

**SKELMORLIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN
SKELMORLIE COMMUNITY CENTRE ON MONDAY 31st
March 2025 at 7pm**

Present:

Isy Agnew *Chairperson*

Martin Kaarits

Janice Rodger *Treasurer*

Billie Walker *Minute Secretary*

Eleanor Bell *Councillor*

Helen Boyle *Councillor*

Sarah Crookston *N.A.C.*

Councillor Ian Murdoch

Sgt. Donald Fisher *Strathclyde Police*

Members of Public

72 members of the Public attended

Apologies:

Councillor Todd Ferguson

Minutes

Minutes from previous meeting were read and adopted as correct

Proposed Eleanor Bell *Seconded Janice Rodger*

These will now be sent to NAC Council and placed in Library and posted on Skelmorlie Community Council FB page.

At this point a large number of members of the public (72) were in attendance which was too many for the room so it was decided to move the meeting into the big hall, where the meeting continued

Chairperson Isy Agnew welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced two ladies from NAC Housing, Sergeant Donald Fisher from Strathclyde Police, Councillor Ian Murdoch and the members of the Community Council.

Councillor Ian Murdoch then explained that the incidents of prowling and housebreaking over the past few weeks had been reported to the Police and also NAC. At the last Community Council meeting it had been explained by Sgt Fisher that although there had been talk about these incidents nobody had actually reported them to the Police. Since then there had been reports and both NAC and the Police had been working on them. The gentleman in question was arrested and appeared in court and will reappear in August. Sgt Fisher explained that it had to be a multiagency job involving Police, Housing Department and Procurator Fiscal and that the Police cannot just remove people from their homes. Over the past few weeks there has been a large police presence including unmarked cars in the village and statements received from householders along with camera footage.

One of the problems was the use of Social Media, should a case go to court that has been discussed on Social Media this can interfere with the judgement. Sgt Fisher had attended the Protest, which he said was peaceful and spoken to a number of people to try and explain what was being done

The ladies from NAC Housing Department then explained that the Housing Policy is a Scottish Government Policy which has to be followed. People are entitled to apply for Social Housing in any area they wish and the application is taken forward to see where there is housing to suit these individuals.

A member of the public asked if someone had been in prison would there be a police report put in place to inform the Council of this. The answer to this was no unless it was something which could be dangerous to certain aspects of the community ie sex offenders etc.

Tracey was then asked if a risk assessment was done before ex-prisoners were moved into an area and the answer was no apart for the above mentioned cases.

A member of the public who lived in the vicinity of the man who had been arrested stated that if was all very well ensuring his safety and ability to enjoy life but what about the people who were already living there and had continuously had to put up with all the upheaval. She also stated that in the past few weeks she had tried to speak to someone at NAC but due to various problems including phone lines this had been practically impossible. Tracey assured her that someone will be in contact with her tomorrow.

A discussion then took place as to how the gentleman had been housed by NAC and it was stated that he was homeless. This is a major problem all over the country not just NAC and due to the Scottish Government Directives.

Councils have a duty of care to try to house these people. If someone has been jailed for an offence they have to be given the opportunity to see the error of their ways.

A member of the public then asked if this man had family in the North Coast area and Sgt Fisher stated at this point that due to Data Protection this information could not be given out.

Councillor Murdoch explained that Sgt Fisher and the ladies from NAC were following protocol and had given up their time to try to explain the position to the Public and things will still be ongoing to try to ensure this does not happen again.

The gentleman in question has been rehoused but not evicted from the house in question this cannot be done until the court case is complete.

Due to the fact that the group had to be moved to a bigger room the meeting had to close by 7.45pm as the room was booked by another group.

The Chairperson then thanked everyone for their attendance and asked that should people feel another meeting was required to contact the Community Council and something can be arranged

The meeting closed at 9pm

Next Meeting will be in Skelmorlie Community Centre on Monday 28th April at 7pm