

SOUTH KNAPDALE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

South Knapdale Community Council Meeting

Ormsary Hall

19th October 2023

Minutes

1. **Attendees:** Heather Moore, Jarl van den Berg, Nicola Spokes, Mary Rae, Archie McArthur, Hugh Thomson, John Moore.
2. **Apologies for absence:** Brian Stevens, John Campbell, Lord and Lady Weir, David Wilson, Peter J Rourke, Jenni Minto, Jan Brown, Duncan Byatt.
3. **Declarations of interest:** None.
4. **Minutes of last meeting:** The only available minutes are a draft version due to the untimely death of Jonathan Sheldrick, and therefore have been approved as such.
5. **Chairman's report:** Nothing to report since the last meeting at Kilberry church.
6. **Secretary's report.** Nothing to report.
7. **Treasurer's report:** The balance brought forward from 1st April 2022 is £3339.71. The A&B CC grant of £420.40 was received on 1st February 2023. A payment of £156.47 was made for paint for the Ardpark telephone box, £74.59 to the SSE for connection of the 'phone box, and a payment of £35 was made to the A&B Information Commissioner for Data Protection Registration. The total carried forward as at 31st March 2023 is £3494.05.
The accounts have been signed off by the accountant and Jarl will send a copy to Melissa Stewart.
It was suggested that David Wilson's proposal to give a donation to the Screen Machine should be considered since the Screen Machine is no longer receiving full government funding, yet it provides much in the way of community benefit in terms of mental health, community togetherness, etc.. Mary Rae suggested the possibility of fund raising to help. All agreed a sum of £500 could be given. The matter is to be pursued.
Jarl excused himself from the rest of the meeting due to suffering with heavy cold symptoms.
8. **Planned 2025 move to digital 'phone lines:** There was a general discussion regarding the lack of alternative means of contacting the emergency services or even BT Openreach when the copper line is broken/disrupted, in part due to lack of mobile 'phone signal in many houses on the road, but also the fact that during power cuts (which we appear to be getting more regularly) the mobile phone masts also stop working, meaning without the copper line,

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many residents are completely cut off. This is especially worrying for residents who rely on the Telecare service for support. Mary Rae suggested the possibility of Microwave mobile internet for remote communities. Lochgilphead has it. It was noted that the whole MAKI area is given a lot less in terms of telecommunications than the Islands around us.

Jura has superfast broadband, but we can't get it.

The Secretary asked for any questions that were to be put to Jenni Minto with regard to the situation, be sent to her so that in the event that Jenni was unable to attend the next SKCC meeting, she could be sent details of our concerns and would be able to reply to them.

9. **Councillor's reports:** None available.
10. **Police report:** The Police report for the area was supplied by email from Lee Page of the Oban police station on behalf of Sgt Matt Shaw, and given by the Chairman. The only reported incident for the SKCC area is the theft of two chairs from Kilberry church between 27th July and 2nd September. The Police are especially interested in any suspicious activity around the 6th August, and are continuing to investigate.
11. **Planning permissions:** The only planning permission submitted for the SKCC area was made on the 13th September by Tilhill Forestry proposing to upgrade the existing forestry track in Loch A' Bharra Forest .
The Secretary voiced her intention to send out planning permission reports more regularly.
12. **AOB:** The Chairman read out Bruce Weir's concerns regarding the matter of trees and foliage restricting drivers' visibility at the Ellary/B8024 junction and also on the B8024 about half a mile below the summit travelling toward the A83. There followed a general discussion on the matter. Archie McArthur stated that the area between a fence and the road is the responsibility of the council, but overhanging foliage behind a fence is the responsibility of the land owner. It was agreed that the matter should be put to Julian Green (Head of Roads dept) and that he should be invited to the next meeting. It was also suggested that Julian Green be asked to organise the removal of old temporary roadworking signs that are not in use.
Hugh Thomson mentioned that he is in contact with Jenni Minto in regard to the possibility of introducing Hydrogen Hubs, whereby hydrogen can be produced by the windfarms in the area which can then be pumped and stored in the way domestic gas currently is.
The current infrastructure of electricity cabling cannot cope with the planned rollout of heatpumps for domestic heating, yet the planned banning /removal of gas boilers/appliances means that a lot of perfectly good appliances would be scrapped unnecessarily, since they could be easily adapted to use hydrogen simply by replacing the gas jets.
13. **Date of next meeting:** The suggested date of the next meeting could be the 4th or 11th December. The Secretary is to contact the other members of the SKCC, and also check with Jenni Minto's office to see if she has a preferred date.