

Kilmun Community Council – May Monthly Meeting

Website: www.kilmuncc.co.uk

Facebook: Kilmun Community Council

Instagram: @kilmuncc

Date: 14th May 2025

Time: 7:30pm

Location: Younger Hall, Kilmun

Attendance

Present (KCC Committee):

Mark Borland (Convenor)

Steve Abbott (Vice Convenor)

Janet Holm (Secretary)

Mandy Grout

Peter Hunter-Douglas

Diane Nicholson

Nicola Stewart

Katrina Said

Present (Other):

Councillor William Sinclair

Gordon Holm (Geology Specialist)

Apologies:

Iain Shony Paterson (LLTNP)

Lachlan MacQuarrie

Fraser MacDonald (FLaS)

Russell Humphreys (Treasurer)

Councillor Gordon Blair

Councillor Yvonne McNeilly

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 April 2025 were circulated and accepted and a true and accurate record of events.

Proposed:

Mandy Grout

Seconded:

Steve Abbott

Result:

Carried

4. Treasurers Report

Balance carried forward	£2516.50
Monthly Expenditure – Bank Charges	£0.35
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

No police report has been provided again this month.

Janet Holm suggested that perhaps the Community Council need to follow up the reasons why we don't receive a police report.

Diane Nicholson stated that in her last communication with Police Scotland they had agreed that they would resume providing reports to community councils.

Council Gordon Blair had previously identified that the police do an extensive report for the community planning group.

Councillor William Sinclair noted that a community councillor could be assigned to look at this report but that there is a lot of materials included which would not be relevant to Kilmun Community Council area.

It was agreed that this is an issue which should be pursued further to ensure that we resume the receipt of a police report.

Action:	Contact local police station and investigate provision of police report.	Owner:	Katrina Said
Action:	Email application to community partnership teams meeting.	Owner:	Councillor William Sinclair

6. Planning Applications

2025/0057/DET	Kilmun Pier, Kilmun Dunoon. Construction of overnight berth including monopiles, fenders and mooring bollards.
2025/0108/NOT	Proposal for Upgrade of existing forestry road. Land North of Glen Massan Farm, Glen Massan, Argyll and Bute

No comments or objections were raised to any of the planning applications noted above.

7. Community Matters

7.1 – The Shore Sweepers / Graham's Point

The end of the road planter is being prepared with summer flowers when the weather becomes warmer during the night.

7. Community Matters

7.2 – Hole in right of way path / Flooding Issue

Mark Borland indicated that there were no further updates from either Argyll & Bute Council or Forestry & Land Scotland.

Mark Borland asked if Argyll & Bute Council legal team would continue to pursue the ownership issue with the land on which the culvert is located. Councillor William Sinclair agreed to speak to Mr Dalglish in the Argyll & Bute Council legal department.

Mark Borland suggested that, as it is the summer with drier weather, it is a good time to do mitigating works to resolve the problem.

Action:	Contact Mr Dalglish in the Argyll & Bute Council legal department for and update on land ownership progress.	Owner:	Councillor William Sinclair
Action:	Rename this item “Shore Villages Flooding Issues” for future meetings.	Owner:	Janet Holm

7.3 – Defibrillators / Training

Steve Abbott reported that currently, the main issue the community has is that, although a new defibrillator has been delivered, there is no clarity on whether it can be sited on the Strone Primary School building.

Councillor William Sinclair asked Steve Abbott to write to him regarding this specific issue and request and he will pass the enquiry onto Douglas Hendry (Argyll & Bute Council) who may be able to help with this issue.

It was also reported that batteries have been replaced in the defibrillators at Kilmun Hall and Blairmore Hall. All defibrillators are maintained on a monthly basis.

Steve Abbott also reported that he is still not sure what is happening with Western Ferries in relation to defibrillators.

It was again highlighted that there is a need to have a list of companies to whom Kilmun Community Council could approach for donations to help with maintenance of the defibrillators.

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

7.4 – Community Support for Adverse Events

Steve Abbott and Mark Borland had a meeting on resilience in our community. Steve has downloaded the ‘Ready Scotland Plan’ material, the Ardentenny Community Council contingency plan and The Largs Resilience Team Plan to investigate whether there is anything that can be used in Kilmun Community Council’s contingency plan.

