

KILMUN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Facebook - @shoresweepersandKCC

Website - www.kilmuncc.co.uk

MINUTES OF MEETING
11th March 2025 @ 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.

Additions:

- Streetlight at the bottom of Strone Brae
- Dog Poo Bin for the entrance of the forest gate at Westfield.

PRESENT: Diane Nicholson (Convenor), Janet Holm (Secretary), Mandy Grout, Graham Revill, Peter Hunter Douglas and Lachlan Macquarie.

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor G. Blair, Iain Shonny Paterson (LLTNP Representative), Gordon Holm (Geology). Steve Abbott (Defibrillators), Tracey Whitfield, Anne Rodger, Andy Rodger, David Webster and Caroline Munro.

APOLOGIES: Mark Borland (Vice Convenor), Kerris Bone, Lyndsey Greer, Russell Humphreys (Treasurer), Councillor W Sinclair, Councillor Y McNeilly, Malcolm Bird, Kirsty Manual, 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 February 2025 minutes were:

Proposed: D Nicholson

Seconded: Lachie Macquarie ***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 police report was submitted. Gordon Blair said that it could be a suggestion to see the police report from the Area Committee meeting which would have more information for the communities. He will see if that can be passed onto us.

6. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Ref No 2025/0036/PPP - Proposal Erection of Dwellinghouse - Location Finnart, Kilmun, Dunoon

Ref No 2025/0039/DET - Proposal Erection of 6 no. lodges (for holiday use) and formation of access road - Location Blairmore Farm Blairmore Dunoon

No objections were raised

7. COMMUNITY MATTERS

The Shore Sweepers / Graham's Point

DN has contacted ACHA re the trees which are undermining the sea wall at Graham's Point.

Hole in right of way path / Flooding issues

Caroline Munro said that FLS are going to do extra checks on their sediment traps on the hill and they are going to put in hydro breaks to slow the water when there is heavy rainfall.

There was flooding again at the lane in Strone.

Defibrillator(s) / Training

The 2 new defibrillators have arrived, one for Kilmun at Graham Thompson's house and another for Clachaig at Diane's house. They will be registered soon. SA said that there were enough funds for another defibrillator. There was discussion about possibly locating it at Strone Primary. This will be explored. SA said there will be a residue of funds which will be added to the maintenance funds. There are pads for the new defib which J Holm will look after. SA has spoken to the doctor surgery and it would appear that Highland NHS will not agree to the defib being put outside the building. A resident made a comment about the defib in Morrison and they say there is a battery shortage. Steve and Tracey will find out more. There is now a defib at Dunoon Stadium. Heartstart need some help with classes, so they need volunteers. KCC will add a leaflet asking for volunteers with these minutes.

Community Support for adverse events

KCC would like some comments from the community about what the issues were with the electricity cuts after Storm Eowyn that could be feedback by KCC to SSEN.

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

Argyll & Bute Council

Gordon Blair, as chair of the area committee he is trying to make sure that community matters are highlighted.

A couple of local issues. The councillors are getting a pay rise which they didn't request. Some councillors, who are on a pension, are going to contribute to charities.

The information around the changes at the library in Dunoon. There was much misinformation which was not helped by poor communication. Gordon explained how the funding and the running of the library is managed.

£10 million pounds has been allocated to roads which hopefully will be going towards to potholes and lightening. Problems with these can be reported on ABC website

Flooding risks – addition funds allocated to mitigate risks from climate change. There was a good meeting onsite with the residents and FLS who had flooding at Kilmun.

The following is a note from an email from Councillor Sinclair who could not attend the meeting:

"I raised the issue of the windfarms at the National Park and at our Area Committee. I would be happy if the Community Council was to write to me regarding yet another huge wind farm submitting a scoping request and also having concerns that Argyll and Bute Council might not bring the wind mast to a planning committee. I have raised an objection as a Councillor and my family as residents.

The Council tax was difficult but necessary to keep services running please can you state that residents if they wish can pay Council tax over 12 months instead of 10. This would require them to contact Argyll and Bute Council Direct.

We have committed 10 million to roads and given the huge amount of storm damage added £2.9m to help fund damage now and for future storm related events which it will take the Council Months to repair damage to sea fronts like Dunoon and many Building including the Helensburgh Leisure Centre. I noted the substantial damage to the roofs in Kilmun, Strone and Blairmore and hope insurance companies are being helpful.

