

<b>Draft Minutes Bute Community Council</b>	
<b>Date</b>	2024-04-17 1900 at United Church Bute
<b>Online at</b>	<a href="https://butecommunitycouncil.wordpress.com">butecommunitycouncil.wordpress.com</a>
<b>Draft Minutes</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Attendance: IGillespie, CHall, GFear, RMacintyre, FMartin, JMoffat, IMorisson, TNelson, WNelson, JOsborne, Cllr RKennedy-Boyle, Cllr PWallace</li> <li>2. Declarations of Interest: JMoffat, TNelson, WNelson all associated with Buteiful Seas and Shores</li> <li>3. Police Report: attached</li> <li>4. Minutes of Previous Meeting: 20 March, 2024 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Cllr RKB clarified point 9.d.6. of the 20 March minutes, stating that empty and derelict properties do not currently fall under the new rules for double council tax.</li> <li>b. RMacintyre proposed and JM seconded acceptance of the minutes with clarification: agreed</li> </ol> </li> <li>5. Guest speakers: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Luke Winter, Story Wagon, explained to the assembly that he has a commission through CHArts for a COVID Memorial Project. The project is called Silver Linings and will involve etching thoughts about life/achievements during COVID shared by local people into mirrors that will then be placed around the island. Anyone wishing to discuss the project can contact Luke at <a href="mailto:butesilverlinings@gmail.com">butesilverlinings@gmail.com</a></li> <li>b. Hugh O'Hagan spoke to the assembly about his new role as Adult Literacy and Numeracy Co-ordinator for Live Argyll. This project is funded through Levelling Up monies. Hugh is new in the role and is just beginning to build community links. For more information about literacy and numeracy Hugh can be contacted at <b>01700 801086</b> or via email <a href="mailto:hugh.o'hagan@liveargyll.co.uk">hugh.o'hagan@liveargyll.co.uk</a></li> </ol> </li> <li>6. A&amp;B Councillor Reports <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Cllr Reeni Kennedy-Boyle: report attached <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Attended a meeting earlier in the day regarding making spaces more accessible and accommodating for everyone in our community</li> <li>2. Is requesting a meeting, with Cllr Peter Wallace, to speak with Visit Scotland about the future of the Discovery Centre. Cllr Wallace has received one message regarding the centre's future, while J Moffat has received a different message from the same person at Visit Scotland. The hoped for meeting would seek clarity.</li> <li>3. Still pursuing having newspapers available in the library.</li> <li>4. Briefly explained the change in ABCouncil leadership and stated that all was on hold until 25 April.</li> </ol> </li> <li>b. Cllr Peter Wallace: report attached</li> </ol> </li> </ol>

1. Regarding point 6.a.2., Cllr Wallace explained that he had received the message that Visit Scotland is looking for someone/group to take over the building and cinema.

## 7. Matters Arising

### a. Result of interim community council election JMoffat

1. Announced that Gloria Fear is now a duly elected member of BCC
2. Anne Marie Ferguson said that she would like to join the BCC and will undergo the co-option process. TNelson to send AMF a co-option form via email.

### b. Any advance on offer by CHall to use Coffee Stop once a week for teen only hot chocolate and chat session: CHall said that she had had no further contact from Shona Edwards since making the offer at the January BCC meeting. TNelson to email Shona to see if she would like to pursue use of the café.

### c. Update on derelict buildings in Port Bannatyne: FMartin and JOsborne

1. As the link between the BCC and the Castle Street Action Group, JOsborne gave the following report:
  1. The CSAG would support a change to council tax charges for empty/derelict properties
  2. CSAG are keen to arrange to speak with ABC planners; he asked if the elected councillors might help to bring about such a meeting
  3. JO had an online conversation with the developer, who still sees a compulsory purchase order by the Council as the way forward, and says that they would immediately buy it back as the CPO would resolve the ownership issues regarding 2 of the 24 flats. Cllr RKB felt that ABC would not agree to a CPO, as previous CPO's had ended badly. JO said that he would ask the developer if they would give a written guarantee of repurchase and asked if the elected Cllrs could enquire if that would make any difference in obtaining a CPO.
  4. CSAG submitted an FOI request and was given access to complaints made/ABC response regarding 12 to 16 Buckingham Terrace.
    1. A&BC currently do not appear to list the content of FOIs on their website, though other authorities do. At this time, a yearly audit of FOI requests can be found under the Audit and Scrutiny Committee.

