

SOUTH KNAPDALE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

South Knapdale Community Council Meeting

Kilberry 1821 church

3rd June 2024

Minutes

1. **Attendees:** Heather Moore, Jarl van den Berg, Nicola Spokes, Brian Steven, John Campbell, Jan Brown, Dougie Philand, Ross Griffen, Agnes Wilkie, Peter Minshall, Hugh Thomson, Hector and Karen Paschalides.
2. **Apologies for absence:** Lord Weir, Katharine Weir, Jamie Halcro Johnston MSP, Dougie McFadzean, Jenni Minto MSP, Julian Green (Team Leader Operations A&B), Duncan Byatt.
3. **Declarations of interest:** None.
4. **Police Report:** Sgt Ross Griffen gave the police report. There were no crimes recorded in the SKCC area.
26 calls were made to the police from the Tarbert area in April with 4 crimes recorded. A press release was made regarding vandalism at the Tarbert Academy. The Police are investigating the matter and appealing for witnesses.
29 calls were made from the Ardrishaig area with 4 crimes being recorded in April.
24 calls were made from the Tarbert area in May – mostly concerning traffic offences also vandalism and assault.
18 calls were made from the Ardrishaig area in May.
The general trends vary but they are generally up at weekends, public festivals etc.
5. **Minutes of last meeting:** Minutes read and approved by all.
6. **Chairman's report:** Nothing to report.
7. **Secretary's report:** The secretary reported that she was working on obtaining a current list of residents in the SKCC area in order to update email/mailling lists, and perhaps encourage anyone with the time and energy to join the SKCC to assist with the duties.
8. **Treasurer's report:** The treasurer gave a report on the annual accounts to 31st March 2024. The balance brought forward was £3494.05. £418.80 was received from the Council Support Grant and £48 was paid out for the annual cost of the domain name. The balance carried forward is £3864.85.

The data protection fee will be deducted from the next accounts.

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No donations to the Screen Machine have been made. Due diligence was carried out (as suggested at the last meeting), but no replies have come back as yet. The Chairman reported that the Screen Machine has since got the funding it needed.

Jan Brown asked if Wind Farm money was coming in and Jarl and Brian explained the current situation regarding EKREG and the joint bids from the associated Community Councils, and that they were exploring the ways that the SKCC can be involved.

A discussion regarding the current and proposed wind farms ensued. It was suggested that SKCC should contact Ardrishaig CC to offer assistance/be involved with the proposed High Brenfield site, since it will have an immense visual impact on the SKCC area despite not actually being in it. Jan Brown is able to supply contact details for ACC.

The question of the density of actual and proposed wind farms was raised and Jan said she has seen a map, and said that she was shocked by the density of the farms. Brian Steven asked if A&B council would ask for an updated study on the economic benefits as well as the effect on Agriculture/Forestry/Tourism etc since Stirling University has carried out a study and have stated that the situation should be looked at again. Dougie Philand said that A&B officers are being sent out to look at getting more benefits out of the wind farms, and that a 2017 wind farm capacity study has shown that the area is already at capacity.

Peter Minshall pointed out that despite having wind farms in the area for some years, our electricity prices have still increased, and perhaps the area should be given greater subsidies for having to put up with the wind farms, and Jan Brown stated that all the wind farm power produced in Scotland actually is sent to England.

- 9. Councillors' report:** Dougie Philand reported that there has been a change in administration and that the new regime should be better although there is still a lot to be worked through. Dougie and Jan are now the new Provost and Deputy Provost and are both hoping to be more prominent in their roles. A new budget is being prepared and they are addressing the problem of the £8million gap that currently stands.

Due to the unexpected death of Robin Currie there is going to be a by election on the 18th July for his seat.

Jan Brown added that the new administration is looking at feeding more power to the area committees, and that it is looking at key financial objectives and would like area committees to be more involved.

Brian Steven brought up the subject of the R100 broadband situation in the area. Jan said she will be attending a meeting on the subject on Thursday 6th June and would get as much information as she could. Brian provided Jan with a list of questions to ask. Heather Moore pointed out the problems involved with the Telecare service if the copper telephone lines/adsl service were to be stopped.

Hector Paschalides and Brian Steven suggested there might be a need for a guide to be drawn up as to how to obtain internet connection on the B8024 and Agnes Wilkie said she would contact Argyll and Bute IT department to ask if they could assist.

- 10. Planning Permissions:** Applications have been made to make alterations to the Telecoms mast at Achahoish /Ellary. The application for a new house to be built on land at Keppoch has been approved.

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- 11. Any other Business:** Peter Minshall explained that the defibrillator currently installed at the 1821 Charitable Trust building should be moved to the Ardpatrik telephone box, since it had been donated by Jonathan Sheldrick for the benefit of the community. The secretary needs to organise the correct signs for the telephone box. Peter also suggested that more defibrillators should be sourced for Kilberry and Torinturk. It was noted that A&B council will not pay for new ones.

Nicola Spokes brought up the subject of the amount of loose surface/gravel on the road and also the state of the overgrowth on the verges and in the ditches. Jan Brown said she would push to get the situation remedied.

Agnes Wilkie brought up the subject of the loss of shops/services in Tarbert, as she wanted to ensure Argyll and Bute council was aware of the worry this is causing. It was suggested that the ferry connection from Campbeltown to Gourock would be of benefit if reinstated, not only for tourism, but also as another access route to the area. Peter Minshall described the process required to get the ferry service going, and asked if A&B Council could have another look at the process to see if it could be accelerated. The Provost said he'd raise the matter.

Jan Brown made mention of her sponsored walk for MS and the Just Giving page that has been set up that allows for donations to be made.

- 12. Date of next meeting:** The date of the next meeting was mooted to be at the end of July but will need to be confirmed.

DRAFT