

MINUTES OF MEETING
8th April 2025 @ 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) Mandy Grout
Advisors to KCC - Steve Abbott (Defibrillators),

ALSO PRESENT: Anne Rodger, Andy Rodger

APOLOGIES: Janet Holm (Secretary), Peter Douglas-Hunter, Graham Revill, Kerris Bone. Lyndsey Greer, Russell Humphreys (Treasurer), Councillor G. Blair, Councillor William Sinclair, Councillor Y McNeilly, Iain Shonny Paterson (LLTNP Representative), Gordon Holm (Geology). Graham Thompson, Jean Thompson, and Fraser Macdonald (Forestry Land Scotland).

This session was recorded for the minutes.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

None

3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:

The 11th March minutes were:

Proposed: Mark Borland

Seconded: Mandy Grout

Carried

4. TREASURER'S REPORT

Carried forward **£2516.50**

Income

Expenditure

Blairmore Hall *£20.00*

Bank charges *£1.50*

Totals.

General fund **£2363.55**

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

Available *£99.40*

Funding for defibrillator maintenance (Ring-fenced)

Donations for defibrillator maintenance *£52.50*

Donations for defibrillator maintenance. *£75.00*

Overall total **£2515.45**

5. POLICE REPORT

No update was provided

6. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

None

7. COMMUNITY MATTERS

Shore Sweepers / Graham's Point

Shore Sweepers: it was note that tulips were now in bloom, replacing the lovely display of daffodils.

Graham's Point: no update

Flooding issues

No updates regarding Strone Brae and culvert/land ownership, there was a short discussion on how to escalate the situation but there was no conclusion. Options require to be researched. Action – Mark Borland agreed to resume contact with ABC and FL&S to understand the present situation.

It was highlighted that there are flooding issues right through Kilmun to Strone that was mainly discharge from the hills above and exacerbated due to the trees being harvested. It was also noted that, Forestry Land & Scotland had responded to previous emails with a list of mitigations they had put in place. It will need to be seen how effective these measures will be before further discussion and escalation can take place.

Defibrillator(s) / Training

There is a defibrillator in storage which Heartstart would like to install at Strone Primary School to provide cover for the upper section of Strone. However, before this could be undertaken, there arises a question on the longevity of the school as pupil numbers are very low. DN agreed to contact Councillor Gordon Blair to establish if the school electrical power would remain active if the school was closed/mothballed and establish the necessary actions required for agreement of installation.

Community Support for adverse events

It was established through discussion that KCC requires to define the scope of resilience, establish the recommendations of the safe/warm space provision and how it would be utilised. Action – Steve Abbott and Mark Borland agreed to look at drafting a contingency plan for the area and review what was needed, could be provided and would need to be funded.

8. DISCUSSIONS A&BC LOCAL COUNCILLOR AND NATIONAL PARK REPRESENTATIVE,

Argyll & Bute Council

Councillor Gordon Blair provided an update for the meeting. Text taken from an email:

"I am not commenting on the wind turbines as I am vice chair of planning committee.

There is a proposal to disallow election signs on lamppost which I am vehemently against as a democrat. Given a number of issues in Argyll and Bute it is absolutely essential democracy is protected at every level so I shall be defending this important right at the next council meeting.

The administration is going to be assessing the consultation responses soon on Visitors Levy and a decision will be taken in due course.

Lighting and street faults can again be put direct into the council website. However the lighting fault advised by Anne Rodger at the last meeting should now be fixed however I have still to check progress.

The council new line painting vehicle has almost arrived”

Outwith Cllr Blair’s update:

Unfortunately AR identified that the street light had not been fixed but welcomes Cllr Blair’s input. – Mark Borland agreed to contact ABC Roads and Lighting faults to report the damaged streetlight at the foot of Strone Brae. UPDATE: This has been reported and is logged with ABC reference number: 250409-000595 and their inspector has programmed a repair to be carried out. No date was provided on the response email.

