

KILMUN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Facebook - @shoresweepersandKCC

Website - www.kilmuncc.co.uk

MINUTES OF MEETING
10th September 2024 @ 7.30PM.
Younger Hall Kilmun
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: Mark Borland (Vice Convenor), Janet Holm (Secretary), Lachlan Macquarie, and Kerris Bone.

Advisors to KCC - Steve Abbott (Defibrillators), Mike Burke (Windfarm), Gordon Holm (Geology).

Also Present: Graham Thompson, Jean Thompson

APOLOGIES: Diane Nicholson (Convenor), Mandy Grout, Peter Hunter Douglas, Graham Reville, Lyndsey Greer, Russell Humphreys (Treasurer), Councillor William Sinclair, Councillor G. Blair, Councillor Y McNeilly, Malcolm Bird, Fraser Macdonald (Forestry Land Scotland).

This session was recorded for the minutes.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

None

3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:

The 13th August 2024 minutes were:

Proposed: Mark Borland

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

4. TREASURER'S REPORT

Carried forward £2208.77

Expenditure

Bank charges 0.35

Gardening £14.97

Totals.

General fund £2193.45

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

Grant £3805.00

Ross McArthur. - £2841.60

Solway direct -£864.00

Available £99.40

Overall total £2292.85.

KCC is now on online banking, but we now have bank charges however, the convenience of bank charges outweighs that disadvantage.

5. POLICE REPORT

No report received.

One of the Kilmun Community Councillors said that his daughter and her friend were racially abused of the bus from Dunoon. This incident has been reported to the police

6. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

None received

9. COMMUNITY MATTERS

The Shore Sweepers / Graham's Point

Ross MacArthur has completed the work at the Strone Brae Garden for the disabled access to a picnic area. The recycled plastic bench has just been delivered from Solway Plastics and will be completely put in place over the next few days. Frank Glover is going to seed grass adjacent to the area of new path and table area and tidy up the ferns and bushes. JH has planted some cyclamen in the Shore Villages sign.

Hole in right of way path / Flooding issues

Mark Borland contacted ABC and FLS for an update last week. He received a response back from FLS on Monday saying that they had further information regarding titles back from ABC, but they had not had time to review this information and were going to look at them. Fraser Macdonald (FLS) was going to update us at the KCC meeting. We have just had an update with the update received today from FLS saying that

"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."

Mark said that he is going to respond to this and ask the specific reasons why, from the FLS perspective, that they cannot take this forward and what is preventing them? Mark has not seen anything back from ABC, so he is going to contact Gordon Blair again and ask him as it is meant to be joint work between the 2 organisations to sort it out. They had seemed to think that there was a potential way forward when the site visit was done. Mark has also put in a freedom of information into ABC about the gully drainage from the Cothouse turnoff to the end of Blairmore. He has had a response back that it has been acknowledged. Several in the audience said that work appeared to have been started on the drains in the last couple of days. Mark said that he had also asked when it had last been surveyed for appropriateness as KCC has been considering that the infrastructure is old.

There was discussion about various areas where flooding is a problem. GH said that Kirsty Manual had been in touch to show the flooding and the gravel that they are experiencing coming off the hills at Ballochmile where there has been recent extensive deforestation.

Kerris Bone said that she had reported the section of wall that had collapsed at the front at the cemetery. She was given a date for the repair. This has now been done.

Defibrillator(s) / Training

Steve said that the beacon at the defibrillator at Blairmore Village Hall had failed, and he had found that the whole chassis of the light fitting was broken. He has now replaced this, but he considers that this will happen again and that it would be better replaced with a better fitting. Steve says that he hasn't had time to discuss where the new defibrillators could be placed from the Highgate Hall fund. He has tried to find out what the situation is at the Cothouse and asked for any information the committee and audience would have. Steve will continue to explore this aspect and is open to suggestions from the community.

Tracy Whitfield is looking at organising training courses.

Kerris has started to collate a list of businesses who may contribute to a maintenance fund for the defibrillators.

Steve said that he has discovered that the defibrillators at Western ferries are not registered. He is going to find out more about this.

Bus Timetables

The bus timetables tables have not been discussed again because the transport forum does not meet until the 7th of October.

Kerris has have spoken to West Coast Motors, and they think that residents of Clachaig could be having problems booking the pingo bus because their address postcode is not entering into the booking system (perhaps because of the property although being in Clachaig village shares a postcode with the area to the West of Clachaig which is beyond the area the Pingo bus serves).

<https://images-westcoastmotors.passenger-website.com/downloads/Pingo%20Intro%20-%20Dunoon%20v3%20%28Aug%29%20ONLINE.pdf>

West Coast Motors have asked to be provided with the resident's address and postcode, and they can look to see if this has been added to the Pingo route planner?

