

Ordinary Meeting of KCC

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2025 at 7.30pm

in Kilmaronock Millennium Hall

1) Sederunt

KCC : Gavin MacLellan (Vice-chair/GM), Anita Anderson (Treasurer/AA), Andrew Sinnott (Secretary/AS), David Scott Park (DSP). Gareth Kett and Ellie Mayhew of the Countryside Trust plus 4 other members of the community.

GM welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted the low attendance.

Some members of the CC have been in position far longer than intended and are wishing to retire but have stayed in position to prevent dissolution as we are at the minimum requirement for numbers.

Community Councils have a statutory function, within the local authority system, to represent the views of the community. Without a Community Council there is no statutory means of representing the community.

An appeal will go out once again to seek interest prior to the AGM in May. The level of participation is up to the individual and doesn't need to be a large commitment. If there are no new candidates, the CC will fold.

2) Apologies

Sally Page, Zoe Croucher & Chloe McNeil

3) Declaration of interest for tonight's agenda

None.

4) Minutes of meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2024

As Miss McKerry was not present to update the comments attributed to her at the last meeting AS proposed the following amendment to the minutes :

*"Anne McKerry gave us an insight into how the WDC panel allocate places across WD."*

Adoption of the amended minutes was proposed by AA and seconded by DSP and thus adopted.

5) Proposed Tree Nursery at RSPB Wards

Gareth & Ellie from the Loch Lomond & Trossachs Countryside Trust presented their project for a tree nursery to be hosted by RSPB at the NNR.

There will be a planning application submitted with the details shortly but for now the overview is to set up a couple of polytunnels beside the steading at High Wards Farm. The trees will be grown here until robust enough to be planted at selected sites within LLTNP. The aim is to increase connectivity between existing pockets of native woodland and repopulate areas of lost woodland as part of the [Wild Strathfillan](#) Initiative.

The nursery will provide opportunities for volunteer work as part of the project.

#### 6) Treasurers Report

Outgoings since last meeting were for KMH rental, annual website maintenance and internet hosting.

Current account balance : **£1791.78**

Which now includes the Benevolent fund balance : **£354.41** ( ringfenced for its original purposes).

The end of year was 28<sup>th</sup> February and the accounts are prepared for inspection.

#### 7) Planning Matters

##### **Lomond Banks (2022/0157/PPP)**

The applicants, Flamingoland, have appealed the planning decision to refuse their development. The appeal is being administered by the Directorate for Planning and Environmental Appeals (DPEA). All original comments have been sent to the DPEA. The deadline for any additional comments was extended due to late submission of additional documents from LLTNPA.

<https://www.dpea.scotland.gov.uk/CaseDetails.aspx?ID=125822>

##### **New since last meeting**

##### **Replacement of extension to form link with existing outbuilding and erection of decking to rear**

Burnbrae Farm Gartocharn Alexandria G83 8NE

Ref. No: 2025/0029/HAE | Received: Fri 31 Jan 2025 | Validated: Mon 03 Feb 2025 | Status: Current

**KCC has no comment**

##### **Certificate of Lawful use to confirm a material start of works**

Little Duncryne Farm Gartocharn Alexandria G83 8NG

Ref. No: 2025/0019/LAW | Received: Wed 22 Jan 2025 | Validated: Thu 30 Jan 2025 | Status: Current

*Relates to work started in 2020 for permission given ref 2018/0338/DET*

**KCC has no comment**

**Erection of nature hub building (comprising visitor education centre and café, staff offices and associated welfare facilities) and associated parking, construction of new footpath and alterations to existing vehicular access**

RSPB Scotland Loch Lomond High Wards Farm Gartocharn Alexandria G83 8SB

Ref. No: 2024/0351/DET | Received: Mon 16 Dec 2024 | Validated: Wed 12 Feb 2025 | Status: Current

Unfortunately, the planning portal was not accessible during the meeting so the documents could not be shown. Only AS had been to the presentation in the hall to see and discuss the proposals.

GM suggested that we ask a rep from RSPB to join us at the next meeting. AS will ask them to bring their visualisation models if they still have them.

**KCC to invite RSPB to next meeting**

**Erection of function building including 1 flat for self-catering holiday accommodation and installation of sewage treatment plant**

Wards Farm Gartocharn West Dunbartonshire G83 8SB

Ref. No: 2024/0346/DET | Received: Wed 11 Dec 2024 | Validated: Fri 13 Dec 2024 | Status: Current

**KCC has no comment**

**Erection of dwellinghouse for managers accommodation and sewage treatment plant**

Wards Farm Gartocharn West Dunbartonshire G83 8SB

Ref. No: 2024/0347/DET | Received: Wed 11 Dec 2024 | Validated: Fri 13 Dec 2024 | Status: Current

**KCC has no comment**

8) Correspondence

Forestry Land Scotland – Ross Priory Woods consultation

GM, DSP & AA each attended the open consultation on the management plan for East Loch Lomond and Ross Priory Woods. There is no plan to facilitate access to Ross Priory Wood as

FLS do not own the access to the wood. The plan is to leave the wood as an area of enhanced biodiversity. FLS have no plan to control foxes in the wood.

