

Draft Minutes Bute Community Council	
Date	2023-11-15 1900 at United Church Bute version 2, corrected as adopted in 2024-01-17 BCC meeting
Online at	butecommunitycouncil.wordpress.com
Draft Minutes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Attendance: I Gillespie, R McIntyre, F Martin, J Moffat, T Nelson, W Nelson, J Osborne, Cllr R Kennedy-Boyle Apologies: I Morrison, P Wallace 2. Declarations of Interest: FM, JM, TN and WN are all members of Buteiful Seas and Shores 3. Police Report – attached <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. JM will contact CI Alan Dickson to ask if a police officer might be present at future meetings to answer questions 4. Minutes of Previous Meeting: 18 October, 2023: JO proposes, FM seconds, agreed. 5. Guest speaker: Gloria Fear on behalf of Bute Island Radio <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Bute Island Radio (BIR) is a registered charity run by volunteers. It has an FM licence, so broadcasts over the air waves as well as digitally. The recent move to new offices, on the top floor of the ACHA offices up Ballochgoy way, means that the FM broadcast now reaches all but a few spots on the island as well as Wemyss Bay, Greenock, and even Paisley. The digital broadcast has listeners in the USA, Canada, Australia and across the UK. 4,000 people follow the station and there are 1,200 who tune in regularly. All genres of music are played – from classical to punk, as well as there being chat shows, ferry and weather updates, and events listings. b. BIR would like BCC to become an active participant in the monthly schedule. For example, it was agreed that there could be a monthly chat after the BCC meeting, to highlight topics discussed at the meeting. The two groups might also share information on their websites. c. BIR’s main goal for 2024 is to update equipment. BIR would also like to welcome more volunteer presenters. d. Cllr Kennedy-Boyle remarked that BIR had been a great support to the community during Covid. e. Christmas Raffle tickets are available for purchase from BIR at a cost of £1 per ticket. 6. Matters Arising <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Community engagement Meeting in Port Bannatyne: b. Saputo Legacy Fund update: J Moffat explained that at a recent service at Trinity Church, it was announced that Saputo would be taking on the Church Hall area of the buildings for use as a children’s’ indoor play area. The second project is still not known. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Saputo Community Fund: there was a lengthy discussion centred on the following concerns: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The difficulty in finding any information on the website relating to the fund, criteria for funding, accessing the application 2. J Moffat had emailed the company, then visited and spent time

speaking with the director's Personal Assistant and has still received none of the information detailed in the point above.

3. J Osborne was concerned that some funds have been granted to projects that did not meet stated criteria while some projects that appeared to meet the criteria received no funds. As well, when funding was not granted for a project, there was no explanation as to why. JO suggested that the BCC wither use the Saputo online contact form or ask MSP Jenni Minto to contact the company for some clarification as to their Community fund process. J Moffat said both means should be pursued.
 4. Cllr Kennedy-Boyle pointed out that the company had received a substantial amount of funding from HIE, so contacting HIE might be another avenue for gathering information.
- c. Possible meeting/survey on fish farms:
1. As the holiday season is fast approaching, no meetings or surveys will take place until January.
 2. BCC plans to do an initial survey to understand what questions and concerns Bute residents have regarding fish farms and then hold a meeting to address those questions/concerns. A follow up survey may then be carried out.
 3. The reason this is important to do is that there are a possible 4 fish farm applications pending in the waters near to Bute and BCC, as a statutory consultee, can make comment on those applications. BCC must represent the majority opinion of Bute residents and that majority opinion can only be determined through a process of surveying/meeting with residents.
- d. Discussion on Empty Property Relief
1. The current situation is: domestic rates for an empty property are exempted 50% for 3 months and 10% thereafter; empty industrial properties are exempted at 100% for the first 6 months and 10% thereafter.
 2. The proposal is for all properties to receive a 50% reduction for 3 months, 10% for a further 9 months and then no relief thereafter.
 3. The BID has consulted businesses on Bute regarding the proposed changes.
 4. There is still time to express an opinion or ask for clarification on proposed changes as the policy is still in the development stage. Local A&B councillors can provide clarification if there is a specific question.
 5. The following are links to the current A&B council web pages for current domestic and non-domestic rates, as well as long-term empty properties:
 1. Domestic: <https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/council-tax-and-benefits/council-tax/council-tax-leaflet>
 2. Non-domestic: <https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/business-and-licensing/business-rates/brief-guide-rates>
 3. Empty properties: <https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/council-tax-and-benefits/council-tax/council-tax-empty-properties>

	<p>7. A&B Councillor Reports: please see attached reports for Cllrs R Kennedy-Boyle and P Wallace</p> <p>8. Community Councillors' reports</p> <p>a. J Moffat provided a financial update. The most recent bank statement confirmed that the BCC had £5035.99 in its account. However, a payment of £1,125.72 was made to the Bute Resilience Team since receipt of the bank statement. This was a disbursement of ring-fenced funds held on behalf of BRT to BRT.</p> <p>b. R McIntyre provided a travel update. The MV Coruisk will be on the Rothesay – Wemyss Bay run until at least 30 November. Passengers must board on foot via the car deck on the Rothesay side. Repairs continue on the Glen Lean bridge but it could be some time before the road is passable again. There are still no passenger/vehicle numbers available from CalMac (since the move to the new ticketing system).</p> <p>c. W Nelson reported that there were no planning applications requiring BCC attention.</p> <p>9. Public Questions</p> <p>a. The consultation on the reform to Scotrail's Inverclyde and Ayrshire Timetable is open until 20 November.</p> <p>10. AOCB</p> <p>a. The topic of Participation Requests was raised by J Moffat and it was suggested and agreed that David Rennie be invited to speak to the BCC about the topic.</p> <p>b. At the previous meeting, the idea of moving the BCC meetings from Wednesday to Monday had been suggested. J Moffat asked James McMillan if he would check the availability of the United Church Hall in relation to such a move and he said he would report back in January.</p> <p>c. W Nelson proposed a thank you to F Martin for attending all 4 Remembrance ceremonies on the island on behalf of BCC as well as laying a wreath at the cenotaph.</p> <p>11. Date of Next Meeting: 17 January, 2024</p>
<p>Following Documents</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Police Report • Cllr Report – Reeni Kennedy-Boyle • Cllr Report – Peter Wallace