Latest Report for April 1<sup>st</sup> 2022 – March 31<sup>st</sup> 2023:

<https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/moderngov/ieIssueDetails.aspx?IID=134412&PlanId=0&Opt=3#AI166142>

Freedom of Information Annual Report - Appendix 1.pdf

Bute Community Council's FOI regarding nursery services at Ardencraig Gardens can be seen on page 4, under Request No 15430 as an example.

5. JO was told that the architect had visited number 16 in the past year and found it riddled with dry rot.
6. The developer said that number 14 had been visited and that they would not enter it again as it is in too dangerous a state. JO suggested that the Council should visit inside and make an assessment.
7. JO said that the CSAG had taken some interest in number 11 Quay Street, regarding how the empty building could be brought back into use.
8. At this point, a member of the assembly said that he was the owner of number 11.
9. He and another member of the assembly questioned how persons could join the CSAG and felt that BCC was leading the CSAG. It was explained that JO and F Martin had formed a sub-committee of BCC to carry out community engagement meetings in Rothesay, Kingarth/Kilchattan and in Port Bannatyne. At the most recent engagement meeting, in Port Bannatyne, the main point that had been brought up for discussion by Port Bannatyne residents was the empty buildings in Castle Street. These Port residents had formed the CSAG, with JO giving some assistance/guidance and making reports back to the BCC. The CSAG does not have officers and it is not clear if they have any written documentation, including minutes of their meetings. A clear answer was not given to the two gentlemen regarding who can and how to join the group.

d. Update on West Coast Motors/ young riders being denied travel: JMoffat

1. JMoffat reported that after the meeting in January, when problems had been raised regarding young riders on buses, she had written to West Coast Motors via their website and had received an answer promptly asking for specific details of the incidents.
2. As it turned out, the Bute Depot Manager of West Coast Motors, Alan Parr Smith, was in attendance at the meeting and spoke to the assembly about carriage policies of WCM as well as some of the problems that the bus drivers and passengers have been facing.
  1. Cards are never removed from young passengers; this problem had been mentioned by Shona Edwards as occurring in West Kilbride back in the January meeting
  2. People speak of free rides on buses but there are no such thing; a ride is either paid for by the passenger or through concession
  3. Sometimes a bus reaches a terminus point, for example Port Bannatyne. The bus has a period of down time, when it is not in service. The vehicle is not insured to have passengers aboard at such time and so passengers, of any age, may be asked to exit

the bus and re-board should they choose when the bus begins its next run.

4. Drivers will not take a single child on the run up to Rhubodach – lack of amenities/facilities there, waiting time as described in previous point would mean asking child to stand alone in desolate area, etc.
5. Bus stand in Guildford Square has become a ‘no go zone’ in the evenings as young people congregate there and throw things at the buses and harass waiting passengers. The bus has an 18 minute wait time at Guildford Sq. at some points in the schedule. Recent additions to the schedule have taken the bus up to the joint campus for some of these extended waits and so the drivers have dealt with less problems; however, this does not speak to whether waiting passengers are still be harassed/intimidated.
6. Further to point just made, young people have been banned from bus services during the school day as the behaviour aboard the buses was so bad. They were banned and then given another chance last August, but within 3 weeks the ban was reinstated.
7. Several complaints have been received regarding treatment of young persons on a bus but in every instance, when CCTV footage has been reviewed and an offer made for the parents to come and see the footage for themselves, no parent has ever come in to watch.
8. There is the issue of safety of the drivers, particularly in light of the recent murder of a driver in Elgin by a 15 year old.
9. At this point, a member of the assembly asked why the full service had not been resumed after Covid, giving the examples of the 2330 bus out to Port Bannatyne on Saturday evenings or the late evening bus that used to allow dinner at the Kingarth Hotel. It was explained that there had been fewer users even after the end of Covid but if there were specific scheduling questions, people could contact WCM for further discussion.
10. Cllr R Kennedy-Boyle asked if WCM would be interested in further dialogue with some of the groups at the joint campus, for example there is an active youth council. WCM would welcome such dialogue.
11. Conditions of Carriage are available on the WCM website. <https://www.westcoastmotors.co.uk/conditions-stage-carriage> The banning of students as described in item 7.d.2.6. above is not listed in the Conditions of Carriage.

e. Update on Thomson Court:

1. Cllrs RKB and PW said that any decision to close the dementia day care at Thomson Court would not take place until a full review had been completed.