### Woodland Trust

GM gave a presentation on the state of the woodland at Whinney Hill & Blairlinnan's. The WT director for Scotland, Alastair Seaman, was unable to attend tonight to discuss the issues but has invited feedback.

After discussion it was decided that a site visit with KCC and WT would be more beneficial than a meeting in the hall.

**KCC (GM/AS) to invite Alastair Seaman to a site visit**

### Scottish Water

DSP gave an update on the works at the Ross Priory Pumping Station. Scottish Water require to replace a 30 ton surge vessel which necessitates the use of a 200 ton crane. The work will involve temporary widening of the junction at A811/Ross Loan and at the Ross Priory entrance. Work is expected to start in September 2025 and be completed by February 2026..

### Cooperation with neighbouring CC's

KCC engage with neighbouring CC's particularly Balloch & Haldane CC where a lot of amenities, that are important to us, are based. As a group we are investigating the benefits of an agreed Memorandum of Understanding to support common interests.

BHCC are creating a Local Place Plan and have asked us to meet their project consultant, Nick Wright.

**KCC (GM) to agree a date and place for a meeting.**

### War Memorial

A response came from the War Memorials Trust...

*"We discussed the concern at length and recognise the challenges of accessing the site given the road, however War Memorials Trust concluded that as a conservation charity we would not be supportive of the proposed relocation as the memorial is not considered to be at risk. It was discussed whether the custodians would consider the creation of a lay-by, acknowledging that this would be expensive and is outwith the remit of the Trust, but something which the site provides the possibility for.*

*I understand that our position may be disappointing to the Community Council as I understand the considerations and good intentions behind the proposal. If I am planning site visits in the area in the near future, I would be happy to meet with you at the memorial to explain this position."*

### Kilmaronock Old Kirk Trust

The chair of KOKT made us aware of recent accidents with eastbound vehicles leaving the A811 on the bend after Wardshill and ending up in the field.

**KCC to inform WDC Roads dept of the issue and request a review of signage and speed limits.**

Police Scotland - There have been **five** recorded crimes in the Community Council area since the date of the last meeting in January 2025.

Four relating to one incident and the other a financial scam - see appendix for detail.

WDC – They are beginning their Local Development Plan process

[Emerging Local Development Plan | West Dunbartonshire Council](#)

## 9) Community Matters/Local Place Plan

### Local Place Plan

Litter picking – after discussion and lack of volunteers to organise a coordinated pick, it was decided that we have an informal pick where anyone willing just collects in their neighbourhood – as many do already – with a guideline of doing it by Easter weekend. Both WDC and LLTNPA have offered a loan of equipment in the past and may do so again if asked.

The following were discussed in our annual meeting with the Roads department.

- Potholes & Drainage / Reporting / Repairs
- Speed limits
- Parking / Passing places
- Crossings

[Minutes of the meeting](#) are posted on the KCC website alongside the minutes of this meeting.

## 10) Kilmaronock Community Trust

The AGM was held on Wed 19<sup>th</sup> Feb with a guest speaker, Audrey Baird, from Balloch Castle Country Park Regeneration Group

Trustees are currently John Struthers, Andrew Curry, Mary Sweetland, Andrew Sinnott and Bob Shand. However, KCT are seeking a minimum of one more trustee to come forward.

Volunteers willing to assist with village projects should contact [kct@gartocharn.org](mailto:kct@gartocharn.org)

## 11) National Park Issues

Consultation launched regarding a potential East Loch Lomond community venison larder to help local farmers and landowners to manage deer populations by commercial sales of venison from culled deer :

<https://www.lochlomond-trossachs.org/park-authority/blog/community-consultation-announced-for-potential-east-loch-lomond-community-venison-larder-pilot/>

**KCC to submit a positive response that welcomes this approach**

12) West Dunbartonshire Council

The WDC Budget will be discussed on Wed 5th March – among the proposals is one to remove or reduce the annual admin grant for CC's. While we could cope with some level of reduction in the grant, removal of the grant entirely (although unlikely) would effectively end the running of KCC.

13) Next Meeting

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2025 at 19:30 in KMH.

**We look forward to welcoming new participants to the future Community Council.**

Please send in any items for discussion to [secretary@kilmaronockcc.org](mailto:secretary@kilmaronockcc.org) This helps us to prepare in advance to make the meetings run smoother.

Meeting closed at 21.50h

Appendix 1



**Name of Community Council: - Kilmaronock Community Council**

**Date of Report: - 02/03/2025 (covering period 15/01/25 – 02/03/25)**

**Submitting officer: - PC Michael McKay**

|                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
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| Crimes/Offences that have occurred in community area since last meeting | <p>There have been five recorded crimes in the Community Council area since the date of their last meeting in January 2025.</p> <p>One incident incurred 4 separate charges for the one accused including a breach of the peace, resist arrest and 2x Police assaults.</p> <p>The additional crime was a telecommunications fraud incident. The complainer was at a large financial loss which has since been returned. Enquiries continue to identify the suspect who resides out with Scotland.</p> <p>In addition, Police have dealt with a number of incidents in the area since the time of the last meeting but for non-criminal matters such as general requests for assistance and road traffic matters/breakdowns and animal matters.</p> |
| Updates on previous actions                                             | N/A as no officer was present.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |