

| Draft Minutes Bute Community Council | |
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| Date | 2024-01-17 1900 at United Church Bute |
| Online at | butecommunitycouncil.wordpress.com |
| Draft Minutes | <p>1. Attendance: I Gillespie, C Hall, R McIntyre, F Martin, J Moffat, T Nelson, W Nelson, J Osborne, Cllr R Kennedy-Boyle, Cllr P Wallace</p> <p>Apologies: none</p> <p>2. Declarations of Interest: FMartin, JMoffat, TNelson, WNelson all connected with BSAS (Buteiful Seas and Shores)</p> <p>3. Police Report: attached, delivered by Sergeant Scott Thain</p> <p>4. Minutes of Previous Meeting: 15 November, 2023</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">a. WNelson asked that item 8a include the word ring-fenced, to make clear that the money belonged to and was being held on behalf of Bute Resilience and was not given to Bute Resilience from BCC funds</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">b. TNelson noted that she had missed out including Cllr R K-B on the attendance list</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">c. Adjusted minutes proposed by JO and seconded by JM</p> <p>5. Guest speaker:</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">a. Sean Manson, Independent Prescriber (PIP), Locum/Superintendent Pharmacist and Christopher Hardie: speaking to update on the opening of their independent pharmacy on Montague Street, Bute Pharmacy</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">1. Four months ago, purchased the former Lloyds Pharmacy on Montague Street</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">2. Former staff continued in employment; both staff and customers seem happier as new programmes have greatly improved customer service: a text message service has been introduced so that customers are able to get real time feedback on the progress of their prescriptions; there is improved communications with the surgery; Pharmacy First programme introduced so that people can visit the Pharmacist first before making a GP appointment (eg skin infections, smoking cessation, etc)</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">3. Jeanette McDonald, on behalf of Well Being Bute, asked the pharmacists if they could work directly with Well Being Bute on issues such as Stress, Smoking Cessation, etc. The Pharmacists agreed that one of them could attend WBB sessions on arranged dates as they have purposely scheduled days when both will be in the pharmacy.</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">4. WNelson asked for some further details about the ‘agile purchasing’ that the pharmacists mentioned as a point that was increasing customer satisfaction. The pharmacists explained that as an independent pharmacy they are free to build relationships with a number of wholesalers and suppliers, and that by learning how the system works and paying attention to what medications may be in short supply, they are able to buy in stock in advance by ‘shopping around’.</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">5. JMoffat expressed appreciation to both Sean and Chris for the hard work and improved pharmacy service.</p> |

b. Representative of Saputo

1. Three speakers attended the meeting on behalf of Bute Island Foods/Saputo Community Fund: Michaela Nicholson, Jeanette McDonald, and Ricky Harrison.
2. The Community Fund started in 2021 and was originally meant to run for one year. It will now run through 2024 and possibly continue through 2025; that decision is still to be made.
3. The Community Fund is administered by an independent committee made up of employees/management from BIF. They try to meet bi-weekly. To date, 22 applications have been awarded funding totalling £69,000.
4. The application form gives details of the Community Fund's remit and criteria. These are fluid, so if an application is not successful it may be worthwhile trying again should the remit/criteria evolve.
5. The application can be obtained by stopping in to the reception desk of BIF. Based on questions raised by several in the audience, access to the application through the internet will be investigated.
6. JOsborne shared that he had been involved with several successful and several unsuccessful applications to the fund. He felt that the criteria had not been applied consistently and that at times the reason/s for denial were not clearly explained. It was agreed that a meeting be arranged between himself and the Community Fund committee to discuss these issues.

c. Shona Edwards: working with young people on Bute

1. Shona was accompanied by Mariska Silkowski, a newly elected member of the Scottish Youth Parliament from Bute. A part of the role of an MSYP is to consult with young people.
2. Shona works .5 with young people and .5 with adults. She facilitates young people participating in such programmes as the Saltire Awards, Youth Achievement Awards, Youth Leadership, John Muir Trust Awards, Youth Action Groups. There is a particular focus on young people who are struggling to achieve at the same level as their peers.
3. A recent consultation of the young people on Bute was carried out, receiving 94 responses. Though it might be perceived that young people want things to do, what the consultation showed was that what young people really want is a warm, dry place to go where they can just hang out with friends.
4. CHall offered Shona that she would open her café, The Coffee Stop, one night per week for young people to visit for hot chocolate and a chat with their friends.
5. JOsborne spoke about the reopening of the Pavilion and the possible establishment of an Activity Centre at the Trinity Church Hall, and wondered if perhaps the BIF/Saputo Community Fund might be a source of funds to enable young people who might not be able to afford to attend activities at these sites, to do so.
6. Shona said that once the report is completed on the recent consultation, she will share it with BCC. As well, Mariska will be

taking part with MSYP's across A&B to carry out an audit of all activities/services available to young people in the area.