DN identified that the team of A&BC Road Staff did an excellent job of repairing potholes and the crumbling road verge throughout Clachaig and beyond on the B836. A big thank you for the good work with the materials they had to work with.

Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park Representative

It was identified that Lachie Macquarie and Diane Nicholson attended a meeting with Iain Shonny Paterson (LLTNP Representative) and Heather Reid (LLTNP Board Convenor) on Wednesday 26th March 2025. The meeting was held at Strachur with other community councils of the area LLTNP area. The main items identified to the National Park representatives were FLS, Puck’s Glen closure, Flooding, the development of Wind Farms (mainly Giant’s Burn Wind Farm) and Camping Issues at Ardentiny.

KCC requested that LLTNP firstly engages with FLS to expedite the storm clearance of Puck’s Glen as it is important to both local residents and is a tourist destination. Secondly, discuss assistance and land maintenance that FLS can provide to reduce the flooding experienced from Kilmun to Strone that is evident due to the tree harvesting.

LLTNP advised that the new Local Development Plan 2026 will be out for consultation this year and published in 2026.

Forestry and Land Scotland – Fraser MacDonald

No update was provided.

NB: Information from Fraser Macdonald as identified last month - ‘However Puck’s Glen is likely to remain at least partially closed for a while. Kilmun Arboretum will take a fair bit of clearing, but nothing too technical.’

Strone Primary School and Strone Primary Parent Council

No update was provided

Younger Hall

No update was provided

Blairmore Hall

No update was provided

Historic Kilmun

No update was provided

9 CURRENT ISSUES

Meteorological Weather Mast, Giant's Burn Wind Farm and Inverchaolain Wind Farm

It was suggested by MB that before seeking a community mandate on the Inverchaolain Wind Farm that KCC contacts Toward and Innellan Community Councils to understand whether, as the most affected community council's they were currently taking a position or consulting their local communities on the wind farm since it was mainly within their designated areas.

There was a short discussion concerning the Giant's Burn Wind Farm and the 2nd consultation provided by Statkraft. It was noted that there is a reduction from nine to seven turbines, six at blade tip height 200 metres and one at 180 metres. There is a proposal to transport the blades along the A815. It was identified that an indicative timetable had been published with the application submission earmarked for summer 2025, an expected application determined by summer 2027, construction commencing (if consented) spring/summer 2027 and operational by summer 2030. Graham Revill submitted a comment prior to the meeting that although the benefits of renewable energy are manifold the whole life costs of windfarms are rarely considered, for example the environmental costs of the manufacturing, construction, installation and decommissioning.

SSE power lines Dunoon 132kV Overhead Line rebuild Project.

No update was provided

Community Councils Ferry Group

DN read out an email that provided an update. Jenni Minto organised a meeting with Transport Scotland and Calmac to discuss the proposal the Dunoon Gourock service. Three members of the CCFG attended.

It was a productive meeting that identified that the current service was not fit for purpose and the areas that were causing the most issues. Laurence Kenney from transport Scotland explained how they saw the service and how the process for identifying the needs of any service was going. Jenni Minto is to talk to the council regarding the pier provision if this route is serviced by another operator.

10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

An email was received from SEPA to identify that a consultation is being launched on a proposed Environmental Performance Assessment Scheme (EPAS). Establishing a fair way of reporting on how businesses are meeting their responsibilities. SEPA encourages the participation of this consultation.

DN identified that Kilmun Community Council will hold their AGM next month, 13th May. This will be held at Younger Hall at 7pm prior to the usual KCC meeting.

DN highlighted that KCC has received resignations from three members. With a vacancy already existing KCC is looking for four new community council members and would urge anyone interested in participating to get in touch through the website.

Diane also identified that she was standing down from the Convenor post but will remain on the community council.

Meeting End: 8.28pm

Next Meeting: KCC AGM Tuesday 13th May 2025 @ Younger Hall @ 7.00pm
KCC Meeting Tuesday 13th May 2025 @ 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