

KILMUN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Community Meeting Agenda

Website: www.kilmuncc.co.uk

Facebook: Kilmun Community Council

Instagram: @kilmuncc

Date: 10th June 2025

Time: 7:30pm

Location: Blairmore Hall, Blairmore

Attendance

Present (committee):	Mark Borland (Convenor) Katrina Said Peter Hunter-Douglas	Janet Holm (Secretary) Nicola Stewart
Present (Other):	Gordon Holm (Geology Expert) Anita Gilmour Jim Gilmour David Webster	Andy Leeder Anne Roger Andy Roger
Apologies:	Steve Abbott (Vice Convenor) Mandy Grout Lachlan MacQuarrie Councillor Gordon Blair Councillor Willian Sinclair Councillor Yvonne McNally	Russell Humphries (Treasurer) Diane Nicholson Malcolm Bird Fraser MacDonald (FLaS) Iain Shony Paterson (LLTNP)

1. Meeting Governance

The secretary asked the audience if there were any last-minute items to be added to the agenda.

The session was recorded to support provision of minutes. Recordings will be deleted after minutes have been agreed and published.

2. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were made by the committee or attending audience members.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of Kilmun Community Council's meeting, held on the 13th of May 2025 were circulated and accepted and a true and accurate record of events.

Proposed:	Mark Borland
Seconded	Nicola Stewart
Result:	Carried

4. Treasurer's Report

Balance Carried Forward	£2515.10
Monthly Expenditure (Bank Charges)	£0.00
General Fund Total	£2363.55
Highgate Hall Trust fund for Shore Sweepers (Ring Fenced)	£99.40
Donation for defibrillator maintenance (Ring Fenced)	£52.50
Donation for defibrillator maintenance (Ring Fenced)	£75.00
Overall Total:	£2515.10

5. Police Report

Katrina Said contacted Police Scotland and was able to obtain a copy of the current police report. The report provided the following information:

Police Report Date(s):

10th May 2025 to 10th June 2025

Reporting Officer:

Michael Cunningham

Instances of Serious Organised Crime

No. of Instances

Alter registering of a meter intentionally

1

Concerned in the supply of a controlled drug

1

Production of a controlled drug

1

Katrina Said noted that Kilmun Community Council now have a contact at Police Scotland who will provide a monthly report on an ongoing basis. Katrina has provided the dates of Kilmun Community Council's scheduled meetings, and a report will be prepared the Monday before each meeting. Katrina will pass the email contact details to Janet Holm in order for the Police Scotland contact to be added to the mailing list for Kilmun Community Council agendas and meeting minutes.

Action: Add Police Scotland contact to the Agenda and Minutes email list.

Owner: Janet Holm

6. Planning Applications

N/A

No Applications

7. Community Matters

7.1 – The Shore Sweepers / Graham's Point

Janet Holm reported that Mandy Grout has planted plants in the tub at the road sign at the end of Midge Lane. The Community Council are still working to try to get decorative stones for the Brae Garden at the bottom of Strone Brae.

7.2 – Shore Villages Flooding Issues

Mark Borland was hoping to have an update from Councillor Sinclair regarding the legal land ownership position of the culvert. As Councillor Sinclair was not in attendance, this has still to be actioned.

Action: Contact Mr Dalglish in Argyll & Bute Council Legal Department for an update on land ownership progress.

Owner: Councillor William Sinclair

7.3 – Defibrillators / Training

Steve Abbott not present and no report submitted.

Councillor Sinclair not present and as such there was no update on the position with regards defibrillators being sited at Strone Primary. Councillor Sinclair has emailed the appropriate Argyll & Bute Council committee to request Argyll & Bute Council's current position.

Work is still ongoing with regards collating a list of companies who could help with donations to maintain the defibrillators. Janet Holm will help with the list of self-catering businesses.