7. An attendee of the meeting suggested that sailing was one of the best activities for young people to take part in and asked why the sailing club was not doing training for young people. It was pointed out that the Sailing Club used to do Wednesday and Saturday meetings for young people.

d. Dorothy MacDonald, BID manager

1. Dorothy took over the role on a part-time basis in October when John Weir, who had been full-time, left.
2. There is a full-time administrator for the BID.
3. The BID was set up for a 5-year term. In April, the BID will be at the halfway point of its first term. At the end of the term, a vote of members will be taken as to whether it continues.
4. Dorothy explained that she will focus on three areas:
 1. Marketing: taking up the Visit Bute brand
 2. Improve Environment: such things as painting the railings, Christmas lights, etc.
 3. Business Growth: with a particular emphasis on small, local businesses. An example of how this might be achieved is 'economies of scale' through bulk purchase of commonly used supplies.
5. One of Dorothy's first actions upon taking up her role as Manager was to have an open day/evening for all BID members in November. The main outcomes of conversations with the members were:
 1. A wish for more high quality places to eat in the evening
 2. A desire for an improved environment, with particular mention of the Royal Hotel
 3. An acknowledgement that there are lots of events/activities on the island but it is not always easy to know/find out about them: the BID is considering being the 'keeper' of a Bute events calendar and possibly investing in a digital display to make this calendar as accessible as possible.
6. At the end of the talk, Dorothy reminded everyone that the Buy Local campaign, with its associated card, was not just for Christmas.

6. Matters Arising

- a. Any uptake of Bute Island Radio invitation to BCC to speak on radio: J Moffat will be speaking on the radio tomorrow, 18 January, to discuss tonight's meeting
- b. Saputo Legacy Fund update: J Moffat
 1. Saputo Legacy Fund: the projects will be announced in April, when Leo Saputo will visit Bute
 2. Saputo Community Fund: see item 5b
- c. Community engagement Meetings update: J Osborne and F Martin
 1. A meeting has been arranged for 15 February in Port Bannatyne

village hall from 1900 – 2100

2. J Osborne suggested that information gathered through BCC community engagement meetings be shared with the BID

d. Survey on fish farms: T Nelson

1. The draft of the survey circulated at the meeting was accepted with JOsborne recommending that item 2 include words to the effect of ‘what information would you like’
2. Further discussion to take place at February meeting

e. Update on Empty Property Relief decision: Cllrs present

1. Cllr P Wallace thought that the item had been presented at EDI and had passed as proposed, unamended but will verify for the next meeting in February
2. [After Meeting Update] Cllr P Wallace kindly provided the following update via email:
 1. The policy on Empty Property Relief for Non-Domestic rates came to the Full Council on 23rd November 2023. In summary the option agreed allows 50% relief for 3 months followed by 10% thereafter, with the exception of EPR for Insolvency, similar to other approved schemes in Scotland. No relief will be granted after a property has been empty for over 12 months.
 2. Extract from the minute as follows:

The Council –

 1. approved Option A, Empty Property Relief provisions as outlined in paragraph 3.19 of the report;
 2. agreed the creation of an Empty Property Officer post for a period of 2 years as outlined in paragraph 3.21 of the report; and
 3. agreed that the remaining Empty Property Relief funding is used towards a Business Grant Scheme with officers to bring forward the detail to the Environment, Development and Infrastructure Committee meeting in March 2024 for approval.
 3. Full report available at:
<https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/moderngov/documents/s201372/20231123%20-%20EMPTY%20PROPERTY%20RELIEF%20POLICY%20IN%20NON-DOMESTIC%20RATES%20-%20Council.pdf>

f. Moving BCC meetings to Monday evening: J Moffat

1. J MacMillan said that the Church Hall would be available the third Monday of the month
2. J Osborne and I Morrison said that Monday would reduce their attendance.
3. It was decided to leave the meetings on the third Wednesday of the month

