

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

Community Council Debrief

Date: 10/10/23 to 07/11/23

Location & Beat: High Kirk, Rothesay Beat 53, 54

Officer Reporting: Sgt McGunnigal

<p>No. of Incidents reported (Since last meeting)</p>	<p>113 incidents raised.</p> <p>3 Public Nuisance calls. 5 Drugs/Substance Misuse calls. 1 Disturbance calls. 1 Noise Complaint calls. 4 Neighbour Dispute calls. 1 Communication (threats) calls. 1 False calls. 4 Duplicate calls. 2 Police Generated calls. 29 Assist Member of Public calls. 2 Domestic Bail check calls. 2 External Agency Request calls. 1 Fraud calls. 3 Theft calls. 1 Hate Crime call 1 Suspect person call. 1 Assault calls. 4 Damage calls. 1 Fire call. 1 Animal calls. 1 Weather call. 7 Domestic Incident calls. 9 Abandoned/Silent 999 calls. 1 Loss of 999 service call. 6 Concern for Person calls. 2 Child Protection call. 2 Road Traffic Collision calls. 6 Road Traffic Matter calls. 4 Road Traffic Offence calls. 2 Alarm calls. 1 Extortion call. 2 Lost Property calls. 1 Other crime 1 Drone call</p>
<p>No. of Crime Reports generated (Since last meeting)</p>	<p>36 crime reports</p>
<p>Breakdown of Crime Reports (i.e. 1 x Assault)</p>	<p>Threatening and abusive behaviour – 9 Recorded, 7 Detected.</p> <p>Vandalism – 5 Recorded, 2 Detected</p> <p>Assault – 3 Recorded, 3 Detected.</p>

	<p>Theft by House breaking- 1 Recorded, 0 Detected</p> <p>Breach of bail/undertaking – 1 Recorded, 1 Detected</p> <p>Drugs – 3 Recorded, 2 Detected</p> <p>Theft – 3 Recorded, 0 Detected.</p> <p>Fraud –1 Recorded, 0 Detected</p> <p>Offensive Weapons – 1 Recorded, 1 Detected</p> <p>Drunk Driver - 1 Recorded, 1 Detected</p> <p>Sexual Offence - 1 Recorded, 0 Detected</p> <p>Communications Act - 1 Recorded, 0 Detected</p> <p>Resist Arrest - 1 Recorded, 1 Detected</p> <p>Fail to provide details - 1 Recorded, 1 Detected</p> <p>Drive no Insurance - 1 Recorded, 1 Detected</p> <p>Drive under influence of Drugs - 1 Recorded, 1 Detected</p> <p>Fail to quit Licenced Premises - 1 Recorded, 1 Detected</p> <p>Careless Driving - 1 Recorded, 0 Detected</p> <p>Police are conducting positive lines of enquiry into several of the undetected crimes.</p>
Information Appeals	
Current Initiatives	
Previous Meeting Response	
Questions & Issues Raised	
Actions Taken Re Issues Raised	

There have been extensive clean up works following the heavy rains and subsequent damage last month, which saw flooding issues in areas where there was no history of flooding. Closest to home, an inspection of the bridge on the B836 Glen Lean, the road to Dunoon, showed it to be significantly damaged. Initial plans to install a temporary bridge over the existing one while it is repaired will not now be possible as the bridge will need to be demolished. Arrangements are being made for a temporary bridge to be installed upstream to allow the road to be reopened while the bridge is replaced.

At the Bute & Cowal Business Day we heard about proposed upgrades to play parks in both Rothesay and Port Bannatyne, with the Community Council to be consulted on these. We also saw a draft roads programme for 24/25, however safety inspections on Bute are still ongoing with further road condition information still to come in, and the full costs of the storm damage will also need to be taken into account so the final roads programme taken forward may change.

I attended a seminar on Empty Property Relief, which has now been devolved to local authorities. It is recognised that empty commercial properties have a negative impact on towns and there are proposals to change the rates relief that are available, to standardise the system so all owners of empty properties are subject to the same rules and encourage owners to bring empty properties back into use to help reinvigorate town centres.

Robertson Construction, who are working on the Pavilion, have been engaging with the local schools and will be supporting the Rothesay Academy Careers Fair to give students an insight into careers in the construction industry from both management and construction perspectives and what qualifications/training they might need to enter the industry. They have also been working with Primary 5 pupils to cost and design a bug hotel, with the winning design to be built in the school grounds, supported by Robertson Construction staff.

The Council Customer Service Centre on Bute has moved from Eaglesham House to 37 Victoria Street (Old Royal Bank Building.) This multi-purpose facility is designed to include both public reception and customer support; with interview, meeting and collaboration spaces.

I also attended meetings of the PPSL committee and Civic Government Hearings; the Dumbarton and Argyll and Bute Joint Valuation Board; the Argyll Islands Sounding Board; the COSLA local leaders network seminar on Gypsy/Travellers; and Fyne Homes Staffing Committee.

Councillor Peter Wallace
Isle of Bute Ward
Argyll and Bute Council

I attended Bute and Cowal Business day where the focus was on play parks. I asked questions about value for money, use of natural materials to create play experience, use of planting rather than fences to create boundaries and engaging with local business who could manufacture play park items. The service has provided answers post the meeting.

I have been pursuing the issue around lack of charging for EV’s. Scottish Power have provided a date of 29th November to deal with issue at Guildford Square, however I have been informed that these are approaching the end of its life cycle and the service are seeking to replace with a newer one. The rapid chargers at Rothesay Harbour are installed and will be commissioned week commencing 20th November, although no firm date has been provided for when they will be fully operational. Argyll & Bute Council are waiting on funding allocation from Transport Scotland before roll out of further charging points. I have followed up with Ross Moreland, Policy Lead for the Administration.

I can confirm that the polling station for the south of the island will return to Kingarth Hotel. There is no update on Port Bannatyne as yet.

Scottish Government are providing £608,000 of funding to support Argyll & Bute Council the devolution of Non-Domestic Rates to local authorities. The policy options are being worked up for presentation to committee with planned implementation 1st April 2024. It is hoped that the new policy will be simpler and fairer, and crucially lead to empty business premises being brought back into use.

Unfortunately the recruitment of the new Traffic Officer was not successful, this means that a number of road issues remain outstanding, these include traffic surveys. The department are stretched and are prioritising urgent matters.

Work on behalf of constituents has included issues relating to housing, transport, health and social care and leisure service provision.