2. JM said that there are currently 12 families that currently rely on the dementia day care provided by Thomson Court and that without such care their loved ones would need to be moved to a facility on the mainland.
3. The Bute and Cowal Planning committee, on which both Cllr RKB and JM represent the interests of Bute, has placed the Thompson Court issue onto the agenda so that dialogue begins before the September deadline arrives.

f. Survey on fish farms:

1. TNelson reported that a month-long survey was conducted, garnering 70 responses. 52 people felt that they had enough information about fish farms to say they were not favourable to a fish farm near Bute, 4 people felt they had enough information to say they would be in favour of a fish farm near Bute. 14 people felt they did not have enough information to make a decision and many wrote questions.
2. The plan had been to hold an information meeting/s to discuss fish farms and then take another survey afterwards. Though this plan had been discussed at previous BCC meetings, at this meeting the two elected Cllrs. suggested that it might be better to desist, as they feel having a general opinion may conflict with judging an application for a fish farm on its own merits.

g. Update on Arden Craig Gardens and Rothesay Pavilion

1. No further discussions as to funding the Pavilion can occur until after 25 April when the leadership changeover of ABCouncil is complete.
2. It was suggested that JM invite the Chartered Surveyor overseeing the Pavilion renovation project to address a BCC meeting.
3. Arden Craig Gardens Friends group has now posted an events calendar for 2024 (attached).

1. And online at:

<https://ardencraiggardensfriends.org/events/>

- h. Bute Island Foods Community Fund update: JO has still had no response from BIF as they said would happen at a previous BCC meeting when BIF representatives addressed the assembly. The matter will now be dropped as it seems BIF is not willing to engage.

8. Community Councillors' reports

a. Planning: WNelson

1. Bute BID is applying for a digital sign in Guildford Square [24/00697/ADV]
2. There is an application for 8 new homes in the Ballochgoy area [24/00564/PP]
3. The local architect, Mr Marshall, has applied to combine two store fronts [24/00557/PP]

	<p>4. No concerns were raised regarding any of these applications</p> <p>b. Transport: RMacintyre</p> <p>c. Transport Scotland is still not sharing passenger/vehicle numbers. RM requested that BCC write to Transport Scotland regarding this matter.</p> <p>d. RM also reported that the ferry between Portavadie and Tarbert had been taken off to cover runs to Islay, due to a problem with one of its ferries.</p> <p>e. Finance: JMoffat said that the only amounts that were being spent recently have been payment for the hire of the United Church Hall for meetings. This leaves a balance of £4,705.07.</p> <p>9. Public Questions</p> <p>a. A question regarding the missing bench at the Guildford Square bus shelter and its general state of disrepair was asked: JM said that she had reported this on the ABCouncil ReportIt page. Alan Parr Smith of WCM said that though WCM does not own/maintain bus stops or shelters, he had been asked to survey/photo all stops approximately 6 weeks ago. Cllr RKB said that the state of the bus shelter in the Square was due to a procurement problem; the contractors appointed to fix the bench and carry out maintenance of the shelter had not done the job and there was a new procurement process underway for the same work.</p> <p>1. <a href="https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/my-council/report-it">https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/my-council/report-it</a></p> <p>10. AOCB: the BCC AGM will take place at the June meeting.</p> <p>11. Date of Next Meeting: 15 May, 2024</p>
<p><b>Following Documents</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Police Report</li> <li>• Adult Literacy Information</li> <li>• Arden Craig Gardens Events Information</li> <li>• Cllr Report – Peter Wallace</li> <li>• Cllr Report – Reeni Kennedy-Boyle</li> <li>• BCC Survey Results</li> <li>• A&amp;BC Pavilion Updates</li> <li>• Freedom of Information Annual Report - Appendix 1 for April '22- March '23</li> </ul>