We committed £1.7 m to help support our Health and Social Care Partnership, I have literally spent most of the day trying to get a patient a care package to allow them to leave the Inverclyde Hospital and get home to Dunoon which suddenly got sorted after my involvement.

The Library in the Queens Hall as you will know has been located within the building this has been necessary to allow further income generation. Live Argyll has over the last 5 years seen hundreds of thousands of pounds removed from it funding agreement with the Council and only replaced by income generation, given the employer's National insurance rise Live Argyll will now have to find an extra £155,000 even although they have a charity status."

Councillor Gordon Sinclair said that ABC will also be looking at school roles.

It was noted to Councillor Blair that a resident has reported the streetlamp at the bottom of Strone Brae has not been reinstated after it was completely damaged when a tree branch fell on it last year. GH said that another streetlight is damaged just as you leave Strone where the top of the light has broken off.

There is also a request for a poo bin at the forest path at Westfield.

Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park Representative

LLTNP have approved the annual operational plan for 2025/2026.

Some issues included are:

- Inspire information on climate
- Diversity and Inclusion
- Deliver place plan programme
- Improve travel infrastructure
- Develop a new strategic transport partnership
- Increase sustainable tourism

The ranger service was also discussed, and applications are open now for those who would like to be a seasonal ranger this year.

Heather Reid, our chair would like to meet community councillors from this area. A meeting has been arranged on the 26th March 11am Diane and Lachie are going to attend and it was suggested to have the meeting at The Creggans in Strachur.

KCC said that the main issue for us in this area is the proposed windfarms on the Cowal Hills.

Sonny said that he could not comment of that issue as he is on the planning committee.

Forestry and Land Scotland – Fraser MacDonald

We have completed removing trees off the bottom road to allow SSE in to work on clearing OHPL wayleave. I understand that this work should be finished in next couple of weeks.

Once SSE have completed their operations FLS will look at programming in the upgrade of roads and harvesting of coupes that get approved by Scottish Forestry. I will provide more accurate information for next meeting.

With regards to storm Eowyn a couple a weekends ago Ardentinny in particular, seems to have been more impacted and have quite a lot of trees down and damage to crops. We will be flying these areas with drones as soon as possible to get a clear picture of impact and again programme in roading upgrades and then felling works.

Although not part of Kilmun Community once harvesting and haulage starts this may have an impact on road use through Kilmun.

Visitor Services – attached is a copy of our trails throughout Cowal which will give an indication on the work we have ahead and again I can update better on this progress at next meeting. This is just a snapshot of impact with in KCC

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 I believe. I am also aware that Benmore Botanic Garden suffered severe damage.

There are currently no event permissions for the near future, which will impact the KCC, but expect some to come in for later in the year.

Harvesting Operations Kilmun,

- Harvesting work now completed at Kilmun Junction 10017 – Approximately 300 tonnes at roadside, haulage to be complete and contract due to close end of February 2025.
- Windblown road clearance to provide access to Blairmore coupe, should be completed by 14/02/25 and timber removed with Kilmun Junction.
- No planned harvesting until Blairmore windblown proposed coupe approved.
- With regards to flooding issues at Strone Brae no further updates at present.
- A site visit was carried out at Woodburn with residents and councillors and a number of action points were identified as a result a meeting is planned with Argyll and Bute Council roads department for Monday 17th February.

Strone Primary School and Strone Primary Parent Council

No update submitted.

Younger Hall

No update submitted

Blairmore Hall

No update submitted

Historic Kilmun

Historic Kilmun has just opened for the season.

9 CURRENT ISSUES

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

KCC has put in a submission to Energy Consents for a delay on KCC scoping response to the Inverchaolain wind farm.

KCC voted to hold an information meeting on the environmental impact of the site after our AGM on Tuesday 13th May with speakers knowledgeable on the environmental issues in relation to this application.

We hope to be able to facilitate a submission into the Dunoon Observer with correct information of the environment area affected.

Post meeting - Information given by Statkraft for Public Exhibition at Younger Hall, Kilmun on Wednesday 2nd April 11am to 2pm.

SSE power lines Dunoon 132kV Overhead Line rebuild Project.

No update has been received.

Community Councils Ferry Group

DN has been in contact with Alan Stewart and suggested to have another meeting.

Meeting End: 8.55pm

Next Meeting: Tuesday April 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

Attachments

- Poster from Heartstart
- FLS AFP trail update Feb