Tyneshandon/Stables at Dunselma

KCC has had a look into possibility of a community buyout but have decided not to pursue this as the committee has a high workload at present.

Mark will write to Councillor Sinclair and say the KCC that does not feel that they could take on a community buyout.

There was extensive discussion re the safety of both buildings and as ABC have stated they think they are 'safe' do they take the responsibility if an accident happens?

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

Argyll & Bute Council

Email report from Councillor Gordon Blair.

"I am not making public comment in relation to the Wind Turbines which I know causes some angst among folk but as I am vice Chair of the Planning Committee, and I need to keep that as a priority and any comments I make will be wearing that hat!

The Business Day held in Bute went very well with Roads staff and other officers. I intend as area Chair to hold one in Strachur Village Hall for access via Wi-Fi for all community Councils out with South Cowal area at the end of October.

I know Mark Borland is working hard with officers about the flooding on the lane at the old school, so I'll keep in contact with him re progress.

Kerris has been working hard re the Pingo Bus and that's great. I am going to be pushing for a review of bus provision and then opportunity for ABC to take on contracts but that will be some time till fruition. Given Westminster cuts and the knock-on effect, I fear for many services in the next six months as budgets are reduced.

I'll get back to you regarding the Collective meeting at the end of October."

Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park Representative

NTR

Forestry and Land Scotland – Fraser MacDonald

Report from Fraser MacDonald FLS.

The full report from FLS will be attached to these minutes. Excerpts from the document, with recent additions, are noted below:

Harvesting site at Kilmun

The harvester will then move to East side and then Winch will arrive to start working on top of coupe this could be in late July. There will be lots of upcoming chainsaw work in preparation for the winch

and racks of trees felled ready to be dragged. ***Kilmun junction harvesting coupe progressing well and anticipated site will be completed within the next two months. Timber haulage will take a further month so hopefully all works completed by end of this year. As mentioned in last report machines were vandalised and police followed this up but as yet no outcome of investigations. Police did offer to undertake crime prevention training.***

Arboretum

Signs have been placed around arboretum and risk measurements are put in place. ***The next phase of this work will commence Thursday 12th October which will result in some sections of Kilmun Arboretum trails being closed. All signage and banksmen will be in place during operations. Works expected to last 2-3 weeks.***

Ongoing vegetation work is being carried out in Kilmun Arboretum in fenced areas on recently planted sites. This is mainly handtool weeding and cleaning grass and vegetation.

Events

There are 2 events in September which will be making use of the forest around Kilmun/Benmore.

The Dunoon Ultra Marathon on the 14th is starting at Benmore Garden, heading up Puck's Glen then looping back to Benmore before heading down the riverside to Glen Kin.

The Dunoon Dirt dash – Bikepacking event on the 21st and 22nd will see riders entering Kilmun forest via the gate beside the church and heading to Blairmore where they follow the public road round to Ardentenny and onto Carrick. The return the next day brings them down East Loch Eck to Benmore.

The stewardship team have been busy doing a great job of clearing the vegetation off the track up from Inverchapel to the forest road above East Loch Eck, allowing people easier access to the viewpoint and beyond. Already been several good comments from member of the public in person and online.

The Loch Eck Loop remains closed on West side due to landslide blockages, it is now possible to reach as far as Bernice from Benmore Garden on the west side of the loch.

In reply to email From Diane Nicholson Convenor KCC who asked

'A resident asked at the last Kilmun Community Council meeting for KCC to contact FLS to establish if the community could be advised if there were any safety measures being put in place to prevent flooding and how the culverts are being managed to mitigate for potential flood conditions along the Shore Villages?

Furthermore, it was requested for the FLS to provide KCC with a map of the culverts and drainage associated with the Shore Villages, and a copy of the FLS maintenance regime along with the policy to mitigate flooding issues coming off the hill."

With regards to the above questions, we have an annual drains maintenance programme that is in place – Smartsheet's is the system that we use. This system flags up an automatic reminder that drains inspections are required throughout September, October and November. The first phase of inspections is planned for next week. We have individual maps highlighting culverts and drains to be inspected in Kilmun and Blairmore.

Forest roads are inspected after periods of high rain and recorded and reported to Civil Engineering team to carry out maintenance. Forest roads are inspected prior to and after harvesting operations with culverts being inspected and changed to larger diameter where required.

Mark asked if the maps which were mentioned had been attached which they were not. A request will be made for the maps to be provided.

Mark is going to collate a response to the flooding issue and will also request the map.

Strone Primary School and Strone Primary Parent Council

Term has restarted and this year we have a single P1-7 class, with one new P1. The teachers are Mrs Elaine Marshall and Mrs Julie Fish (Teaching Head). Julie is currently absent, and Mrs Lorraine Fisher is providing cover as Head Teacher.

