

Ordinary Meeting of KCC

Monday 7th July 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) ; LLTNPA : David Mackie, board member plus 6 other members of the community.

2) Apologies

John Struthers (KCT), Mary Sweetland (KCT, KOKT) and Ian Sweetland.

3) Declaration of interest for tonight's agenda

None.

4) Minutes of meeting on 19th May

Proposed as accurate by AA and seconded by GM

No matters arising.

5) Meeting Format

It was discussed in the AGM that due to low attendances at meetings and the work involved in preparation for meetings that alternatives would be looked at such as reducing the frequency and/or the content of the meetings.

There are a set of statutory items that need to be covered at a minimum of 5 meetings plus an AGM.

Historically, the ordinary business meetings have had low attendance whereas special topic or "event" meetings can fill the hall.

Going forward, we will try to arrange 2 or 3 event meetings with a variety of topics of interest to the community. Suggestions for such topics will be welcomed and we will arrange for speakers on given themes to attend.

Ordinary business meetings will be limited to the statutory agenda items allowing more time for group discussion. A pre-meeting informal meet and greet will catered for with some light refreshments.

Meetings have traditionally been held on Monday evenings but this could be varied so that people with regular Monday night commitments will not always miss out.

If notice is provided in advance we will continue, as we currently do, to tailor the order of the agenda to accommodate people needing to leave early or arrive late.

6) Treasurers Report

WDC Admin grant received.

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

Current account balance : **£2268.70**

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

7) Planning Matters

Lomond Banks (2022/0157/PPP)

The appeal **PPA-002-2021** was upheld by the Directorate for Planning and Environmental Appeals (DPEA). The reporter decided that planning permission should be granted provided an agreement under Section 75 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 is reached between the planning authority and the appellant. The planning permission will not be issued until that agreement is reached and registered.

Subsequently, following local campaigning the minister for planning, Ivan McKee, has “called in” the application for final decision to be made by ministers.

There is widespread concern that the ministers might not apply the scrutiny required to acknowledge the reasons for the original refusal. The DPEA reporter used different criteria, which favoured the applicant, to assess the application.

David Mackie gave an update on the process and reminded us that even if granted, this is only a Planning Permission in Principle and more detailed planning applications would be assessed individually should they follow.

New since last meeting

Erection of polytunnels, welfare unit, sheds and toilet and formation of hardstanding

RSPB Loch Lomond Gartocharn G83 8SB

Ref. No: 2025/0103/DET | Received: Tue 08 Apr 2025 | Validated: Mon 02 Jun 2025 | Status: Current

KCC has no comment

Updates since last meeting

Erection of recreational hut

Torrardan Wood Finnelly Plantation Near Gartocharn

Ref. No: 2025/0102/DET | Received: Mon 07 Apr 2025 | Validated: Mon 05 May 2025 | Status: Current

KCC submitted an objection after receiving further information following the last meeting.

David Mackie explained that there were a number of applications for huts within the National Park which was causing the LLTNPA some concern.

NPF4 Policy 30d) states that “Proposals for huts will be supported where the nature and scale of the development is compatible with the surrounding area and the proposal complies with relevant good practice guidance.”

The NPF4 glossary provides a definition of huts.

<https://kilmaronockcc.org/reference-material>

KCC’s letter of objection can be seen on the planning portal.

Temporary removal of existing wall and gates and reinstatement of wall and gates including installation of electrically operated opening/closing arms to gates

Ross Priory Lodge Gartocharn West Dunbartonshire G83 8NQ

Ref. No: 2025/0107/LBC | Received: Thu 10 Apr 2025 | Validated: Thu 10 Apr 2025 | Status: Current

DSP noted that the application for LBC was validated on the 10th April 2025 with a determination due by the 9th June 2025. LLTNPA requested information about alternative access in the week before the determination date. It was felt that this could have been requested at an earlier stage.

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

A new document has been submitted showing the plan for a new public bus stop inside the RSPB gate and a path from the new stop to the car park and hub. Although this wasn’t presented at the special meeting in May, it was listed in the original documentation as an intention.

KCC has no further comment, having responded previously (see planning portal).

8) Correspondence

Local Development Plan (2)

KCC attended both evidence gathering sessions (West & East Loch Lomond) due to being split by the NP into two areas. We submitted a written response to the NP as requested.