Action: Provide issue in writing to Councillor Sinclair

Owner: Steve Abbott

Action: Progress enquiry with Douglas Hendry Argyll & Bute Council

Owner: Councillor William Sinclair

Action: Write to Gordon Ross (Western Ferries) copying in Councillor Sinclair

Owner: Steve Abbott

Action: Develop list of local businesses to support maintenance of defibrillators

Owner: Steve Abbott / Mark Borland / Janet Holm

7. Community Matters

7.4 – Community Resilience

Steve Abbott has registered Kilmun Community Council with the Argyll & Bute Council funding website. He has reviewed the current funding streams available for anything which is relevant at present. Steve requested support from the Kilmun Community Council committee to review and investigate potential funding options.

Steve Abbott has obtained and itemised the current emergency bag, which was stored in Younger Hall, Kilmun, and is reviewing the contents to see what is useful as well as what additional items it should contain.

Steve Abbott has downloaded and reviewed the Ready Scotland emergency planning documents, the Ardentinnny contingency plan, Largs contingency plan and will review with regards what can be re-used for the Kilmun Community Council resilience plan.

Steve Abbott and Mark Borland are continuing to investigate and catalogue the resources available in the area in order to ascertain what is individual responsibility, what is Community responsibility, what is Argyll & Bute Council responsibility and what gaps there may be.

Steve Abbott has also met with Sue Rule (Blairmore Hall Committee at the time of the meeting) and also visited Strone Church, Younger Hall, Blairmore Hall and following up with Diane Macdonald (Benmore and Kilmun Development Trust).

A resilience plan had been written previously for Kilmun Community Council in 2016 which Steve Abbott proposes to use as the template for the refreshed and updated plan.

Action:	Continue to progress contingency planning	Owner:	Steve Abbott / Mark Borland
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8. Discussion with Argyll & Bute Councillor(s) and National Park Representative(s)

8.1 – Argyll & Bute Councillor(s) Update

No councillors present at the meeting and no updates were provided via email. As such, no update was provided.

Mark Borland stated that, due to a number of items on the agenda impacting various transportations sectors, it would be of benefit if a committee member would take on the remit for Local Transport.

Mark Borland also stated that, as mentioned by Steve Abbott in his resilience update, it would also be beneficial if a committee member would take on the remit for reviewing funding opportunities both for Kilmun Community Council the local community to support any initiatives in progress or which the community may wish to undertake.

It was suggested the, as a committee, there is the requirement for a committee only meeting during the July recess to discuss and define roles and responsibilities.

Action:	Decision on committee member to take on transport responsibility.	Owner:	Kilmun Community Council Committee
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Action:	Ad Hoc meeting of Kilmun Community Council committee members in summer recess. Date to be decided.	Owner:	Kilmun Community Council Committee
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8.2 – Loch Lomond & Trossachs National Park Update

No report submitted and representative(s) were not in attendance at the meeting.

8. Discussion with Argyll & Bute Councillor(s) and National Park Representative(s) - Continued

8.3 – Forestry & Land Scotland (Submitted via email after the meeting)

Puck's Glen June 2025

Forestry & Land Scotland are aware of the impact of the closure of Puck's Glen on the wider community and are working to come up with a longer-term resolution to the management of the site.

Due to the topography and geology of the gorge the trees on site are at a constant risk of falling in and blocking the gorge, making it unsafe for visitors, and taking huge resources to remove and remediate any damage to the path and multiple bridges that are on site. Due to the more extreme weather events, we are experiencing along with the maturity of the tree crop, these incidents are becoming more frequent.

Whilst the gorge remains closed we are working to clear the track from the car park to the forest road above the Glen, so that people can enjoy a loop between Puck's Glen and Benmore on a slightly diverted Black Gates trail as per the temporary route card attached. Please heed the safety signage on site. This should be available early July, please check our webpage for updates:
<https://forestryandland.gov.scot/visit/forest-parks/argyll-forest-park/pucks-glen>

We are looking at longer term options to reduce risk of these incidents, and secure the long-term future of the site, but are acutely aware that removal of the at-risk trees will dramatically change the visitor experience that has developed during their growth. We are currently working internally to define the aims and objectives for the site long term, which fit in with our Land Management Plan for the area.