The children were delighted to receive their free tickets to the Cowal Games and many of them enjoyed the sunniest Cowal Games Saturday in a long time. Today they are visiting Benmore Gardens and taking part in activities as part of Benmore Schools Week.

Other highlights this term

- Creating a recycling technology project using materials diverted from landfill.
- Outdoor learning every Wednesday
- P7s all invited to participate in Live Argyll's Primary Sports Leader Training programme, to develop their leadership skills and learn how to set up and run extra-curricular activities in their own schools

Parent Council

Our Parent Council AGM and meeting will be held on Weds 18th September at 6.15pm at Strone Primary School. We are a very small school and are always keen to strengthen links with the community. We would love to have one or more co-opted members join us - you'd be welcome to come along, or contact Becky (bhothersall@yahoo.co.uk) to find out more - no obligations!

The Parent Council was delighted to receive a grant from the David Highgate Trust for improvements to the school grounds and will be progressing plans to implement these soon.

Fundraising for free

If you'd like to help us with fundraising at no cost to yourself, you can do this by Shopping through EasyFundraising and selecting us as your chosen cause:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stroneps>

Dropping off any unwanted clothes at the Rag Bag textile reuse/recycling bin in the rear school playground (by 20th September). Rag Bag can accept good quality clean Men's, Ladies and Children's clothing, belts, bags and paired shoes (tied together). The bags will be collected and transported to the Rag Bag factory where they will be sorted and graded for reuse or recycling.

I thought perhaps this would be useful to include in the minutes as an attachment, to show transparency to the public regarding education in the area. Wasn't sure, but thought it may be useful in any case for this evening's brief debate.

Kerris made some enquiries about having nursery provision in Strone.

"My colleague Louise Lawson, Manager for Cowal schools, has passed your ELC query to me for response in relation to ELC.

For background, the Early Years team undertook an in-depth ELC scoping exercise beginning in 2017 to determine how best to deliver Scottish Government's 1140 expansion project - [A Blueprint For 2020: The Expansion of Early Learning and Childcare in Scotland \(www.gov.scot\)](#) – the outcome of which mapped the capital works programme which allowed us to deliver the 1140 ELC entitlement for every 3 and 4 year, and eligible 2, as is required of us as a Local Authority.

As a result of this scoping exercise, Strone Primary School was not chosen as a site for an ELC establishment, given the low viable numbers in combination with relative proximity to Sandbank and other Dunoon settings.

Whilst I understand your concerns around the falling role of the school, as is the case for rural schools in many areas because of a declining population, the delivery of ELC provision is subject to strict Care Inspectorate and Environmental Health regulation and comes at significant financial cost.

Unfortunately, as we already have adequate ELC provision within the Dunoon area, the establishment of an ELC facility within Strone Primary school is simply not a possibility.

We will continue to work closely with yourselves as valued community partners; to support the school and ensure they continue to deliver a valuable service to the residents of the area,

Thanks again for your work in supporting the school and its community,

Tina Sartain

Education Manager"

Younger Hall

NTR

Blairmore Hall

NTR

Historic Kilmun

NTR

Giant's Burn Wind Farm

Diane had received a reply to her email from Statkraft

Janet, Mark, Mike and Gordon attended the Dunoon Community Council meeting on the 9th September when they had a visit from Statkraft representatives. We felt the meeting was underwhelming as their presentation was basically a rehash of the slides they had at their community engagement sessions in April. Statkraft managed to misrepresent the engagement they had with Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park and was corrected by Councillor Sinclair our representative for LLTNP. Statkraft gave a synopsis of the work they had done to date which included their survey results. We thought that throughout their input to the meeting that they did not actually answer the questions that were asked.

KCC are aware that Statkraft had visited Dunoon Grammar School on the morning of the DCC meeting and presented to some of the pupils. KCC contacted the school as we considered that the children were not being given a balanced view. The Head Teacher assured us that other groups would be welcome to present to the pupils so that the children would be aware and knowledgeable of all viewpoints. The children apparently were encouraged to complete the Dunoon Community Council survey about the windfarm and DCC delayed the finish of the survey from the 9th September to the 13th September, the end of that week.

Janet Holm suggested that KCC could facilitate an event perhaps titled 'Why our Hills are Special' and bring together the many groups in our area who have a high knowledge and expertise in the aspects that make the Cowal Hills and surrounding special. It was agreed to consider and refine this suggestion.

SSE power lines Dunoon 132kV Overhead Line rebuild Project.

Kirsty and Tory Manual continue to communicate with SSE on this application.

Community Councils Ferry Group

No update at present. Diane and Mark will attend the next meeting.

Argyll Rally

DCC are conducting a survey on this issue. Will be revisited at our next meeting.

New KCC Website

Mark and Janet will get together to explore how we can progress further in planning a new website for KCC.

Meeting end: 9.00 pm

Next Meeting:

Tuesday October 8th @ Blairmore 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