

Draft Minutes Bute Community Council	
Date	2024-01-17 1900 at United Church Bute
Online at	butecommunitycouncil.wordpress.com
Draft Minutes	<p>1. Attendance: I Gillespie, C Hall, R McIntyre, F Martin, J Moffat, T Nelson, W Nelson, J Osborne, Cllr R Kennedy-Boyle, Cllr P Wallace</p> <p>Apologies: none</p> <p>2. Declarations of Interest: FMartin, JMoffat, TNelson, WNelson all connected with BSAS (Buteiful Seas and Shores)</p> <p>3. Police Report: attached, delivered by Sergeant Scott Thain</p> <p>4. Minutes of Previous Meeting: 15 November, 2023</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">a. WNelson asked that item 8a include the word ring-fenced, to make clear that the money belonged to and was being held on behalf of Bute Resilience and was not given to Bute Resilience from BCC funds</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">b. TNelson noted that she had missed out including Cllr R K-B on the attendance list</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">c. Adjusted minutes proposed by JO and seconded by JM</p> <p>5. Guest speaker:</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">a. Sean Manson, Independent Prescriber (PIP), Locum/Superintendent Pharmacist and Christopher Hardie: speaking to update on the opening of their independent pharmacy on Montague Street, Bute Pharmacy</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">1. Four months ago, purchased the former Lloyds Pharmacy on Montague Street</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">2. Former staff continued in employment; both staff and customers seem happier as new programmes have greatly improved customer service: a text message service has been introduced so that customers are able to get real time feedback on the progress of their prescriptions; there is improved communications with the surgery; Pharmacy First programme introduced so that people can visit the Pharmacist first before making a GP appointment (eg skin infections, smoking cessation, etc)</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">3. Jeanette McDonald, on behalf of Well Being Bute, asked the pharmacists if they could work directly with Well Being Bute on issues such as Stress, Smoking Cessation, etc. The Pharmacists agreed that one of them could attend WBB sessions on arranged dates as they have purposely scheduled days when both will be in the pharmacy.</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">4. WNelson asked for some further details about the ‘agile purchasing’ that the pharmacists mentioned as a point that was increasing customer satisfaction. The pharmacists explained that as an independent pharmacy they are free to build relationships with a number of wholesalers and suppliers, and that by learning how the system works and paying attention to what medications may be in short supply, they are able to buy in stock in advance by ‘shopping around’.</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">5. JMoffat expressed appreciation to both Sean and Chris for the hard work and improved pharmacy service.</p>

b. Representative of Saputo

1. Three speakers attended the meeting on behalf of Bute Island Foods/Saputo Community Fund: Michaela Nicholson, Jeanette McDonald, and Ricky Harrison.
2. The Community Fund started in 2021 and was originally meant to run for one year. It will now run through 2024 and possibly continue through 2025; that decision is still to be made.
3. The Community Fund is administered by an independent committee made up of employees/management from BIF. They try to meet bi-weekly. To date, 22 applications have been awarded funding totalling £69,000.
4. The application form gives details of the Community Fund's remit and criteria. These are fluid, so if an application is not successful it may be worthwhile trying again should the remit/criteria evolve.
5. The application can be obtained by stopping in to the reception desk of BIF. Based on questions raised by several in the audience, access to the application through the internet will be investigated.
6. JOsborne shared that he had been involved with several successful and several unsuccessful applications to the fund. He felt that the criteria had not been applied consistently and that at times the reason/s for denial were not clearly explained. It was agreed that a meeting be arranged between himself and the Community Fund committee to discuss these issues.

c. Shona Edwards: working with young people on Bute

1. Shona was accompanied by Mariska Silkowski, a newly elected member of the Scottish Youth Parliament from Bute. A part of the role of an MSYP is to consult with young people.
2. Shona works .5 with young people and .5 with adults. She facilitates young people participating in such programmes as the Saltire Awards, Youth Achievement Awards, Youth Leadership, John Muir Trust Awards, Youth Action Groups. There is a particular focus on young people who are struggling to achieve at the same level as their peers.
3. A recent consultation of the young people on Bute was carried out, receiving 94 responses. Though it might be perceived that young people want things to do, what the consultation showed was that what young people really want is a warm, dry place to go where they can just hang out with friends.
4. CHall offered Shona that she would open her café, The Coffee Stop, one night per week for young people to visit for hot chocolate and a chat with their friends.
5. JOsborne spoke about the reopening of the Pavilion and the possible establishment of an Activity Centre at the Trinity Church Hall, and wondered if perhaps the BIF/Saputo Community Fund might be a source of funds to enable young people who might not be able to afford to attend activities at these sites, to do so.
6. Shona said that once the report is completed on the recent consultation, she will share it with BCC. As well, Mariska will be

taking part with MSYP's across A&B to carry out an audit of all activities/services available to young people in the area.

