

Dunadd Community Council

Community Council Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 30th May 2023 at 7pm in Dalriada Mid Argyll Parish Church, Kilmartin.

Present: George Stewart (GS) Convener, Jo Cole (JC) Vice Convener, Di Roberts (DR) Treasurer, Willie Beattie, (WB), Jim Malcolm (JM), Sue MacLean (SM), David MacInnes (DM), David Smart (DS).

In attendance: David Bracken (DB), Jan Brown (JB) Argyll and Bute Councillor, John Gurr (JG) Mac Pool, Grace MacLeod (GM) Kilmartin Museum, Louise MacPhail (LM).

Secretary: Hazel Fuller (HF) to be included in all correspondence.

1. **Apologies:** Sue Creech
2. **Declarations of interest:** DS for DCE micro grant application. JC for Ford Village Hall micro grant application.
3. **Matters arising** from meeting held on 27th March 2024.

9.1 Traffic problems:

A member of the public had emailed in raising concerns about the speed of traffic travelling through Kilmartin. This was copied to A&BC Roads team on 27.5.24 and cc'd JB asking what progress had been made on extending the 30mph limit to the north of the village as this action was agreed in Nov 2021. **Action: JB agreed to chase up.**

DB witnessed a near miss involving a local cyclist as a car and a white van overtook the cyclist as he signalled and started to position himself to turn right.

A lively discussion ensued with many recent examples of dangerous incidents.

The issue has been raised with A&BC on numerous occasions in recent years and it was noticed in the 'look back in history' section of the Squeak that the issue was of concern 40 years ago!

A&BC had painted 30mph signs on the road surface, which made a slight difference, only to cover them within a few months when resurfacing the road. They have not been repainted.

Of the existing road signs to the north of the village, one is obscured by foliage, and one has been hit and no longer faces the traffic.

The Police have attempted to monitor traffic speed in the past but have placed monitoring equipment where the road layout almost prevents speeding rather than the entrances/exits to the village.

There is a real concern among those living and working in Kilmartin that nothing will get done until or unless someone gets killed or seriously injured. It is understood that the school bus was put on to take children to Kilmartin Primary School because the walk to school route is unsafe because of the traffic.

It was noted that the road sign by the Nether Largie standing stones towards Crinan is a badly sited sign. **Action: JB to progress.**

The issues of speeding traffic, bad parking and the subsequent danger is many stranded and long standing. It was agreed that a document laying out the key issues, potential actions and

responsibilities would be helpful. Hopefully this will minimise confusion and help all concerned to understand what part each can play in finding solutions. **Action: DR to draft for next meeting.**

10.1 Police report:

In the wider area there were 176 calls in March and April of which 35 were crimes. It is understood that Community Police Officers may attend future meetings where incidents allow.

10.2 Quarry extension:

A member of the public has emailed regarding the noise and un-sheeted lorries leaving. Mairi (MacLeod's) has been contacted and replied:

“Activity in the quarry is limited just now as we have high stock levels, so we don't quite understand where the additional noise could be coming from? Some items of plant have not been used for a while due to the levels of stock we have. We are also restricted as to what we can do just now due to the sand martins nesting. We did have an issue with one piece of machinery that was making a louder noise when starting up however the additional noise only lasted a minute or two on startup (once a day) and was fixed as soon as the part arrived.

Regarding un-sheeted loads, we are not aware of this issue however I have spoken to our team at the quarry and asked them to double check with all drivers that loads are sheeted.

I hope that this alleviates any concerns.

Kind regards, Mairi. Mairi Coleman (nee MacLeod)”

GM said that MacLeods are happy for the community to have some of the oak trees.

Police are aware of the homeless man living in the tent on the hill above the path to the cairns. It is thought he has left.

11. Updates:

11.1 Kilmartin Museum – Sharon Webb (SW) and Anne Smart (AS) joined the meeting.

The Museum is now open 7 days a week and is fully staffed. Artefacts are coming back on-site. A new door is being fitted to enable community use of the education room and that the car park would be available at such times. The car park is available for use during the day now. The room can be booked by emailing admin@kilmartin.org. The learning centre has a capacity of 30 and the library 12.

Work will commence shortly on a gate into the Glebe Field from the back of the Museum.

The issue of coaches coming to the Museum was raised again. They are told to drop and leave to park at Carnassarie car park, but often don't.

If they are causing an obstruction they can be reported to the police.

SW agreed that Museum staff would go out and check that buses have moved away once dropped passengers off.

There are two coach/bus companies that visit the village but don't go into the museum.

The official re-opening of the Museum will take place on Wed 3rd July.

11.2 Macpool – JG, Chair of Trustees.

The pool has recently appointed its third manager in two years, hopefully ending a period on instability.

The pool is also almost fully staffed now.

It needs a new roof and the road at the front of the building needs upgrading. The disabled person hoist is broken, funding has been applied for to repair or replace it. These issues cause real pressure on finances.

Extended opening hours are being explored. DS suggested they contact Tarbert Community Trust for funding.

Technique improvement and adult swimming classes could also be considered.

JG was thanked for this update and all wished him and the organisation well for the future as the pool is such a valuable resource.

11.3 DCE – DS

Funding has been secured for a new tractor mower for Kilmartin Village Green.

Parking for Book Swap has become an issue as last month there was one parking space at the Parish Church as the volunteers arrived to set up the gathering. It appears that Museum staff are regularly asked to park at the Church to ensure sufficient parking on the Museum site. **Action: the Museum have agreed to ask staff not to park at the church on the first Wed of the month.**

DCE is seeking funding for a Development Worker.

Work on the Community Plan was done pro-bono to keep costs down. The Community Plan revision is now complete.

12. Correspondence:

12.1 Micro-grant applications:

Ford Village Hall is requesting funding for new signs and notice board. £250. All agreed.

DCE is requesting funding to identify local businesses and enable relationships with them to be developed. £250. All agreed.

Mid Argyll Pipe Band is requesting funding to enable young pipes and drummers to attend summer school. One for piping and one for drumming. 2 x £250. All agreed.

12.2 Bin collections:

A letter from A&BC had been received by several residents who lived on unmade roads, that seemed to threaten that unless the standard of the road was improved bin collections may cease. Several residents had replied to A&BC but had thus far not received a reply. Action: JB to follow up with Graham Hatton.

Digital landlines:

SM had received an email from BT about analogue landlines which are being phased out to be replaced by digital landlines. This would mean a failure in power or internet connection leave us with no phone unless we have a mobile. Concerns were raised about the intermittent nature of mobile signal in the area and for those who don't have a mobile. It seems 30 days' notice will be given and any issues this change would make to an individual will be considered then.

It was agreed that DCC would keep a watching brief on the situation to ensure residents are not left vulnerable through lack of telephone communication.

Park Run:

DI and several others have been working hard to set up a local park run. Arrangements are almost in place. Due to the popularity of 'first' park runs across the country, it is hoped a 'soft launch' will enable issues to be rectified more easily. Every one thought this was a great thing.

A&BC changes:

JB outlined the recent changes in the political administration of the council.

JB also told us about her sponsored walk in support of the MS Centre. We all wished her well.

Date of next meeting:

It was agreed at the AGM that DCC would meet the third Thursday of every other month, alternating between Kilmartin Parish Church and Ford Village Hall.

Next meeting Thurs 18th July 2024. Venue TBC.