

CUMBRAE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES – AGM 2018 Thursday 8 November 5 pm, Garrison House

Present: Phil Lonsdale, Sharon Hagan, Alex Caldwell, Graham Wallace, Angie McCallum, Cllr. Ian Murdoch, 7 members of the public, Michael Bertram (CCDC), Stewart Kennedy (CCDC), Margaret Kennedy (IoCTA), Callum Corral

Apologies: Cllr. Tom Marshall, Cllr. Alan Hill, Crawford Gillan, Lesley Stringer, Davey Stevenson

1. Minutes of the AGM 2017: The minutes of the AGM 2017 were proposed by Graham Wallace and seconded by Angie McCallum as a true record
2. Chair's Annual Report:

Firstly I would like to thank the Community Councillors for their continuing hard and frequently tedious work on behalf of the community. I would especially wish to thank them, particularly the Vice Chair for taking up the slack caused by my frequent absences, due to health issues coupled with family deaths and problems over the last few months.

We have held 11 regular meetings this year, with members of the public present – and being heard – at each of them. Off island meetings and workshops are held and attended frequently and liaison with the other North Coast Community Councils continues.

We currently have 1 vacancy on the Community Council following a resignation due to a change in personal circumstances. We have, and are, advertising for a replacement and the Community will have a chance elect their choice soon.

Several consultations have been held on the island and the staff at these have all commented on how well attended they are compared to most on the mainland.

On the island we have taken up many items brought to our attention by members of the community and have had answers or resolution to most of them. Recycling bins sited on the shore, extensive road refurbishment, more dog poo bins, etc. etc.

Many island organisations have been directed towards grant funding and, if the application met the conditions of the grant, all have been fully or partially successful.

The major, and most time consuming, subjects– the Pier, the Flood Prevention Scheme, Cycle Path from Keppel to the slip, Peelpport's planned use of the Hunterston Peninsula and the Town Hall - are still ongoing and will continue to be pursued.

During the course of these sagas I have been surprised, and disappointed to have learnt several – to me – unpalatable facts.

Cumbræ is the only island of similar population (or larger) on the West of Scotland without a working pier, public slip and publically held Community Hall. In spite of this NAC appear singularly disinterested in helping to correct this situation – which was caused by their neglect originally.

The Council do not own and maintain a single Community Facility on the island. An elected Councillor has publicly stated that NAC will not help to fund a Community led action because it will (in his opinion) compete with a business. But the Community pay Community Tax which helps to fund NAC and the Community elected the Councillors. *(Note – on the island only the pubs pay Business Rates)*

We have also repeatedly pointed out that any work undertaken for, or quoted, to NAC is at least double the cost (more usually treble) than it would cost an individual to have the same work carried out. Several Councillors have commented to me that it is just the way of it, people mark up for the Council. They appear content to spend the Community money in this fashion.

We are repeatedly told that the Council want all of the committees on the island to speak with one voice, but they then always give priority to business's over the Community's voice. Answers from the Council depend upon whom you ask.

In spite of the Community Council being a statutory body in the planning system and repeated requests NAC will not give us a "heads up" on pre planning applications – of whatever size. At least 2 meetings have been held very recently with the planning committee of NAC and Councillors concerning a development that has the potential to double the number of people on the island, yet we who live here officially know nothing of it.

For the coming year we will continue to work for the Community on Cumbræ, the whole Community, and we thank you for your past support and hope we can continue to rely on you in the future.

3. Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer presented the draft accounts of the preceding year for approval:

<u>Admin Account</u>	Opening Balance	£776.20
	Uncashed Cheques	£181.00
	Admin Grant	£453.80
	TOTAL RECEIPTS	£1411.00
	Stationery and Postages	£124.24
	Travel	£169.80
	Grants	£359.34
	Poppy Wreath	£31.80
	Closing Bank Balance	£725.82
	TOTAL PAYMENTS	£ 1411.00

<u>Project Account</u>	Opening Balance	£1515.63
	SSE Grants	£10,246.00
	Grants Refund	£359.34
	TOTAL RECEIPTS	£12,120.97
	10 x SSE Grants	£ 5000.00
	Newsletter	£ 100.00
	Printing	£ 36.99
	Hall	£ 70.64
	Grant	£ 80.00
	Uncashed Cheques(Minus)	£ 5000.00
	BALANCE	£11,833.34

4. Secretary's Report:

This has been a very busy year for the Community Council.

A large amount of correspondence has been sent to numerous departments at NAC and we now seem to be making inroads in being included in matters pertaining to the Island. However it is felt this needs to be improved upon and as elected members we should be included more in NAC matters pertaining to the Island. For this reason it is hoped that representatives from NAC departments be invited to a meeting for information exchange. There have been some problems with non replies to emails and this has added to the workload. On a couple of occasions a complaint had to be made to the Committee Services Team Leader for this to be resolved.

We now have a Notice Board and Post Box for the benefit of the community. At the beginning of the year a CCC questionnaire was delivered to every letterbox on the Island asking people for their opinion on Island matters – what they thought might be of benefit to the Island, what they had concerns about. The number of replies were in line with national average rates and results were presented to a well attended open meeting.

Following the wishes of the community to form Millport Town Hall Steering Group, CCC have agreed to be the umbrella body. Whilst CCC are not involved in the decision making of Friends of Millport Town Hall they give them the ability to make funding applications without yet being a charity within their own right.

Many thanks to Mari Wallace and Lesley Stringer for taking the minutes which has released the Secretary from some of the workload.

5. Appointment of Office Bearers:

The Chair, Vice Chair and Treasurer stepped down from their Office. There is a vacancy for Secretary at present.

It was unanimously accepted that they be reinstated –

Phil Lonsdale – Chair

Graham Wallace – Vice Chair

Alex Caldwell – Treasurer

The role of Secretary remains vacant.

6. Meeting was closed