We will then look to identify partners to take the project forward. We would be happy to hear from potential partners who may be interested in getting involved

Attachment included: Forestry & Land Scotland Route Card for Puck's Glen *(See the end of the document for appended documents)*

Questions from the floor

Andy Leeder had submitted a number of questions Kilmun Community Council which Janet Holm has forwarded on to Forest and Land Scotland regarding the fallen trees behind Blairmore and the fire risk they pose during periods of extended dry weather. It was recommended that he contact Fraser MacDonald directly for an update. Mark Borland offered to remind Fraser MacDonald that these questions had been submitted when he is checking in with Forestry and Land Scotland to check on other issues.

A question was raised regarding about the fire hydrants on the Blairmore High Road and whether they are checked regularly. Mark Borland agreed to contact the Fire Service and request an update on this.

A question was raised from residents regarding a fallen tree at the Historic Kilmun cemetery. Mark Borland agreed to investigate who should be responsible for its removal.

Action:	Contact Fire service regarding fire hydrants on Blairmore High Road.	Owner:	Mark Borland
Action:	Contact Fraser MacDonald regarding questions from Andy Leeder.	Owner:	Mark Borland
Action:	Investigate ownership & responsibility for faller tree at the cemetery.	Owner:	Mark Borland

8. Discussion with Argyll & Bute Councillor(s) and National Park Representative(s) - Continued

8.4 – Strone Primary School & Strone Parent Council

Kilmun Community Council received an email from Councillor Sinclair which stated that he has written to the relevant officers and Councillors regarding Strone Primary School and enclosed a reply from the Executive Director for Education Douglas Hendry (below).

“I’m not sure how much Fiona would be able to say to you at this point in time, as Depute Policy Lead for Education, because from the Education Service’s point of view there is nothing which would need to go to the Policy Lead/Depute, or to the Community Services Committee, at this point in time.

I can say at this stage, and I hope you find it helpful, that the intention is to bring forward a report in relation to Strone Primary to the Community Services Committee’s meeting in August which will hopefully provide clarification of the position going forward.”

Councillor Sinclair noted that it does look like a paper will be going to the Community Services Committee in August which will give a better picture of the situation. Councillor Sinclair will keep a watchful eye on what is happening.

Councillor Sinclair also raised the matter at his Council Administration Meeting yesterday and had a phone call with Councillor McNeilly who is shadow Policy Lead for Education.

Action:	Provide update after the August Community Services Committee.	Owner:	Councillor William Sinclair
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8.5 – Younger Hall

No update was provided.

8.6 – Blairmore Hall

No update was provided.

8.7 – Historic Kilmun

Open as normal.

9. Current Issues

9.1 - Meteorological weather mast, Giant’s Burn Wind Farm and Inverchaolain wind farm (scoping)

Save Cowal Hills had a meeting with Residents and the Gourock Community Council, and they are also in opposition.

As Councillor Sinclair was not in attendance, there was no follow up on his previous action to provide an update from Argyll & Bute Council. This action will be carried forward.

Following the meeting, an email was sent to Kilmun Community Council from Statkraft as a follow up to the 2nd round of exhibitions which took place in April 2025 and online consultation that took place in March 2025. Full email included below:

“Dear Members of Kilmun Community Council,

I am writing with an update on the Giant’s Burn Wind Farm proposal following our second round of public exhibitions held in April 2025.

As you may recall, we held in-person public exhibitions on the 1-3 April, at five different locations, Dunoon, Kilmun, Sandbank, Innellan, and Cove. We also held an online consultation from 31 March – 21 April, for anyone unable to attend the physical events or who preferred to go online. We wish to thank everyone who took the time to come and meet us and/or returned the feedback form to let us know their views on the project.

Since the exhibitions, we have been compiling responses to everyone who returned a reply card and indicated that they wished to be updated on the project. These emails will be arriving with them shortly. For anyone who responded to the reply cards but did not 'tick' that they would like a response, we have been unable to write directly in-line with GDPR legislation, however, we have a FAQ section on the project website with main themes and questions asked on the project.

