Minutes of the Community Council Meeting

13 June 2023 Location: Cove Burgh Hall, Small Hall

1. Present

**In room:** John Auld, James McLean, Sheelagh O’Reilly (Secretary), Euan Wright, Christine Murdoch, Nick Davies (Chair / Convenor), Derek Fowlis, Susannah Conran, Ali Mills and Councilor Maurice Corry

**On- line** : Sheena Edwards (Treasurer) and Councilor Shonny Patterson,

**Members of the public:** two

1. Apologies

Councilor Mark Irvine

1. Declaration of interest

Fire Hydrants: Sheelagh O’Reilly

Pier: Ali Mills

1. Police Report

* Report circulated – nothing raised in meeting.
* The secretary indicated that 30 mph speed restriction stickers had been requested from the police. Awaiting delivery. Only to be used on property with the owner’s permission.
* The council discussed the possibility of expanding the 40 mph speed limits for Shore Rd, Cove – Coulport. Need to build an evidence base (as advised by Councilor Corry regarding previous changes on the peninsula). **Agree that the Convenor would send a letter to the roads officer to discuss the issue.**

1. Chair / Convenor

* CC agreed to sponsor a £100 barrel at Real Ale festival (23 Sep).
* Regarding Service 540 from Gourock – The Chair had sent a letter to support the Gourock CC campaign as this service enables people to access the hospital.
* A&B Council has invited the Chair / Convenor (or nominee) of A&B Community Councils to attend a meeting with the council. This used to happen annually in the past. Meeting to be held on 26th June and the Secretary will attend. Minutes / material from the meeting will be circulated.
* Beach clean on Coronation Monday had a good attendance despite the weather. Some people went to different sites. A&B Council quickly remove material. **Agreed** to hold beach clean quarterly and that the next clean will be on the weekend of the Real Ale Festival (morning 10 – 12 before festival starts). Site and arrangements to be finalized – including any necessary permissions.
* Commemorative Tree Planting: Issue discussed regarding location of possible Christmas Tree or edible fruit trees near the play park. Could we also put permanent lights on the existing Scots Pine in Kilcreggan? Advice on species to be sought with a view to planting in Autumn 2023.
* Letter circulated from A&B Council regarding the complaint about the School Road ‘dog-poo’ bin. This is to be re-instated but there is a supply chain delay at present. To keep under review.

1. Minutes of meeting held on 14 April 2023 (and previously circulated)

**Minutes agreed and signed.**

Items not on the agenda:

* Ruanda planning application – this is still showing (at date of meeting) as not decided but there are indications that the application has been withdrawn.

1. Update on Our Community Project

Euan Wright presented an oral report and thanked those who are actively contributing to the ongoing implementation of the Our Community project. Key points:

* Spent the £50,000 budget for PY1.
* Project budget for PY2 is £60,000. Currently working with SKS but also examining options to bring in a specific project manager (consultant). Christine Murdoch volunteered to provide support regarding recruitment etc. for the project manager.
* Visit to Newcastleton very useful. Write up now on the website.
* Draft report and comments made on the LUC report for Rosneath Peninsula covering environment. This complements the community survey etc. which focused on the social dimensions.
* Economic development options a key lesson from Newcastleton being reviewed.

Sheelagh O’Reilly made a short presentation on the Community Mapping Scotland project (document previously circulated). It was agreed that this may be useful for the CC, and it was **agreed that login details for CMS be shared with the CC so that individuals can see the how it works and what data may be available.** The data from the LUC report will also be cross-checked with what is available on CMS and

1. Community Emergency Planning proposal

Following a short presentation on the previously circulated document the community council **agreed** that there should be a ‘drop in’ event in early October (probably 7th) at the CBH. Aim for 2.5 hr session (10 – 12.30) with tea/coffee available. This would focus on individual / household emergency planning but with the aim of starting the process of building the neighbour emergency network. Also **agreed** that if any member of the community council has additional risks that should be considered in the risk matrix they should email them to the Secretary so that the team can discuss.