g. Update on Arden Craig Gardens and Rothesay Pavilion: R Macintyre


1. Postponed until February



7. A&B Councillor Reports: attached



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| | <p>a. Cllr P Wallace reported that one of the lifts at Rothesay Pier is now in service</p> <p>8. Community Councillors' reports</p> <p>a. W Nelson reported that there were no planning applications of interest to the Community council</p> <p>9. Public Questions</p> <p>10. AOCB</p> <p>a. Comments made about BCC by Cllr McCabe at the Policy and Resources Committee meeting on 7 December</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. R McIntyre proposed that a letter be written to Pippa Milne in regards to disparaging remarks Cllr McCabe made about BCC at the above referenced committee meeting in December. 2. I Morrison seconded the proposal, saying that it would be one thing if Cllr McCabe attended BCC meetings but completely unacceptable as she had never attended a single meeting. 3. The proposal was not voted upon. <p>b. WNelson noted that it should be minuted that Scott MacGregor would no longer be a member of BCC as non-attendance had exceeded the 6 month mark noted in the Argyll and Bute Scheme for Establishment of Community councils.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. TNelson explained that she had written to both Scott and James Grewcutt, who had been co-opted in an advisory capacity, to explain the terms of the Scheme for Establishment of Community Councils, to thank them for their interest in BCC and to encourage them to attend future meetings as residents of Bute. 2. Scott MacGregor and James Grewcutt will no longer be members of BCC, the former in the role of Community Counciller, the later in an advisory capacity. <p>11. Date of Next Meeting: 21 February, 2024</p> |
| <p>Following Documents</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Police Report • Cllr Report – Reeni Kennedy-Boyle • Cllr Report – Peter Wallace |



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| Community Council Debrief |
| Dates Between: 07/11/23 – 16/01/24 |
| Location & Beat: Bute – LB53/54 |
| Reporting Officer: PS Scott Thain |

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| Between the dates of 07/11/23 and 16/01/24, the number of Incidents and Crime Reports respectively are 275 and 80 | |
|  <p>SERIOUS ORGANISED CRIME</p> | <p>You identified drug dealing / drug misuse as a priority</p> <p>We identified human trafficking as a priority</p> |
| | <p>There have been 5 crime reports raised in regards to possession of drugs. All 5 reports are detected and have led to either Recorded Police Warnings being issued or reports being submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.</p> |

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|  <p>ACQUISITIVE CRIME</p> <p>You identified homes being broken in to as a priority</p> <p>We have also identified fraud as a priority</p> | <p>There have been 8 reports raised for incidents of theft. 6 of these are currently ongoing enquiries and 2 have been detected.</p> <p>There has been 1 report raised in regards to fraud which is currently ongoing.</p> <p>There have been 2 reports raised in regards to Reset, both of which are detected.</p> |
|  <p>ROAD SAFETY AND ROAD CRIME</p> <p>You identified road safety as a priority</p> <p>We identified drink / drug driving and reducing road casualties as priorities</p> | <p>There has been 1 report raised in respect of dangerous driving which has been detected.</p> <p>There have been 3 reports raised in respect of careless driving, 1 of which is detected while the other 2 are ongoing enquiries.</p> <p>There have been 3 reports raised in respect of failing to stop/report a road traffic collision, these are all ongoing enquiries.</p> <p>There have been 7 other reports raised in respect of miscellaneous traffic offences such as drink driving and driving with no insurance. 6 of these are detected with only 1 still an ongoing enquiry.</p> |

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|  <p>VIOLENT CRIME</p> <p>You identified violent crime as a priority</p> <p>We have also identified domestic abuse as a priority</p> | <p>There have been 7 reports raised in respect of assaults. 6 of these have been detected with the other being an ongoing enquiry.</p> <p>There have been 4 reports raised in respect of police assault/resist arrest. All 4 of these are detected.</p> <p>There have been 3 reports raised in respect of persons being in possession of offensive weapons, 2 of which are detected and 1 enquiry ongoing.</p> |
|  <p>PUBLIC PROTECTION</p> <p>You identified protecting children and adults at risk of harm as a priority</p> <p>We identified missing persons, sexual crime and the management of registered sex offenders as priorities</p> | <p>There have been 8 reports raised in respect of vandalism on Bute. 7 of these are ongoing enquiries and 1 has been detected.</p> <p>There have been 14 reports raised in respect of threatening/abusive behaviour. 12 of these are detected with the remaining enquiries ongoing.</p> <p>There have been 3 reports raised in respect of patrons failing to quit or refusing to leave licensed premises on Bute. All of these are detected.</p> <p>There have been 2 reports raised in regards to communication offences. One of these are detected and the other is ongoing.</p> <p>There have been 4 reports raised in respect of breaches of bail. 2 of these have been detected and the other 2 are ongoing.</p> <p>There have been 2 reports raised in respect of dangerous dogs, 1 of which is detected and the other ongoing.</p> <p>There have been 2 reports raised in respect of culpable and reckless conduct, 1 of which is detected and the other ongoing.</p> |

