a special visit by guides from Inverary Castle on the 22nd October to find out more about the mausoleum.

11 CURRENT ISSUES

Giant's Burn Wind Farm

No updates. There are updates/comments by other groups on Facebook.

To date Dunoon Community Council have not yet published their survey.

JH will compile a list of the contacts that have the ecological and environmental expertise that could be approached if we decided to have an information event of, "What is Special About Our Area."

JH said that there may be a possibility of applying to the fund for the Inverclyde Windfarm fund as Blairmore are within site of the Inverclyde windfarm

SSE power lines Dunoon 132kV Overhead Line rebuild Project.

NTR

Community Council's Ferry Group

No updated meeting.

Argyll Rally

KCC committee gave their support for the Rally. DN will email this support.

New KCC Website

Mark has done a brief look though the existing website and that we need to update the website with some urgency. Because the website:

- is old and tired looking and is not in the format expected by modern digital consumers.
- does not translate well to presentation on other digital devices.
- has no links or feeds into other digital platforms such as social media sites etc.
- has content out of date and not well prioritised.
- has content difficult to read (formatting and htm 2.0 presentation templates).
- has lots of links to blank pages.
- relevant content difficult to find;

- web searching within the site is inaccurate
- web crawl meta data content lacking.

Our Options:

- 1 Continue to use the Spanglefish website provider and potentially move to version 3 of their product.
- 2 Move to a new provider with a more up to date set of content tools (Wix, Ionos, Square etc).

Sample costs:

Spanglefish - Current costs £39.00 per annum. Move to version 3 - £78.00 per annum and additional cost of £30.00 per annum for tools to manage calendars, meeting minutes & agendas. Spanglefish also appears to be standard template driven with little in the way of development tools. There is also not much on what the site management / development tools on their website and nothing about version 3 other than links to websites created using it. All very similar and a touch dated looking! Total Cost £108.00 per annum

Wix - Total cost of £9.00 per month (paid annually) for basic package of full suite of web development tools, 2Gb storage space, A number of templates and SEO site traffic management tools. Total cost £108.00 per annum

Neither solution includes domain name hosting costs as these are done through another provider named Calico/Hostworld UK.

If required, the domain name could be transferred to another supplier but at present this wouldn't be required.

Actions Required:

- 1 Decision on hosting platform.
- 2 Review of content with Community Council Members interested.
- 3 Creation of digital assets required for Kilmun CC Digital Presence.
- 4 Develop new digital presence & launch.

Clachaig Water

Graham Revill gave a final update on the water provision in Clachaig.

Larch felling to waste is going ahead reasonably well. I have seen the operation a couple of times and, so far, it appears not to have disturbed the water supplies. What happens after this will rest obviously, with the owner and the forest managers. I am planning to meet with them to find out about the owner's long-term plans. Regarding the water supplies. I met with a Doctor Lawson from Newcastle University a couple of weeks ago. She has a doctorate with Glasgow University research on Decentralised Water Technologies. We had a chat at the house and then a visit to my supply on the hill. Normally she would be doing desk exercises but as I had sent her a lot of material gathered over many years, photos, file notes of meetings, email threads etc she decided that a visit would be worthwhile.

A couple of issues were highlighted during her visit.

Surprise at the lukewarm support from local and national politicians. Surprise that Argyll and Bute Council were not involved in monitoring the situation regarding the larch felling. I had explained that the village had rejected a main or other communal supply on three occasions. In my opinion a main supply will never happen due to cost. Doctor Lawson emphasised this by using an example of a main supply that included 17 houses and 300 metres of pipe. It failed the cost/benefit analysis and didn't go ahead. Clachaig will have at best 40% initial take up and over 4 kilometres of pipe. Possibly 8 kilometres of pipe if a ring main is needed, but that would be in the same trench. It does appear that Clachaig has a right to water off the hill and right of access to maintain any supply infrastructure. This was not the case in one example residents had a right to water from a hill, but a landowner charged for the residents to cross

the land though a ransom strip. One houseowner was taking legal advice with the evitable cost in lawyer's fees.

Meeting end: 9.10pm

Next Meeting:

Tuesday November 12th @ Younger Hall @ 7.30pm.

Meetings held Second Tuesday each month alternating between Younger & Blairmore Halls.

Kilmun Hall – January, March, May, July (Recess) September, November

Blairmore Hall – February, April, June, August, October, December

Attachments

- Newsletter from Strone Primary School
- Ardtaraig Forest Location map
- Ardtaraig Forest Concept map
- Ardtaraig scoping Stakeholder letter