

Fairlie Community Council – Monday 03/08/2026, h. 07:30pm, Semple Centre, 45 Main Rd, Fairlie

The meeting is declared open at **07:28pm**

Attending:

FCC: Rita Holmes (chair), Marco Piva (minutes secretary), Malcolm Milne, Alan Holden, Gaye Nelson, Ian Hunter (treasurer)

NAC: Cllr. Tom Marshall, Cllr. Ian Murdoch

Police: Sgt. Donald Fisher

8 MoP

Apologies: Jackie Pearson, Mairi Wyatt, Arran Hewlett (FCC); Cllr Eleanor Collier, Cllr Todd Ferguson (NAC)

Approval of July minutes: proposed by RH, seconded by AlHold

Police report for July:

7 incidents.

The majority were thefts of fuel from the gas station (in some occasion, this happened accidentally). Each driver involved was contacted.

2 instances of shoplifting from the gas station.

1 parked car was hit, no message was left.

1 breach of bail conditions.

1 theft of high voltage electric cables from Kelburn Garden Party, during breakdown of the event; the cables were found behind Blair Park Farm (Mills Milk), stripped of copper. The value of the cables is of around £9,000.

Kelburn Garden Party seemed to go smoothly, very few Police calls, even though the event was completely sold out. Friday, the first day, saw a heavy traffic holdup as attendants arrived.

MP: do you know how the 20mph change is going? I have the impression that careless driving has increased

Sgt DF: it is not possible to constantly police all 20mph areas, the Police will intervene where more necessary. Admittedly, there is the impression that some road rage may have been caused by the lower speed limits.

AlHold: any chance of speed cameras?

Sgt DF: A78 is an AMEY road, and they don't seem to be willing to implement them in the absence of serious injuries or fatalities.

IM reminds that there is an online consultation open about the 20mph speed limit, and invites everyone to take part in it.

MoP: For how long can a caravan, a motorhome or a trailer be left parked on a public road?

Sgt DF: if the vehicle is appropriately taxed, insured and has a valid MOT, there are no limits.

As there are no further questions for the local Police, Sgt DF leaves the meeting due to personal commitments, reminding everyone that he can easily be contacted via e-mail if any issues requiring Police attention arose.

NA Cllr's Report:

IM: Craig Hill Place and Craig Hill Way have not been adopted by NAC yet, nor they have been offered

for adoption by Dawn Homes. There is no defined timeline by which this needs to happen, as long as Dawn maintain the building consent (remember that there still is a valid planning permission for Phase 3). Dawn remain therefore responsible for the road maintenance.

MoP: Dawn have factored out maintenance of those roads, they have no interest in getting them adopted. Can the residents ask NAC to do so?

IM: they have done so through me, unsuccessfully.

TM: are the roads in acceptable conditions for adopting?

IM: at a glance, they appear to be; this can be officially confirmed only once the adoption process begins.

MM: if the road is “substantially complete”, the bond is automatically reduced; when this happens, it may make retaining responsibility for those roads unprofitable for Dawn.

1. **Hunterston Estate Data Centre**

No planning application has been filled as of today; planners appear to not be keen on this project. There will be a public consultation on Tue Aug 25th at West Kilbride Village Hall, and a second one in early Autumn (possibly Tue Sep 22nd). Therefore, the application may not come before 2027.

IM can confirm that there is no live application, and that he is aware of the general negative feeling about this project. As a member of the planning committee, he declines to make any further comments on the topic.

TM: there have been many appl. for data ctrs in the UK, and few have been approved. Admittedly, though, Hunterston is an attractive area for this kind of projects due to the numerous energy sources available.

MoP: On the NAC website there is an environmental report, which means that the wheels are turning. The proposer mentions about 300 jobs, but similar ctrs in the USA provide around 30. There is no mention anywhere of backup power sources, which will be necessary for this project. For a building that size, this is likely to mean over 200 diesel generators, which will need to be constantly tested and kept running for short periods of time. This will also mean that a huge quantity of diesel fuel will constantly need to be transported to the site. The building is expected to be roughly 35mt in height and to take 7 years to be built. Infrasound has been recorded around all similar installations in the USA.