7. An attendee of the meeting suggested that sailing was one of the best activities for young people to take part in and asked why the sailing club was not doing training for young people. It was pointed out that the Sailing Club used to do Wednesday and Saturday meetings for young people.

d. Dorothy MacDonald, BID manager

1. Dorothy took over the role on a part-time basis in October when John Weir, who had been full-time, left.
2. There is a full-time administrator for the BID.
3. The BID was set up for a 5-year term. In April, the BID will be at the halfway point of its first term. At the end of the term, a vote of members will be taken as to whether it continues.
4. Dorothy explained that she will focus on three areas:
 1. Marketing: taking up the Visit Bute brand
 2. Improve Environment: such things as painting the railings, Christmas lights, etc.
 3. Business Growth: with a particular emphasis on small, local businesses. An example of how this might be achieved is 'economies of scale' through bulk purchase of commonly used supplies.
5. One of Dorothy's first actions upon taking up her role as Manager was to have an open day/evening for all BID members in November. The main outcomes of conversations with the members were:
 1. A wish for more high quality places to eat in the evening
 2. A desire for an improved environment, with particular mention of the Royal Hotel
 3. An acknowledgement that there are lots of events/activities on the island but it is not always easy to know/find out about them: the BID is considering being the 'keeper' of a Bute events calendar and possibly investing in a digital display to make this calendar as accessible as possible.
6. At the end of the talk, Dorothy reminded everyone that the Buy Local campaign, with its associated card, was not just for Christmas.

6. Matters Arising

- a. Any uptake of Bute Island Radio invitation to BCC to speak on radio: J Moffat will be speaking on the radio tomorrow, 18 January, to discuss tonight's meeting
- b. Saputo Legacy Fund update: J Moffat
 1. Saputo Legacy Fund: the projects will be announced in April, when Leo Saputo will visit Bute
 2. Saputo Community Fund: see item 5b
- c. Community engagement Meetings update: J Osborne and F Martin
 1. A meeting has been arranged for 15 February in Port Bannatyne

village hall from 1900 – 2100

2. J Osborne suggested that information gathered through BCC community engagement meetings be shared with the BID

d. Survey on fish farms: T Nelson

1. The draft of the survey circulated at the meeting was accepted with JOsborne recommending that item 2 include words to the effect of 'what information would you like'
2. Further discussion to take place at February meeting

e. Update on Empty Property Relief decision: Cllrs present

1. Cllr P Wallace thought that the item had been presented at EDI and had passed as proposed, unamended but will verify for the next meeting in February
2. [After Meeting Update] Cllr P Wallace kindly provided the following update via email:
 1. The policy on Empty Property Relief for Non-Domestic rates came to the Full Council on 23rd November 2023. In summary the option agreed allows 50% relief for 3 months followed by 10% thereafter, with the exception of EPR for Insolvency, similar to other approved schemes in Scotland. No relief will be granted after a property has been empty for over 12 months.
 2. Extract from the minute as follows:

The Council –

 1. approved Option A, Empty Property Relief provisions as outlined in paragraph 3.19 of the report;
 2. agreed the creation of an Empty Property Officer post for a period of 2 years as outlined in paragraph 3.21 of the report; and
 3. agreed that the remaining Empty Property Relief funding is used towards a Business Grant Scheme with officers to bring forward the detail to the Environment, Development and Infrastructure Committee meeting in March 2024 for approval.
 3. Full report available at:
<https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/moderngov/documents/s201372/20231123%20-%20EMPTY%20PROPERTY%20RELIEF%20POLICY%20IN%20NON-DOMESTIC%20RATES%20-%20Council.pdf>

f. Moving BCC meetings to Monday evening: J Moffat

1. J MacMillan said that the Church Hall would be available the third Monday of the month
2. J Osborne and I Morrison said that Monday would reduce their attendance.
3. It was decided to leave the meetings on the third Wednesday of the month

g. Update on Arden Craig Gardens and Rothesay Pavilion: R Macintyre

1. Postponed until February

7. A&B Councillor Reports: attached

	<p>a. Cllr P Wallace reported that one of the lifts at Rothesay Pier is now in service</p> <p>8. Community Councillors' reports</p> <p>a. W Nelson reported that there were no planning applications of interest to the Community council</p> <p>9. Public Questions</p> <p>10. AOCB</p> <p>a. Comments made about BCC by Cllr McCabe at the Policy and Resources Committee meeting on 7 December</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. R McIntyre proposed that a letter be written to Pippa Milne in regards to disparaging remarks Cllr McCabe made about BCC at the above referenced committee meeting in December. 2. I Morrison seconded the proposal, saying that it would be one thing if Cllr McCabe attended BCC meetings but completely unacceptable as she had never attended a single meeting. 3. The proposal was not voted upon. <p>b. WNelson noted that it should be minuted that Scott MacGregor would no longer be a member of BCC as non-attendance had exceeded the 6 month mark noted in the Argyll and Bute Scheme for Establishment of Community councils.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. TNelson explained that she had written to both Scott and James Grewcutt, who had been co-opted in an advisory capacity, to explain the terms of the Scheme for Establishment of Community Councils, to thank them for their interest in BCC and to encourage them to attend future meetings as residents of Bute. 2. Scott MacGregor and James Grewcutt will no longer be members of BCC, the former in the role of Community Counciller, the later in an advisory capacity. <p>11. Date of Next Meeting: 21 February, 2024</p>
<p>Following Documents</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Police Report • Cllr Report – Reeni Kennedy-Boyle • Cllr Report – Peter Wallace