A meeting took place at Glendaruel regarding resilience. Unfortunately, no one for Kilmun Community Council was able to attend.

It was noted that, without Kilmun Community Council having our own buildings, we need to establish what resources and assets are available in our community to assist. It was also agreed that Steve Abbott will register Kilmun Community Council for the Argyll and Bute community funding stream as well as any other relevant and available funding streams.

With regards existing emergency bags, Janet Holm will ask Russell Humphries for details on where the bag is currently located within Kilmun Hall. It was also agreed that it needs to be confirmed whether connections were installed to allow generators to be used at the Younger Hall.

7. Community Matters

Action:	Register Kilmun Community Council with funding streams	Owner:	Steve Abbott
Action:	Contact Russell Humphries regarding emergency bag	Owner:	Janet Holm
Action:	Continue to progress contingency planning	Owner:	Steve Abbott / Mark Borland
Action:	Rename item as Community Resilience for the next agenda	Owner:	Janet Holm

8. Discussion with Argyll & Bute Local Councillor(s) and National Parks Representative(s)

8.1 – Argyll & Bute Council

Councillor Sinclair reported that tourist levy consultation now finished. There will be a period when Argyll & Bute Council will evaluate the enquiries and responses which is being done through an external organisation. Once this has been completed then it will be circulated to allow the public and community organisations to see the results.

Diane Nicholson asked if there had been a good volume of response to the consultation and Councillor Sinclair said that there had been a lot of responses.

Councillor Sinclair explained about a new scheme that is being made available “*Eco Flex 4*”. This is aimed at private individuals who would like to change to more eco-friendly forms of heating. There are various grants which can be made available. This scheme is available for properties in the banding A – D, anyone, who earns less than £31,000 a year or is in receipt of various benefits. Information on this will be put out through an Argyll & Bute Council press release. It will be the responsibility of individuals to go apply if they feel this is suitable for them and they meet the requirements.

Steve Abbott asked who will be audit the builder’s work as there have concerns about work that had been done by builders in the past. Councillor Sinclair replied that this will be done by the companies who will be contracted through a framework agreement to provide, manage and support the building work. How this is to be procured by Argyll & Bute Council or who the suppliers will eventually be, has still to be decided.

The Ballymore Bridge is being worked on as quickly as possible, and it is estimated that works will be complete by the summer.

With regards transport, Councillor Sinclair is becoming worried about this aspect. He was at the Cowal Transport Forum, and he stated that the Jim Failey, Transport Minister also attended the meeting for the 2nd time.

A consultation went out via Transport Scotland, and it has returned with a proposal to withdraw 3 return sailings on the CalMac Gourock / Dunoon passenger route. Councillor Sinclair considers that Community Councils really need to seriously consider what they want to see from the CalMac service. Mark Borland & Diane Nicholson noted that at the previous Cowal Gourock Ferry Group meeting, it was agreed that this group would be a single point of communication with regards all aspects of communication with C-MAL regarding ferry services.

Mark Borland suggested that a Kilmun Community Council member should take a lead responsibility for managing transport issues.

Action:	Consult with committee on a lead transport representative	Owner:	Mark Borland
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8.2 – Forestry & Land Scotland (submitted via email)

Visitor Services - PAMP 08055

The section of East Loch Eck Forest Road between Inverchapel and Whistlefield (please see attached map) will be closed Monday to Friday to allow us to safely fell trees infected with Phytophthora Ramorum (Larch Disease). It will be necessary for some of these works for a winch to operate from the forest road, and timber stacking will also be along the road. For these reasons, please do not attempt to access the forest road during operational days. The road will be left safe and passable for weekends, but the surface may be muddier than usual.

8. Discussion with Argyll & Bute Local Councillor(s) and National Parks Representative(s)

Puck's Glen Trail remains closed for now, though car park is open to allow people to walk along to/from Benmore Garden. We are aiming to have the section of trail from the car park up to the forest road open by end of June.

All trails within Kilmun Arboretum and Big Tree Trail have now been cleared and are open.

There are no Event permissions which will affect Kilmun Community Council this month

Harvesting - Not much change for harvesting work at Kilmun, harvesting contract is now closed and small section of remaining timber will be uplifted when we start at Blairmore. All signage (exc. timber stacks), OHPL goalposts, harvesting contractor trailer and debris etc has all been cleared and just waiting on post harvesting civils work.

Civil engineering - As per Kilmun Hill work map attached.

The civil engineering team are on site at present carrying out maintenance work on roads (yellow on map) this includes some ditching, scraping of road to remove harvesting debris and installation of hydro breaks in roadside drain.

We have constructed ATV access tracks (red lines on map) to assist with wildlife management and planting operations later this year. These tracks are fairly fresh and as such entrance has been blocked to allow tracks to consolidate.

Blairmore Harvesting – Attached is approved felling coupe above Blairmore to deal with windblow.

The plan will be to upgrade bottom road below quarry first to allow harvesting to commence in orange area of map. Civils are currently working on tender for road upgrade works, the tender and upgrades are expected to take a couple of months so expectation is that harvesting will commence late August/September, but I can update with a more definitive timeframe.

Kilmun flooding – No further updates regarding Old School house or hole in the wall.

3 attachments attached to minutes

- FLS Blairmore Windblown Approved Felling Coupe
- Kilmun Hill Works
- O8055 ELE Felling Map.

8.3 – Loch Lomond & Trossachs National Park

No update was provided.

8.4 – Strone Primary School & Strone Parent Council

There was discussion about the possibility Strone Primary being mothballed because of a very low roll.

Action:	Request update from Argyll & Bute Council on plans for Strone Primary School	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

Historic Kilmun has recently opened for the summer season.

9. Current Issues			
9.1 - Meteorological weather mast, Giant's Burn Wind Farm and Inverchaolain wind farm (scoping)			
<p>Kilmun Community Council is keeping up to date with the documentation submitted by Statkraft. There has been no information forthcoming from Argyll & Bute Council planning regarding the Meteorological weather mast.</p> <p>Kilmun Community Council has not put a scoping document for Inverchaolain windfarm application to Energy Consents Scotland. A decision is still to be made on this based on the views of other community councils within a closer proximity to the proposed location for this site.</p>			
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
9.2 - SSE power lines Dunoon 132kV Overhead Line rebuild Project.			
No update provided			
9.3 – Community Council Ferry Group			
Update provided as part of section 8.1 above.			

10. Any Other Competent Business			
10.1 – Roads & Lighting Faults			
<p>Mark Borland reported that the streetlight at the bottom on Strone Brae has been repaired. Mark had reported it through the Argyll & Bute Council Roads & Lighting Faults website. It was re-iterated that anyone can use the website to report faults. It was also noted that a number of issues can be reported through the Argyll & Bute Council website at the link provided below:</p> <p>https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/my-council/report-it</p> <p>Peter Hunter-Douglas reported that a resident had reported an overhanging tree at Westfield and although he has contacted Argyll & Bute Council, he has had no action. Councillor Sinclair asked Peter Hunter-Douglas to pass the reference number onto him.</p>			
Action:	Pass reference number for overhanging tree to Councillor Sinclair	Owner:	Peter Hunter-Douglas
10.2 – Social Media & Communication			
<p>Mark Borland noted that a new Facebook and Instagram page has been set up for Kilmun Community Council to provided clearer and more frequent communication with residents. Previous social media was managed by a previous committee member and as such needed to be reviewed.</p> <p>It was also agreed that, following the Annual general Meeting and new committee members, that a new WhatsApp group should be created to allow the committee to discuss issues and plan remotely.</p> <p>It was also suggested by Steve Abbott, that Kilmun Community Council would benefit from letter headed templates and email templates that could be consistently used by the Committee on official communications.</p>			
Action:	Remove old Kilmun Community Council Facebook page	Owner:	Janet Holm
Action:	Set up new committee WhatsApp group.	Owner:	Mark Borland

10. Any Other Competent Business

Action:	Create Letter head and email templates	Owner:	Mark Borland
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10.3 - Other

Gordon Holm mentioned that Jim Kirby, a former long standing Kilmun Community Council committee member has passed away and provided the date for his funeral.

Meeting Closure

As there was no further business raised, the meeting was closed at 8:47pm

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:	10 th June 2025	Next Meeting Location:	Blairmore Hall, Blairmore
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Document Attachments

Forestry & Land Scotland: Blairmore Windblown Approved Felling Coupe

Forestry & Land Scotland: Kilmun Hill Works

Forestry & Land Scotland: O8055 ELE Felling Map.