



# Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2022 in Ardrishaig Public Hall

## Present:

Mary MacCallum Sullivan ((MMS) Secretary

Fiona MacFarlane (FMF) Treasurer

Ken MacVicar (KMV) Convener

Lyn MacVicar (LMV)

Christine McIntyre (CMI)

Catherine Bowe (CB)

Sheila Groat (SG) Minute Secretary

## 1. Welcome and Apologies

An apology was received from Douglas Philand.

KMcV welcomed two new Councillors Jan Brown (Scottish National Party) and Garret Corner (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party) who introduced themselves. Garret Corner will be attending the Ardrishaig Community Council meetings over the next six months.

KMV gave a vote of thanks to past Councillors Donnie McMillan and Sandie Taylor and stated that ACC will give their support for making Donnie McMillan an honorary freeman of Argyll.

## 2. Election of Office Bearers

KMV stood down while Councillor Corner took the chair while the Council Members were elected. MMS stated at this point that she was standing down from the Community Council due to health reasons. The votes were as follows;

**Convener** KMV Nominated by FMF seconded by CB

**Vice Convener** CMI Nominated by KMV seconded by FMF

**Treasurer** FMF Nominated by KMV seconded by LMV

**Secretary** CB Nominated by KMV seconded by LMV

### Non-Council Member:

**Minute Secretary** SG Nominated by KMV seconded by FMF

The meeting continued with KMV in the chair.

## 3. Convenors Report

KMV gave the following report:

One thing that cannot be said about being the Convener of Ardrishaig Community Council is that life is dull. It is anything but. The world is full of people who can do a better job than you can. In my working life I had confrontation with many people; that was the nature of my job. However, that is an insignificant part of the job. Working with the other Community Councillors and most of the public make it all worthwhile.



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Mainly due to covid we came through a rough time with us losing a few Community Councillors we got very near to going below the numbers required to keep going. This was addressed and we have survived.

We are aware that there is work to do in getting systems in place to comply with Argyll & Bute Council requirements. As convenor I take full responsibility for these shortcomings

Elections take place this summer and it is hoped that as well as retaining our existing members that others will stand for election, bring new and younger blood to the Committee. Full details will come from the A&B Council and we will make them available when they do.

All I need to say further at this point is thanks to my colleagues here and to members of the public who have supported me.

#### **4. Financial Report**

FMF explained that the balance in the Treasury Fund for the Council as of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 is £1720.45. The balance in the Special Account as of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 is £2708.52. Margaret Galloway has collected £xx so far for the Christmas lights and ACC restated that it will honour its pledge to donate £500 to the fund once Margaret has collected £500.

£500 has also been set aside to replace the bench in the Millennium Garden as the existing bench is broken beyond repair. A second bench is to be donated commemorating Ann Hamilton.

#### **5. Ardrishaig Community Council Facebook Page**

The need for a Facebook Page (FBP) specific to Ardrishaig Community Council was raised. It was reported that the current page is not being used appropriately and individuals have had difficulty accessing and posting on the FBP. This item led to a heated discussion which CMI skillfully diffused.

A motion was put to the members of the Community Council present as to whether they wished the FBP to be taken down – this motion was passed unanimously by a show of hands.

It was agreed that in future a dedicated area on the website shared with the Community Trust (ardrishaig.org) would be used as the forum for sharing Community Council information. Any comments people want to make can be made through the Ardrishaig Community Facebook page.

Concerns were raised again about the lack of publication of the minutes from the Community Council meetings and the poor communication with the community. Clarification has been sought from Melissa Stewart, Governance Officer Argyll and Bute Council, who confirmed that minutes, in draft form, should be issued after each meeting. This enables all persons to comment on the minutes before they are formally accepted.

#### **6. KGV Park**

Blair Johnson (BJ) has previously raised the issue of forming a subcommittee, under the auspices of the Community Council, to develop the KGV Park. KMV stated that at present no subcommittee has been constituted and that due to the financial implications of the proposed works this is not something which the



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Community Council could take on. KMV suggested that the Community Trust could be approached for help with funding of the project. BJ said that an approach had been made to the Trust but that this had been turned down as they thought the project would be too expensive.