<https://kilmaronockcc.org/consultations>

Police Scotland

There were five recorded crimes in the Community Council area since the date of the last meeting in May 2025.

Two of the incidents relate to crimes of theft. One being theft of fuel and the other street signage. Positive lines of enquiry exist and are being followed up regarding the outstanding fuel.

There was a report of vandalism whereby a farm fence wires were cut by unknown means. No items were taken and no persons responsible have been identified.

Additionally, there was an attempt theft of motor vehicle. Forensic opportunities exist and samples are currently being examined.

Lastly, a driver was issued a £100 fine and 3 penalty points for modifying the windows on their vehicle below the prescribed limit.

In discussion we were asked about crimes reported on RSPB land that are not on the list.

KCC (AS) to follow up with PC McKay

Register of electors

The electoral roll is being updated from 14th July onwards. Notices have been posted to increase awareness to get registered.

<https://kilmaronockcc.org/news>

The Trossachs Explorer

Notices have been posted to advertise the resumption of the service from 7th July. The service connects with public transport along its route starting with the 309 in Drymen. Last year the service had ~5500 passengers.

<https://kilmaronockcc.org/news>

Clyde Metro

<https://www.spt.co.uk/about-us/what-we-are-doing/clyde-metro/>

KCC reminded SPT via their consultant that rural communities need connectivity more so than urban ones. As the scheme is regional we should be included in the conversation.

WDC budget conversation

Engagement is open until 14th July. Notices have been posted to increase awareness to get registered.

<https://www.west-dunbarton.gov.uk/council/key-council-documents/budget-conversations/>

WDC Active Travel Strategy

A copy is posted on the KCC website

<https://kilmaronockcc.org/news>

CC Forum

A number of CC's in WDC area have folded and many more are on the cusp of failing due to lack of community participation in either serving on the CC or just attending the meetings, making the main job of community representation very challenging.

Road works

KCC were copied in on a complaint to Roads Commissioner in relation to the recent works by Scottish Water on the main road in the village. This is not the first complaint about recent SW roadworks. The protracted works outside Ross Priory was also an issue. The original repair failed and had to be repaired a second time. On both occasions there were road closure signs on both the Ross Loan and Mill Loan. The Mill loan required a sign "Local access only" which was not forthcoming.

The letter was quite detailed and sent to all the right parties so in support, KCC will summarise the content, add in a note about the other incidents and send to all relevant parties on KCC letterhead.

KCC (AS & DSP) to follow up

9) Community Matters/Local Place Plan

Local Place Plan

KCC will call a review meeting for end of summer.

Kilmaronock Community Trust

Trustees are liaising with the NP and respective landowners regarding restoration of the Aber bridge.

Kilmaronock Old Kirk Trust

The interior refit of the building is under way. Aiming for completion in September. A service is being planned to celebrate the 700th anniversary of the Parish of Kilmaronock.

Kilmaronock Millennium Hall Association

Events including the Village Show on August 30th are being planned to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the hall. A scarecrow competition is running now.

Gartocharn Primary School

Parents, in attendance, gave an update on current placement provision. It is within the gift of the council not the school to vary their priorities so we should continue to lobby for recognition of the challenges for rural communities if local children cannot be placed.

Balloch Castle Country Park Regeneration Group

Sally Page, chair of BCCPRG, gave an update on the plans for the funding of a development worker to draft up a business plan. Previous funding conditions mean a mountain biking track will be built within the park although the location is under review. CHAS are a leading partner and a sensory garden is being developed within the walled garden.

13) Next Meeting

Nominally on 1st September 2025 at 19:30 in KMH.

Please send in any items for discussion to secretary@kilmaronockcc.org This helps us to prepare in advance to make the meetings run smoother.

14) AOB

The grass cutting budget was reduced in the 2025/2026 budget. Edges along paths and around larger areas are cut but some have been missed – the path from Duncryne Terrace to the layby, for instance. As the garden waste collections are no longer free there is reluctance for residents to do it themselves.

KCC suggested that residents report their issues to WDC via their reporting system, lobby the local elected members and copy KCC on the replies.

Missing and damaged road signs and repeated road flooding were discussed. WDC roads department are aware but there is no harm to continually report these things as they occur via the WDC fault reporting system. Copy KCC on correspondence if further follow up is needed.

See : <https://www.west-dunbarton.gov.uk/roads-parking-travel/report-street-issues/>

Meeting closed at 21.20h