1. Ferry and Pier

A detailed discussion was held on Pier / Ferry following a meeting held by representatives of the CC on 13th June with the Chair of the A&B Harbour Board (Councillor Kain), Head of Roads & Infrastructure (Jim Smith) and local Councillors in Kilcreggan village. Key point were:

* This was a positive meeting in which there was a full and frank exchange of ideas. Local concerns regarding ‘option 4a’ were explained and the locally preferred option in Kilcreggan Bay was presented. It was confirmed that nothing is confirmed at this stage. Those attending felt that they were being listened to and the meeting has therefore opened channels of communication which it is hoped will continue. This was confirmed by feedback from our Councilors. This also saw a recognition by A&B Council that the consultations to date have not been sufficient and that a public meeting is required which needs to include Transport Scotland. In addition, there was an apology for the lack of a public meeting, which we understand is because no decision had been made regarding the replacement ferries. Until that decision is finalised, Transport Scotland were reluctant to participate in a public event.

In subsequent discussion it was pointed out that:

* Whilst no decisions have been made our pier development is likely to be a long process. Transport Scotland are still not clear on the ferries (2 large / 1 small, catamaran type?. A GI Survey is to be done around the seabed in the area.
* It was pointed out that Transport Scotland often don’t participate in the Ferry Users Stakeholder Group.
  + Jackie Baillie MSP has been campaigning on our behalf. There has been a new Transport Minister appointed by the Scottish Government so hopefully there might be more interest from Scottish Govt.
  + We all agree that the ferry is essential to the peninsula.
  + The connection between the ferry timetable and trains from Gourock to Glasgow Central needs to be refined.
  + The current process highlighted the role played by the local MSP (currently Jackie Baillie). There is currently a consultation by the Electoral Commission on the boundaries for the Scottish Parliament. The CC urged all members to follow up this consultation and submit their views.

1. Treasurer

See Statement of Accounts attached to the AGM minutes.

Current balance in account (not including the transfer from the Bus Fund) is £2250.12.

The necessary paperwork for closure of the Bus Fund account and signatories to be followed up.

1. Roads / Paths / Lighting (from minutes)

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Issue** | **Date Raised / with who / or with ABC by C&K CC** | **Status** |
| Electric Car charging point | ABC and charging points? Where should they go?  CBH – grant for one more year but then who will maintain? | Ongoing. |
| Fire Hydrants | Fire service after 13/09/22 | Ongoing – with Fire Service.  Holes dug Post meeting note the site at School Road / Shore Road has been replaced (145th June) but the hole still to be filled in. |
| Tigh Dearg | ABC improve drainage / surface water? | Matter remains ongoing. |
| Fairfield Bridge | Long history but raised again at meeting 04/04/23. | Issue remains ongoing |

1. Licensing

Nothing for the CC.

1. Community Planning

Planning application for the Fish farm in Loch Long.

James McLean and Ali Mills attended the meeting in Arrochar with the Recorder on 8th June. The recorder will circulate a timescale for the appeal process. James McLean raised the issue of micro-plastics – but it is not clear that this is a planning matter but should be followed up with the Food Standards Agency (for the quality of the fish). Input from public regarding the issue of wild fish and the pollution in Loch Long from the fish farm. Issues of the tidal flushing / volume of waste. However there appears to be no substantive baseline on the quality of the water / ecosystem although Lochgoilhead are pursuing issues of the scientific knowledge in a Loch that currently has no fish farm activities. C&K CC will continue to engage with the process.

What should the remit of C&K CC be in relation to planning matters outside its boundaries?

Issue is what principles / markers might be used by the CC to decide if a planning matter is something that it should consider. Given the lateness of the hour the CC **agreed** that there should either be a ‘special’ meeting on the issue or that this issue is addressed at the start of the next meeting. However, it was also requested that a short paper on the arguments be **circulated in advance** of a meeting so that discussions can be focused. It was also highlighted that the CCs are regulated by the the constitution, standing orders, Best Practice Agreement and the Scheme for the establishment of Community Councils in Argyll & Bute in 2022 (all of which have been circulated to CC members).

Building relationships with Argyll & Bute Council

James McLean is continuing to follow this up and is looking to have a meeting with the new head of planning in July.

1. Any Other Competent Business

* Scottish Conference of Community Councils being organized by Joint Forum of Community Councils in West Lothian (10 June 2023 10.30 – online). Awaiting the outcome of the meeting.
* National Standards for Community Engagement (<https://www.scdc.org.uk/what/national-standards#gsc.tab=0>) meeting attended by SOReilly / John Auld.
* Argyll & Bute Community Action Network . CC decided that, at this stage, it would not join but monitor and see if any future collaboration would be sensible.
* The proposal to jointly purchase, with the SRWI, a new bench, possibly situated in Cove, was agreed.

15. Date of Next Meeting 8 August 2023