MMS reminded the meeting that a subcommittee had been formed some years ago to manage the erection of a fence at the KGV Park but that the work carried out had not been deemed fit for purpose by Argyll & Bute Council and effectively a significant amount of money had been wasted.

MMS suggested that BJ could continue with his proposal for the park and could request the Community Council to revive a subcommittee which was constituted before and make a new start on the basis of what was done before. MMS also noted that the Community Council must take responsibility for anything done under the name of Ardrishaig Community Council and that BJ may wish to stand as a Community Councillor in the forthcoming elections. KMV highlighted that the Community Council is not allowed, under its constitution, to take on projects which it considers to be above its scope, also that under the Community Councils constitution it is not allowed to own assets.

CB asked why the progress of the project needs to be conducted by a subcommittee of the Community Council. BJ replied that if it was conducted this way, he believed it would gain the backing of Argyll & Bute Council which would give a framework to the project.

CMI suggested that a trust could be set up independent of the Community Council which, from her experience with other community projects, was a better way of getting funding. BJ agreed that this might be the way to move forward but with the Community Council giving its backing.

CMI suggested that BJ should speak with others who have set up successful trusts such as the Rockfield Community Trust and to Melissa Stewart to clarify the legal requirements. CMI said that she will speak to her contacts to find out what is the best way to set up a trust.

## **7. Putting Green**

BJ has drawn together a proposal on how the area at the old train stop, currently used as a children's playpark, could be developed into a putting green. CMI suggested that a crazy golf course might draw in more visitors. BJ said he would send an email about the proposal to KMV. The issue was deferred to the next meeting.

## **8. Forthcoming Elections**

Elections for new Community Council members will begin in August, all current members will stand down. It was agreed that there needs to be publicity of these elections and the encouragement of more, and younger, persons to stand for election. The Community Council can have 16 members.

Argyll & Bute Council are responsible for arranging the publicity of these elections. The following is taken from the A&BC website.

Community Council Elections are taking place for **all** Community Councils within the Argyll and Bute Area in October 2022. The formal **Notices of Election** will be advertised locally week beginning 15 August 2022. **Nomination Packs** are available from week beginning 15 August 2022 the Councils



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website and from the Returning Officer, Kilmory, Lochgilphead PA31 8RT. Please do not submit an application form until the **opening of Nominations which is Thursday 18 August**. The Timetable for the election sets out the key dates to be aware of. **The Nomination period will run from Thursday 18 August to Thursday 8 September 2022 (closing date)**. Forms must be lodged with the Returning Officer by no later than 4.00pm on Thursday 8 September 2022.

If you wish to become a community councillor you must be a resident within the community council area and be on the Local Government Electoral Register. Please phone 01586 555300 or e-mail:

[ero-abc@dab-vjb.gov.uk](mailto:ero-abc@dab-vjb.gov.uk) to get your registration number or for Registration enquiries

### 9. Any Other Business

- 9.1 The provision of an electric vehicle charging point within Ardrishaig was raised and will be supported by Local Councillors. The proposal is to have one charge point which will have a fast and a medium charge capacity.
- 9.2 FMF stated that there is a need to start thinking about Christmas lights etc. so that these can be sourced and erected in time. Deferred to next meeting.
- 9.3 There was a vote of thanks for FMF for keeping the flower tubs in good order.
- 9.4 BJ asked for an update on the proposed works for the front green. A&BC have replied to the Community Council that all procedures were followed correctly with regard to the matter of consultation about the works. Letters were sent out over a year ago to all households and businesses located on the main street giving them the opportunity to raise objections or make comment. KMV stated that he thought that there had been some confusion over the matter with some residents thinking that the letters should have been issued more recently. KMV will contact Douglas Philand to find out when the works will start; the original date was the 1<sup>st</sup> June.
- 9.5 Sandy Taylor has spoken with Scottish Canals about the state of the lighthouse and other Canal owned properties within Ardrishaig. Scottish canals have agreed to have regular meetings with the three local Community Councils concerned, i.e. Ardrishaig, Lochgilphead and Crinan.

### 10. Dates of Next meetings

There is traditionally no meeting in July. The next meeting will be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> August when the dates for the meetings 2022/23 will be agreed.

The meeting closed at 20.45