Please find attached our Consultation Report, which provides a summary of the feedback we received at the exhibitions. We will upload the Report to our project website and are sharing it with local and neighbouring community councils and elected representatives.

Finally, we wish to thank the community for engaging with us to date and should you have any queries in the meantime, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Kind regards,

**Iain Robertson - Head of Development Services
Kirsty Clarke - Senior Project Manager**

Statkraft UK Ltd.

The Garment Factory, 10 Montrose Street, Glasgow

19th Floor, 22 Bishopsgate, London EC2N4BQ

www.statkraft.co.uk”

Action:	Request an update on any progress on these applications. To Date there has been no feedback to Kilmun Community Council from Argyll & Bute Council	Owner:	Councillor William Sinclair
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9.2 - SSE power lines Dunoon 132kV Overhead Line rebuild Project.

No update received.

9.3 – Community Council Ferry Group

Alan Stewart from the Community Council Ferry Group has contacted Pippa Milne at Argyll & Bute Council and explained that they were going to be trying to take over the Dunoon linkspan and the reasons behind it. They had a fairly positive response. Alan has sent Pippa more details and have requested a meeting with council officers. Jenni Minto (MSP) has been in discussion with Pippa and supporting this move.

While the group have not yet prepared an invitation to tender to send out to potential operators, Alan has emailed a couple of companies that he thought may be interested in taking on the route. He has had a response from one company that may get somewhere, and the response from the other is not an outright no. Alan has provided more information to both companies and will update the group as he receives responses

David Clough (Dunoon Community Councillor) and Alan met with Chris Martin of the Dunoon Observer and since the previous Kilmun Community Council meeting, an article reflecting the above has been published.

The next stage will be to prepare the outline of a tender document. David Clough (Dunoon Community Councillor) has had many years in procurement and will hopefully guide the group through that part of the process.

10. Any Other Competent Business

10.1 – Roads & Lighting Faults

Peter Hunter Douglas to follow up action from previous meeting to pass on information on over-hanging tree to Councillor William Sinclair.

Action:	Pass reference number for overhanging tree to Councillor Sinclair	Owner:	Peter Hunter-Douglas
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10. Any Other Competent Business (Continued)

10.2 – Website, Social Media & Communication

The old Kilmun Community Council & Shore Sweepers Facebook page has been removed and a new Facebook page created. This can be found at the link below and we urge members of our community and other organisations to follow for updates and information:

[Kilmun Community Council Facebook Page](#)

A new What's App community has been set up for Kilmun Community Council committee members allowing for multiple channels to be created to ensure each topic has its own specific discussion space and to ensure important posts do not get lost.

Mark Borland was not able to create the letter headed paper or email header before the meeting and will carry the action to do this over to the next meeting.

Mark Borland has also been added as an Administrator to the Kilmun Community Council website to support the development of the website and support the posting of content.

Action:	Letter head and email template to be created.
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Owner:	Mark Borland
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Action:	Add convenor as signatory on authorised bank details.
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Owner:	Janet Holm
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10.3 - Other

Mark Borland raised the post circulating on social media by Neil Hammett regarding Argyll and Bute selling / passing over the dumping area next to the Sandbank nature reserve at the end of the Holy Loch and asked the committee members if they could take a vote to support this endeavour as it provides benefit to all residents of the Holy Loch area. Kilmun Community Council committee members voted to support this proposal and Gordon Holm agreed to contact Neil Hammett to let him know of our position and find out if there is anything Kilmun Community Council can do in support.

A question asked from the floor about the report in the Dunoon Observer concerning raw sewage flowing into the Holy loch. There followed a general discussion around the septic tanks that were installed along the Shore Road and that there was the possibility of another one being installed. Nicola Stewart agreed to contact SEPA and investigate this further.

There was a final comment from the floor regarding loose roof tiles that could potentially fall off the roof of the flats at the bus stop at the bottom of Strone Brae. This was highlighted as a potential danger and Mark Borland stated that he would contact ACCA to investigate what mitigating actions were being taken, if any.

