

**MINUTES OF THE BUTE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 17 APRIL 2019 AT THE MUSEUM 7 STUART STREET ROTHESAY**

- Those Present:** Marlene Hill Chairman, John McCallum Vice Chairman, Jan Cochrane, Ronnie Falconer Planning Representative, Iain Gillespie, Hamish Kirk, Robert Macintyre Transport Representative, Ian McKay. Custodian of the Museum. Ruth Tyler Secretary. Councillor Jim Findlay, Councillor Jean Moffat, Councillor Len Scoullar. Eighteen members of the public.
- Apologies:** Duncan Ferguson, Iain Morrison, representative from the police force.
- Museum Alarm:** The Custodian of the Museum explained the procedure should the fire alarm sound.
- Declarations of Interest:** None.
- Adoption of Previous Minutes:** Ronnie Falconer proposed the adoption of the Minutes of 20 March 2019, and Iain Gillespie seconded this.
- Councillors' Reports** Marlene Hill asked if everyone had read the reports.
- Councillor Moffat said she had asked the Head of the Roads Department if he had seen the roads [on Bute], and was told that he had not, but he will come out to see them. The councillors will challenge him again at the council meeting tomorrow.
- Robert Macintyre asked if there was a date for the repairs to the road to Rhubodach. Councillor Scoullar said that it had been held back due to shortage of labour, but he had been told it would be done this year, when the weather was better. Councillor Findlay said it was reconstruction, not repair, and he had challenged Jim Smith (Head of Roads Department) concerning the £43,000 budget for this, as Councillor Findlay didn't think it was enough. A member of the public said it would have been cheaper, last year. Jan Cochrane asked if it cost more, would that delay the work. Councillor Moffat said it wouldn't be put aside again, and that funds could be found when the work was crucial. Ronnie Falconer said nothing had been done for over a year, and the road could become unuseable. He asked for a date to be given at the next Bute Community Council meeting. Councillor Moffat said the Roads Department doesn't give dates, just say that it will be this year. Councillor Findlay said there is information on the [council] website. (Marlene Hill said the website was a little obscure, and suggested that everyone tried it, to see how easy it was). Councillor Findlay asked that Bute Community Council to write to Jim Smith. **Marlene Hill will do this.**
- A member of the public asked why work on the main road by the traffic lights was being done as a priority. John McCallum said it wasn't the council, but BT (Open-Reach).

**Councillors' Reports
Continued:**

Hamish Kirk mentioned that laws were to be toughened up regarding parking on the pavement.

Abandoned cars were discussed. Councillor Findlay advised everyone to log them on to the council website, recording the vehicle registration number and date. A member of the public said registration numbers were difficult if they were not present. Councillor Findlay said if the website form doesn't work without a registration number, he will take it up with the council IT department.

A member of the public spoke concerning an area at Port Bannatyne, where a car was abandoned 2 years ago, followed by more, so there are now 6 or 7 including vans, and parts are being removed. Ownership of the ground was discussed, and a member of the public said that it was owned by Lay Partnership. A member of the public said the area had a wire fence. A member of the public said oil draining from the cars would contaminate the ground. Councillor Findlay mentioned that it might be considered to be a workshop in an area not zoned for workshops, and not have planning.

Councillor Findlay said that work on the Pavilion was on budget. Councillor Moffat said plans for the Pavilion were available on the [council] website. **[Erroneously omitted from the Minutes: There is to be a presentation (hopefully with plans) concerning the Pavilion, at the next Bute Community Council meeting on Wednesday 15 May 2019].**

Ronnie Falconer asked the councillors for a report on progress on what could be done with the Old Academy site. John McCallum said that Fyne Homes use it for storage. It was mentioned that the council owns the glass building. Councillor Scoullar said that it had been for sale for years, it is a Listed Building.

**Community
Emergency
Plan Report -
Ronnie Falconer:**

Ronnie Falconer said that SEPA were reviewing their threshold for flood warning.

Marlene Hill said she had spoken to Joe McCabe and that testing of the water samples from the Lade had not been done. Ronnie Falconer said this was ongoing and he would get Mr Kinghorn of the Council Flood Team to speak directly with Joe McCabe. Ronnie Falconer said SEPA were happy with the removal of sediment, if a sample was taken and the Council Flood Team approve removal.

**Planning Reports
Ronnie Falconer:**

Ronnie Falconer said there was nothing of significance. A member of the public mentioned a planning application for the boat house site at Ascog and said it was a Listed Building. Ronnie Falconer advised that no planning application had as yet been submitted.

Hunterston Parc and Loch Striven

Ronnie Falconer said Bute Community Council had not been invited to the Liaison Meeting, but it is ongoing.

He said there is a Master Plan meeting on 4th to 6th June, and anyone can go along.

Planning Reports
Ronnie Falconer
Continued:

Dawnfresh - Fish Farm at Hawks Nib (Neb).

Ronnie Falconer spoke regarding the proposed Fish Farm, and the response - Opinion and Considerations - which Bute Community Council had been invited to submit to Argyll and Bute Council, in relation to an Environmental Impact Assessment. This was submitted and he thanked the people who had sent in comments for the submission.