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| | <p>There has been 1 report raised in regards to attempting to pervert the course of justice which has been detected.</p> |
| <p><i>Useful Links/Contacts</i></p> | <p>Crimestoppers – Crimestoppers in Scotland Crimestoppers (crimestoppers-uk.org)</p> <p>Distress Brief Intervention - Distress Brief Intervention - Connected Compassionate Support DBI.scot</p> <p>Scottish Partnership against Rural Crime - Scottish Partnership Against Rural Crime Scottish Partnership Against Rural Crime (scottishparc.co.uk)</p> <p>Women’s Aid - Home - Women's Aid (womensaid.org.uk)</p> <p>Citizens Advice – 08081646000</p> <p>Trading Standards - 08081646000</p> |

I welcome the additional £20 Million funding for Argyll & Bute which the Chancellor announced in the Autumn Statement as part of the UK Government's Levelling Up Partnerships. These partnerships see the council work closely with the UK Government and relevant officials to secure UK Government funding for Argyll and Bute's communities, and this funding is testament to the hard work put in by the Council and officials.

I would like to thank the local Council Staff who worked hard to protect premises and deal with the flooding that occurred in Rothesay on 27th December following significant rainfall. I have raised this with the service to see what actions can be taken to minimise future disruptions of this nature.

I am disappointed that there have been further delays to getting the Rothesay Pier Lifts operational again for the travelling public. I continue to engage with the service to pursue a resolution to this issue.

I attended the Council's Housing Emergency Summit which brought together housing associations, developers and construction industry representatives with government and other stakeholders to look at ways to address the current housing crisis faced in Argyll & Bute. This was a positive day which sought to identify actions and interventions that would have the most impact, which can only be achieved by working together. The Strategic Housing Investment Plan is looking at potential projects that would deliver 1000 affordable homes over the next 5 years in Argyll & Bute, including 96 on Bute.

I attended the Rothesay Castle Stakeholder Engagement and was pleased to hear that action would be completed on the high level masonry risks allowing the castle to reopen in the Spring, ahead of this year's holiday season.

I attended the Environment, Development and Infrastructure committee which reported that new measures to deal with Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) were now in place following a change in SEPA guidance which will see soft furnishings separated at recycling sites.

The Area Committee heard about the ongoing challenges and lack of options for the former Rothesay Academy lower building, despite it being marketed for over a decade. Officers will now submit a pre-application to consider the potential demolition and redevelopment of the site. Fyne Homes is looking at creating a master plan for the redevelopment of their adjacent site along with the lower site to create new homes for the area.

I was pleased to be able to take part in the Positive Pedals presentation of certificates for cycle maintenance before Christmas, as well as supporting the excellent work done by Bute Oasis by delivering some Christmas Hampers.

I also attended meetings of the Pavilion Lobby Group; the PPSL committee and civic government hearings; members' seminars covering a range of topics including winter maintenance, single authority model and SG Energy Consent Unit; and COSLA budget seminar ahead of the Scottish Government budget announcements.

Councillor Peter Wallace
Isle of Bute Ward
Argyll and Bute Council

Bute and Cowal Area Committee took place on 5th December 2023, link to meeting minutes and recording below. I asked questions of importance to constituents on Bute.

Housing – to what extent ACHA engage with owner/occupiers to enable them to take part in upgrading and energy/efficiency works. For High St/Russell St two properties were subject to buy back scheme which is a useful offer for home owners who may be unable to afford upgrades and selling the property is a welcome option. It was indicated that there could be improvements in joined up working between RSL’s and the Council to make accessing available support more navigable. I will follow up on this.

Culture, Heritage and Arts – I asked to what extent CHARTS engage with community led organisations on Bute, specifically Bute Museum and IBAC. Seymour Adams, Vice Chair, indicated he would follow up.

Area Performance Report – several questions on a range of service areas were put regarding this agenda item with commitment that services will come back to me. In particular, I pressed for an answer on Planning processes and decision making back log as Bute & Cowal is lagging behind the other areas with subsequent economic impacts.

