

**SKELMORLIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN  
SKELMORLIE COMMUNITY CENTRE ON MONDAY 30<sup>th</sup>  
JUNE 2025 at 7pm**

**Present:**

**Isy Agnew *Chairperson***

**Martin Kaarits *Councillor***

**Billie Walker *Minute Secretary***

**Eleanor Bell *Councillor***

**Helen Boyle *Councillor***

**Janice Rodger *Treasurer***

**Councillor Ian Murdoch**

**Sarah Crookston NAC**

**Members of Public**

**10 members of the Public attended**

**Apologies**

**Sarah Freer**

**Chairperson Isy Agnew opened the meeting and welcomed everyone and asked that all questions and comments be delivered through the chair.**

**Minutes**

**Minutes from previous meeting were read and adopted as correct**

**Proposed Janice Rodger Seconded Martin Kaarits**

**These minutes will now be placed in Library and posted on Community Council Page**

**As Sgt Donald Fisher was not in attendance no police report was given. Isy will email Sgt Fisher and ask for a report for the time period.**

### **Treasurers Report**

**A new Bank Account will be opened and this will require Chairperson and Treasurer to visit the Bank to have this arranged. This information has been passed onto NAC and they will be kept up to date with progress.**

**Work on the new Constitution is also still ongoing and this will hopefully be completed before the next meeting in August.**

### **Local Place Plan**

**After the last meeting which had been attended by Nick Hobson a report for the CC had been given to Isy as Mr Hobson could not attend this meeting.**

**Questionnaires have been available in the Library and on-line to enable Members of the Public to put forward their thoughts on the Local Place Plan. As of 24<sup>th</sup> June 61 responses have been received with the majority of responses from the 55 -65 age bracket. Most important issues would appear to be safety in the village, healthcare provision, public transport and green space. Climate change mitigation, improvement in public transport and active travel are generally rated as important along with conservation of wildlife and improved community facilities. So far the majority of respondents support the idea of a Local Place Plan. Hard copies of the survey have been dropped off at the Village Shop, Community Centre and Library. Derek Hawthorn has also spoken to the school and a possible Public Consultation may be organised and it is hoped that a possible Draft Copy will be available in August.**

### **Doctors Surgery**

**After the meeting in May Isy arranged a meeting with Doctor Rai and Fiona Timmons Surgery Manager to discuss some on-going problems regarding the Surgery, this meeting was held on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2025.**

**Doctor Rai explained that prior to March of this year the practice had been supported by Locam GP who were only doing telephone consultations. From March the Practice now has 2 new full time salaried GP's. Prior to March the options offered to patients were a consultation with the Nurse Practitioner or for emergencies only Doctor appointments. Now with the employment of two new doctors it is possible**

to have face to face appointments with bookable appointments two weeks in advance. The Nurse Practitioners have more than 10 years practicing experience. Skelmorlie also has the benefit of a Prescribing Pharmacist.

Doctor Rai was asked about the possibility of the Skelmorlie Surgery being reopened.

He stated the Surgery has had a deep clean, new windows, linked fire alarms put in place and an upgrade of the IT system as per NHS requirements.

The issue arising is with the broadband which supports the telephone system as the broadband is not fast enough despite various boosts to the system. There is no landline in the building. Work is ongoing to resolve the issue and the intention is to have Skelmorlie Surgery reopened.

Both Doctor Rai and Fiona Timmons have stated that if there is an issue please contact the surgery as they can only deal with problems they are made aware of. It also has to be remembered that staff are only human and should be treated with respect. A member of the public then asked that it also be remembered that the public have to be treated with respect also. The Pharmacist was also praised for the first class service he offers. Possibly members of the public have to be educated about the services available to them.

#### **School Crossing Patrol**

Billie Walker applied for Freedom of Information and up to now only two emails in reply have been received one asking why this had been requested and one to ask permission to pass request onto another department. Isy and a member of the public had also requested this after a bit of debate and some information had been given.

The original survey had been done on a Thursday between 3pm and 3.30pm in the Community Centre area. It was felt that this was not reasonable as no consideration had been given to the positioning of the CP at the Cross where most of the children cross to access school. This area is usually very busy with traffic heading to school, school bus pick-up and lorries delivering to local shop and pub and local bus stop. A number of other CCs are also questioning the surveys so the dispute will continue.