Action:	Update Neil Hammett and confirm any supporting actions.
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Owner:	Gordon Holm
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Action:	Contact SEPA regarding Shore Road septic tanks & installations.
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Owner:	Nicola Stewart
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Action:	Contact ACCA regarding loose roof tiles and mitigating actions.
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Owner:	Mark Borland
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Meeting Closure

As there was no further business raised, the meeting was closed at 20.39.

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

Next Meeting Date:	12 th August 2025
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Next Meeting Location:	Blairmore Hall, Blairmore
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Continued on Next Page

Pucks Glen

Argyll Forest Park

Facilities

- Parking
- Picnic area

There are public toilets and a café in Benmore Botanic Garden. Check their opening times before you go, especially in winter.

You can find other places to eat in Dunoon and more public toilets at our Glenbranter site or in Dunoon.

There is a charge to park at some of our sites please refer to our website for details.

Location

Nearest postcode: PA23 8QT

How to get here

Puck's Glen is on the east side of the A815, 5 miles north of Dunoon and 1 mile south of Benmore Botanic Gardens.

Puck's Glen Gorge (closed)



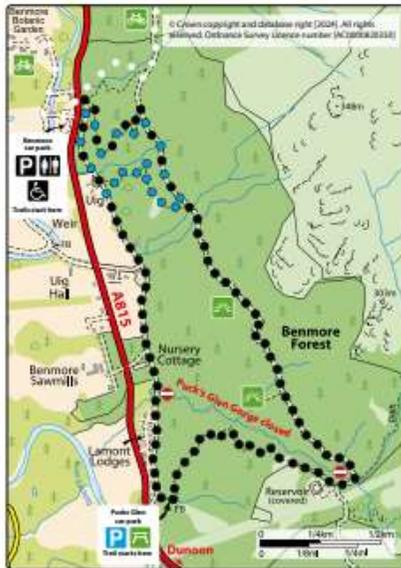
Following extensive storm damage we have taken the decision to close Puck's Glen gorge for the 2025 season.

Unfortunately the extent of tree damage following Storm Éowyn means our team needs more time to fully assess the site and plan repair works.

The Black Gates trail can still be enjoyed from here or for a shorter walk try the Big Tree Trail from the Benmore car park.

Please follow all on site safety and closure signage.

All trail information can be found on page 2



Trails from Puck's Glen car park

Black Gates Trail ●●●

A full tour of Benmore Forest that showcases the giant conifer of Benmore and provides great views across the valley.

Glen that may be wet. Several steep slopes and uneven paths with exposed tree roots and muddy sections.



3 miles / 4.8 km
Allow 2 hours

Trails from Benmore car park

Big Tree Trail ●●●

Walk beneath and indeed over some towering Douglas firs, cypresses and silver firs planted in the nineteenth century. Some great views from the top.

Uneven gravel and earth paths with exposed tree roots and muddy sections. Some long steep slopes and low trees to duck under.



1 1/4 miles / 1.9 km
Allow 1 hour

Other nearby FLS destinations

Kilmun

Nearest postcode: PA23 8SJ

How to get here

The car park for Kilmun Arboretum is at the western end of Kilmun village. The turn-off to Kilmun village is well signposted from the A815 about 4 miles north of Dunoon.

Glenbranter

Nearest postcode: PA27 8DJ

How to get here

Glenbranter is signposted from the A815, between Strachur and the north end of Loch Eck.

Trails from Kilmun

Conifer Trail ●●●

1/2 mile / 1.3 km
Allow 1/2 hour
Strenuous

Eucalyptus Trail ●●●

1 mile / 1.3 km
Allow 3/4 hour
Strenuous

John Jackson Trail ●●●

1/2 mile / 0.4 km
Allow 1/4 hour
Moderate

Trails from Glenbranter

Broadleaves Trail ●●●

1 miles / 1.5 km
Allow 1/2 hour
Moderate

Waterfall Trail ●●●

2 1/4 miles / 3.6 km
Allow 1 1/2 hours
Strenuous