Health and Social Care Partnership Performance Report for FQ1 2023/24 – I asked about upticks in the numbers presenting to A&E, which increases on Bute towards to the summer. Further analysis will be undertaken as there may be impact on local resources with visitor numbers however this level of detail needs examination.

Roads and Infrastructure Services Update – a new officer should be in post from 3rd January 2024 which will bring the Bute & Cowal team back up to speed. I welcomed the increased presence of Traffic Warden dealing with problem parking with a particular view to improving accessibility, and specifically the issue of lining at dropped kerbs. I raised again the need for community engagement around changes to speed zones. I will continue to work with officers however it is within the gift of the Tory/LibDem Administration to instruct community consultation or engagement meetings on this topic.

Pre-application for Proposed Demolition and Redevelopment of Former Rothesay Academy – I am delighted that further progress is being made on this matter.

Outcome of THI Programme – I was happy to agree this item be carried forward and specifically asking for reports on Town Planning and an Evaluation Exercise both of which were carried out during the programme are presented to the March 2024 meeting.

[Agenda for Bute and Cowal Area Committee on Tuesday, 5 December 2023, 10:00 am - Argyll and Bute Council \(argyll-bute.gov.uk\)](https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/moderngov/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=242&MIId=15455&Ver=4)

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[bute.gov.uk/moderngov/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=242&MIId=15455&Ver=4](https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/moderngov/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=242&MIId=15455&Ver=4)

Policy and Resources Committee took place on 7th December 2023, link to meeting minutes and recording below.

There was much discussion on the recent impacts from successive storms on the roads network. I asked what policy developments were being discussed by the Administration with regards to bringing a community well-building agenda into investment strategies. The answers did not fill me

with confidence however I have asked officers to consider what Shared Ownership models could realise. I am thinking specifically of the three wind farms that are being proposed for the Oban and Lorne area. These are significant projects which will deliver huge profits over a very long time. I think these represent a massive opportunity for Argyll & Bute Council to generate long term return on investment. Shared ownership is something these companies must consider over and above the normal community benefit obligation.

With regards to Sustainable Procurement Policy, I asked how social, environmental and economic impacts are measured through the community benefit clauses that are put in place when contracts are awarded. I also asked about a Scorecard methodology for measuring supplier performance to ensure we are getting best value for money. This is not in place at present but will be looked at in the future.

Natural Restorations – I asked about developing a project around Restoration of Tom’s Cuts in Rothesay to mitigate against future flooding. There will be follow up discussions which I hope will include our local experts Bute Conservation Trust.

A new concept of Single Authority governance has been put forward for exploration. This is about further local democratic oversight with bespoke solutions for Argyll & Bute. I asked what links there maybe to Democracy Matters and applying Scottish Design Principles to this in idea to ensure local communities are involved in the evolution of this idea. There was an interesting discussion around what community is and who should be involved decision making. I advocated for the many democratic organisations across the region that are membership based with elected leadership and expressed a desire that these are included in any service re-designs in the future.

[Agenda for Policy and Resources Committee on Thursday, 7 December 2023, 10:30 am - Argyll and Bute Council \(argyll-bute.gov.uk\)](https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/moderngov/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=544&MIId=15462&Ver=4)

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I attended Audit & Scrutiny Committee on 19th December 2023, link to minutes and media is below. This committee is more technical and is focused on compliance. I examined data exchanged with HMRC, Cyber Security issues arising from criminal activity that can impact people and functions, and recognising improvements in ensuring data is up to date and able to be matched.

I was able to raise the matter regarding RSL’s and local authority working together better to access funding for private owners during this meeting. I challenged the lack of progress being made in matching datasets between HSCP requests for 2nd bins for welfare issues and lack of resource to undertake assessments for 2nd bins request by the waste management service. This should be followed up before March 2024.

I picked up on the cost of vehicle hire to the Council, where the audit process picked issues to be addressed by the Senior Accountant. I look forward to seeing the next report which will hopefully contain some innovative thinking around Shared Resources.

The committee explored the particular issues around Waste Management Strategy going forward particularly the environmental and economic impacts.

[Agenda for Audit and Scrutiny Committee on Tuesday, 19 December 2023, 1:30 pm - Argyll and Bute Council \(argyll-bute.gov.uk\)](https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/moderngov/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=595&MIId=15482&Ver=4)

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Constituency work has been about enabling people to access funding, services and engaging with other public services such as Scottish Water.