#### **Solar Lighting in Park Area**

This matter has been asked for in the area over a long period of time not only in the Skelmorlie area but also in other areas of North Ayrshire. There is a lot of concern in this area for people using the centre then walking through the park in the dark. Sarah Crookston, who is responsible for the Youth Group feels it is unsafe to use especially in the winter. The Park is the responsibility of Education and Streetscene and it is felt a Public Consultation may be the way forward to gauge the feeling of the

residents. It is felt that Solar Lighting would be the way forward and quotes have already been asked for.

The Fun Day will be held in the Park on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July and it will be requested that the grass in the park be cut before this as last year it was knee high making it very difficult for children to participate in games. There was a Community Day in the Community Centre last week which was very poorly attended. There have been a few comments on Social Media stating that Skelmorlie are not included in these Community Days but when it comes to the event very few people turn up. These days will continue so hopefully more people will show an interest.

The Village Store now has new owners and they are very helpful to customers so hopefully they will continue to be supported.

### **Councillors Report**

The Council is now on Summer Recess but before this it was decided that Crossing Patrol matter will not be pursued.

Councillor Murdoch explained the working of the Council and that although we are in the North Coast Area decisions made further down Ayrshire will also affect us. This includes the Battery Storage unit at Hunterston which will impact Fairlie/Largs and Ardrossan/Dalry. The new Academy being built at Ardrossan has now gone up majorly in cost. Although it is not in our area it will impact other works being requested in all areas. The area was previously contaminated and so far there is no guarantee that this is 100% clean. Council Murdoch brought to the Councils attention that The Daily Record and Radio Clyde are supporting the safe areas in Glasgow including lighting and the fact that areas in Skelmorlie, Largs and West Kilbride are requesting something similar, this was dismissed by other Council Members but will be brought up again in six months.

Councillor Murdoch then brought up the large amount of Japanese Knotweed in the North Coast area with it being rife in the Meigle area. It would appear that lorries and buses passing the area are going through this and carrying it further afield. The Ayrshire costal path also goes through this area which means people walking through the JKW possibly being unaware of this. The Path in this area is not safe and in some spots non-existent. Councillor Murdoch has spoken to the Landowner regarding this and he is willing to allow a path to be put on his land which will be looked at.

The matter of Highways and Turning point in the area was brought up and a member of the public had questioned the JKW being present in the Turning Point as the area is waiting to be resurfaced and this could not be done due to this. The resurfacing of the area and surrounding roadway, with the addition of a crossing has been approved but due to other work in the area (Water Board) this had been postponed for the time being. One of the big potholes had been refilled leaving several not dealt with. A

member of the public felt it was dangerous but others felt it was safe if used sensibly. The use of this area also needs to be better signposted as cars on the A78 from Wemyss Bay to Largs were being sent up The Longhill which caused many problems to cars coming down the hill.

A number of complaints regarding AMEY were also reported as signposts being wrongly placed and continuous work being done and roads closed off. Amey are not the easiest people to deal with.

The bus stop at Strathclyde House on the shore side is not the safest so SPT will be contacted to enquire as to what can be done.

An area at Rothesay Court is causing problems due to the need to be resurfaced, Amey will be asked about this as they say they are not responsible although a member of the public told the meeting that Amey had adopted it. If this is the case the signage stating Private Car Park is wrong.

Overhanging branches in various areas of the village and it was suggested that photographs be taken of these and sent to Streetscene along with details of the landowner.

#### **AOCB**

A member of the public who had problems with neighbouring tenants told the meeting that one of the people had their tenancy terminated and that someone had been up looking at the house with the possibility of moving in.

At this point the meeting became heated.....personal comments were made...foul language used which contradicts CC code of conduct. The Chair intervened and the meeting was brought to a close at 8.22pm

The next meeting will be held on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> August 2025 at 7pm

Isy had emailed Sgt Donald Fisher after the meeting and I reply was sent a few days later stating that in terms of crimes for June there was only one crime incident which involved sending offensive messages by phone and in doing so breaching bail conditions this is still an ongoing enquiry.

After the last meeting there had been an incident at the Eglinton Bar. There is a named person for that and enquiries are very much ongoing into that