

**South Knapdale Community Council**  
**Minutes of meeting held 7 pm 4 October 2021**  
**At Ormsary Hall**

**Attendees:** Hugh Thomson, Robin Currie, Amanda Minshall, Peter Minshall, Duncan Byatt, James Lithgow, Gloria Starck, David Starck, Mary Ray, Sandy Taylor, John Campbell, Charmian Campbell, Jonathan Sheldrick, Brian Stevens, Agnes Stevens, David Wilson, Iain McKinlay, Jarl Van Den Berg, Lynda McKinlay

1. **Apologies for absence:** Heather Bellshaw, Annie Tofts, Lisa Tuttle, Katharine Weir, Bruce Weir, Archie MacArthur
2. **Approve Minutes of last meeting:** Proposed by DW, approved and signed off

3. **Chairman's report:**

The past 18 months has been extremely difficult for everyone – the pandemic and individuals and businesses struggling to cope. However, it has brought the community closer together and we had the success of the “Virus Veggie” scheme over the first few months of the initial lockdown. I want to thank Clare, James and Tania for helping set up the scheme and to the many volunteers who packed and delivered the boxes to peoples’ homes.

Thanks also to F9 for their generous donation of £1,000 towards the costs. Thanks also to Argyll Bakers for bread and to Breckenridge of Oban for the half ton of fruit, veg, eggs and milk they delivered to the Inn every week.

Another example of the community becoming closer is the “WhatsApp” Kilberry support group set up by Agnes; contact her for information and to join in.

South Knapdale Community Council Facebook page could do with more engagement – we are keen for people to add more pictures/videos/information about local events etc.

Finally, I wish to extend a welcome to Jarl on joining SKCC – he’s a great asset to our community.

4. **Police report:** Police Scotland representatives not attending meetings at present (Covid restriction) but Sgt. Ben Rusdon is our contact and will report in future. There have been no reportable incidents since the last CC meeting took place.
5. **Secretary's report:** All emails of community interest sent to members of mailing list; because the Planning Application Report from A & B Council is so long, the link to the

document has been sent to everyone who wishes to look at it for their own interest. Of local interest:

15.01.21. Upgrade telecom site at Kennacraig (Barmore Forest)

15.01.21. Formation of forest track (Coulaghaitro Forest)

05.02.21. Extension & decking at South Lodge, Ardpatrik (Mr. & Mrs. G. Thompson)

05.02.21. Demolish existing cottage/erect pdh/carport, Ivy Cottage, Kilberry (Dr. M. Ray)

05.03.21. Various alterations, Dunmore Lodge (D. Wilson)

03.09.21. Erection of pdh Plot 1, Plot 2, Plot 3 & Plot 5 Mid Auchens (Dunmore & Carsaig Estate)

6. **Treasurer's report:** IGM gave a verbal update - £3,200 in the Bank; a fee was paid to David Smart to investigate on our behalf the provision of grants to Community Councils. Although he was successful in identifying a relevant source of income and applied for a grant on our behalf, there were over 700 applications and not enough funds. The accounts have been signed off and a copy will be sent to A & B Council for their support as usual. A hard copy of the report will be available at the AGM that follows.

7. **A & B Councillors' report:**

ST – NHS continues to be of great concern. Council meetings are carried out via zoom and the public can access them.

RC – Happy to be seeing people again. Housing remains an important issue with the Strategic Housing Initiative Programme (SHIP); some money is available from central Government. Councillors' need to know our issues

8. **Windfarm update:** See addendum for detailed information.

HT, IGM & JVanDenB are meeting with Force 9 on 26 October and the result of this meeting will be reported back. DB asked what income could be anticipated from Airigh Windfarm and HT confirmed it would be difficult to quantify this at present as any income would depend on many things.

JL commented that there had been very little wind this year so income to Ardrishaig would be reduced (see below) and that he had recommended to Force 9 that no income should be awarded to the South Knapdale area. The income derived for Ardrishaig is usually £130K pa and for Tarbert £20K.

**DW reiterated that it has always been the expressed intention of SKCC to negotiate with Force 9/EDF so that when Airigh is built, this community would benefit from some income for community use. SKCC has never taken a stance against windfarms.**

DW noted that RES has reneged on their community benefit to East Kintyre via Blary Hill and there's always a chance that Airigh and Rowan could suffer the same fate – simply flipping them on to another party who does not have to stand by any negotiations by CC. DW asked A & B Councillors if community benefit from windfarms would ever be made compulsory – ST responded yes, possibly; he would be supportive of community shared ownership RC – Yes; presently getting peanuts!

#### 9. **Update on land purchase at Torinturk**

Galbraiths report has been queried since it made no mention of the invasive knotweed or that there would be no water supply to the three sites – this is a general problem within Torinturk. In addition, the valuation they put forward was far beyond the worth of the plots. We need to complain to Galbraiths and ask Forestry Land Scotland what their plans are going forward.

#### 10. **Update on OpenReach initiative**

DW advised that he had tried to set up a Community Fibre Partnership (Kilberry to Tarbert Golf Club); although he had a very enthusiastic response from residents, despite multiple emails there has been virtually no response from BT/OpenReach. JL has had far more success with a plan to connect Ormsary to Tiretigan with superfast fibre. Although people are keen to be connected, some are unsure about how it will work and JL has been asked to address the issue generally at this meeting. The EE mast behind Crear doesn't appear to have enough capacity especially when the area is busy with visitors.

JL gave us a detailed response – that there is no fibre capacity at Ormsary, OpenReach having used up capacity for Islay and Jura. Some space is left at Achahoish – 9 fibres left and 7 have been offered to us. To bring fibre to all from Ormsary to Tiretigan (ex Port Ban) has resulted in 82 premises; some responses outstanding. 4G (and possibly 5G) will be allocated via R100 to people who already have some fibre capability. This would involve taking fibre from Ormsary to Cretshengen and microwave dishes from Port Ellen and Clachan. Some legal pressure is being applied to EE to pull fibre back from Lochgilphead. Patience is needed by all.

#### 11. **Matters arising**

**Kilberry Church:** PM confirmed five trustees are willing to take on liability for the building (upkeep, repairs etc.) and a constitution has been agreed. There will be a two week wait then the building will transfer to Kilberry Church Community Trust; activities will be run by others than the Trustees. PM offered thanks to all who had made the purchase and transfer possible.

**Jubilee celebrations:** John Campbell will undertake the organisation; possibly a beacon and fireworks on the Saturday and a street party by KBI on Sunday. GS asked whether

there would again be gifts for children. We have been asked to inform the Lord Lieutenants' office when arrangements are fixed.

**Verges etc:** DW asked "what are the obligations of A & B C towards verges"; there have been many complaints about the state of verges, overhanging branches/hedges and passing places etc. Sandy Taylor commented that maintenance has been lessened but he will chase up what's happening and when.

**Ardpatrick:** PM would like the red phone box to be taken into community use for the storage of the defibrillator (previously at Kilberry Church); proposed and seconded.

**Donations:** Jarl asked that thanks be expressed to Force 9 for their contribution towards the "Virus Veggie" operation and in addition thanks to SKCC for their allocation of funds to a community member suffering in the first Covid lockdown.

**Date of next meeting:** TBA – sometime in November