MoP suggests to keep a close eye on the ECU website, as this project will need to go through that first.

MoP: that land was designed as marketable employment land in 1974; can this destination be altered to green belt?

TM: it is possible to do so in LDP (Local Development Plan).

RH: a new LDP is expected in 2028 (see point 7 of the agenda), so there is some time to get some input; it is up for consultation presently.

MoP: WK residents and other local supporters have staged peaceful protests near Hunter Castle, which were well received; there also is a change.org petition ongoing. One protest was also staged at Holyrood, and it received interest from MSPs.

RH: Katy Clark MSP is one of the MSPs who are supporting a moratorium on data ctrs.

IM: bear in mind that this may not go to NAC PlannComm but directly to ScotGovt. Also keep in mind that a single petition, whatever the number of its signatories, will count as one objection, while individual objections all count.

2. **Greenwheel Electric and Solar Farm**

No appl. yet.

Keep in mind that it's possible that they may build the electric car charging point and not the

solar farm, or the other way around.

There have been suggestions that it may be moved closer to the road.

RSPB seem not entirely satisfied with this being built so close to a protected area, but they received assurances that the pond will not be impacted.

MoP: construction work is expected to start on that site within the month, but it should be simply aimed to move the PeelPorts gatehouse.

3. **Highview Power Long Duration Liquid Air Storage + 2 BESS Units**

No application has been filed nor any is expected; the fee for the appl. has not been paid. It is presently on hold.

4. **Hunterston Nuclear ssg update**

RH was re-elected as chair of the ssg. Next meeting on Thu Sep 3rd at the Seamill Hydro.

5. **LirIC Subsea Cable Route and Connection**

No updates

6. **Hunterston Parc Liaison Committee (HPLC)**

The next meeting will be held in Sept.

7. **LDP 3 Consultation**

Still ongoing.

IM: keep in mind that the Place Plan (that FCC has set up) is the first level, the LDP is the second and it is based directly on the Place plans, and that the top level, the National Plan, is based on LDPS. Keep an eye on what may be included too, on proposals and suggestions.

8. **State of Road Surface at Pier Road Car Park**

RH got a phone call re. this.

IM has already raised it on request of the residents. The road is adopted by NAC only up to Marine Parade, but NAC have carried out repairs anyway, on the whole road. The road needs resurfacing, but this is not in the plan for the present financial year, so the road may be temporarily repaired and it has been added to the list of needed works for the next financial year.

9. **Crosbie Wind Farm**

The closing submission will be done on Wed Sept 9th, the deadline to file documentation (replies to the reporter's questions) with the reporter is Wed Aug 12th. The final decision is expected by late Dec.

10. **FCC bank account**

AlHold, as the third signatory (along with treasurer IH and chair RH), has received the necessary paperwork; he will fill it in and deliver it to IH in the next few days.

AOB

+ Fairlie Library

MoP: trying to raise awareness in the village. Library is used not only for books but also for community initiatives (eg toddlers' group).

The online consultation has closed on July 23rd.

MP: could it be kept open by volunteers?

IM: will need to check, but it is unlikely due to H&S and insurance.

MoP: could volunteers at least open the hall for activities, as it happens in Skelmorlie?

IM: also needs to be checked, but likely yes.

+ Path at the Mound

It has been weeded, and the path has been cleared.

FCC thanks Mr. Hugh MacLean (present as a MoP) for contacting PeelPorts to make this happen.

+ Overhanging vegetation

IM: vegetation on Pier Rd is NAC responsibility, and it will get cut; branches above the A78 are the responsibility of the landowners.

The meeting closed at **09:28pm**.

The next FCC meeting is on Monday 7th of September 2026 at 0730 pm at the Seample Centre, 45 Main Rd.