A member of the public wanted Dawnfresh to engage directly with Bute Community Council and wanted a community meeting. Ronnie Falconer offered to invite a representative from Dawnfresh to the June Bute Community Council meeting. It was suggested Bute Community Council host a separate special additional meeting, with the only item on the agenda being the proposed fish farm. Ronnie Falconer will invite a representative from Dawnfresh to this additional meeting, provisionally set for Wednesday 5 June 2019, (depending on the availability of the Dawnfresh representative). **[Days after today's meeting it became evident that Dawnfresh would be unable to attend on 5 June 2019 and alternative dates are now being discussed]**. Ronnie Falconer said the Environmental Impact Assessment could take time.

It was stated that Bute Community Council meetings are open to the public and that the Museum has the capacity for 86 persons.

Councillor Moffat said that as she is on planning, she has to be neutral, but that the other councillors could speak for themselves.

Councillor Scoullar mentioned Scottish salmon and ecology concerns.

The three councillors present said they had received e-mails about a meeting concerning a trout farm.

Licensing Report
Jan Cochran:

There were no applications.

Transport Report
Robert Macintyre,
John McCallum and
Marlene Hill:

Marlene Hill said that she, John McCallum and Robert Macintyre had had a meeting with CalMac. She said the lifts had been refurbished for £145,000, using new parts and new doors. Iain Gillespie said they were council lifts, not CalMac. Marlene Hill said that it is Piers and Harbours at the Council. Councillor Scoullar said he had been told that the parts were unobtainable, so it would have to be new lifts. Councillor Moffat said there was a committee for the whole of Argyll and Bute. Robert Macintyre asked if there was a Bute councillor on the committee and was told there was not. Councillor Scoullar will request a report.

Marlene Hill said that in peak season there are 15 ferries a day, but if all ferries met trains, then they would lose ferries. She mentioned a free app for 'phones showing cancellations and weather conditions, which she said should be kept up to date. (A member of the public said it permanently shows Amber which means disrupted, but the timetable shows sailing). Ronnie Falconer said this would affect people coming to Bute.

Transport Report
Robert Macintyre,
John McCallum and
Marlene Hill
Continued:

It was stated that there are no storage facilities at Gourock, when it is used instead of Wemyss Bay for the ferries, so staff can't put boxes on board.

Marlene Hill spoke concerning CalMac issuing numbered tickets. She said this wouldn't work because there is insufficient parking.

A member of the public queried why there hadn't been senior staff present on a particular occasion and why communication hadn't been possible [as referred to in last month's minutes]. **John McCallum will find out at the next meeting with CalMac.**

Ronnie Falconer asked what arrangements CalMac were making to manage capacity when the Sheepdog Trials were on, at the same time as the Highland Games.

A member of the public asked how many ferries were cancelled. Robert Macintyre said he reports on this every month. He referred to various disruptions in April 2019. He said that for 13 weeks the 7 o'clock Rothesay ferry is cancelled. Marlene Hill said the radar doesn't work properly in foggy weather.

A member of the public said that people fell over last Monday and no apology was given. **Marlene Hill will ask about this at the next meeting.**

Treasurer's Report:

Marlene Hill was sorry to report that Keith McIntyre is coming off of the Bute Community Council because he has been unwell.

Marlene Hill said Bute Community Council were waiting for the money for the ambulance shelter. She also mentioned £3,500 for the Christmas Lights and said that Dougie Lyle would be doing some of the work.

Correspondence
and Matters Arising:

The Royal Hotel was discussed at length. Marlene Hill said she had met with George Hanson and had seen plans - 3 corners are rounded. George Hanson said he had purchased the Royal Hotel in 2013 at auction, because he believed the council wanted all of their offices in one building. He said he had spent £350,000 on scaffolding, and £50,000 inside the building, to make it safe for 30 years, as assured by Angus Gilmour. George Hanson said future work on it will cost £3 million. He said the council have no money now, but they will look at it again, when the Pavilion is up and running.

(Councillor Scoullar said there was no parking space at the Royal Hotel, and Councillor Moffat said she hadn't seen plans). She suggested cladding around the windows. **Marlene Hill will suggest this to George Hanson.** She said he puts money into the towns [on Bute] and into the houses.

A member of the public queried why it would cost £3 million. A member of the public wanted an alternative, to waiting 30 years, or costing millions.

The painting of railings on Bute was discussed. Iain Gillespie said he had been approached by a lady who offered to help, she did some painting.

**Correspondence
and Matters Arising
Continued:**

Marlene Hill spoke concerning Britain in Bloom, and said that most towns in England had 140 volunteers, but for Bute in Bloom there are only 5. She asked if anyone in the community could help, perhaps with weeding. Ronnie Falconer suggested that it could be a project for school pupils but was told that disclosure could be a problem. Iain Gillespie said that for the water bowser volunteers needed to work in pairs, perhaps for a couple of hours a day, every fortnight. He said his brother (a skilled gardener) had worked 60 hours a week, watering. Marlene Hill suggested that For Bute put forward prizes of £100, £50, and £20 as vouchers to be spent in independent Bute businesses.

Jan Cochrane's son-in-law will prepare the Bute Community Council website and will possibly come on to the committee.

**Any Other
Competent
Business:**

Marlene Hill said there was a public meeting at the [United Church of Bute] (formerly the High Kirk building) High Street Rothesay on 24 April 2019 at 7 pm [organised by the Scottish Land Commission].

**Health Report
John McCallum:**

John McCallum said he had been to a meeting, but there was nothing really to report.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be at The Museum Rothesay at 7 pm on Wednesday 15 May 2019.