

North Knapdale Community Council

Minutes of the North Knapdale Community Council AGM held at the Crinan Coffee Shop on the 23 May 2024.

In Attendance: Richard Stein, Andy Grant, Alka Foster, Jean Whittaker, Sgt Matt Shaw, Andrew Milne, Dulcie Raynor, Mike Raynor, Martin Foster, Mike MacIntyre, Alan Hutchinson, Rowan Aitchison, Libby Butler, Cllr Garret Corner, Ewan Halley, Kathie Baer, Sue Hillman, Peter Burrell, Jan Aksnes.

1. Welcome: In Iain Ritchie's absence, Andy Grant welcomed everyone.
2. Apologies: Iain Ritchie, Catherine MacLennan, Paul Chadderton, Martin Mellor, John McArthur, Jane McArthur, Norma Kelly, Mike Kelly, Chris Purslow, Maureen Brankin.
3. Approval of minutes 2023 AGM: These were approved.
4. Convener's Report.

This has been a good year for our Community Council with good attendance at our meetings. Many interesting and important topics have been discussed.

We welcome to a new member Alka Foster.

Many of our traditional agenda items have been discussed over the year including: Police report, Planning issues, Highway and transport.

Significant areas that have been discussed include:

Scottish Canals

Considerable debate and communication have taken place with Scottish Canals with regular meetings, to see understand the work programme. However there had been no real improvement in the agreed consultation process with decisions being communicated after the event.

Recently we had a meeting at the Scottish Parliament with Rhoda Grant, MSP, Scottish Canals represented by John Paterson SC CEO and his two colleagues Laurie Piper and Nicola Sturgeon. Jan Brown, Dougie Philand, Richard Stein and I attended allowing us to air our concerns about the overall approach of Scottish Canals to the businesses, local residents and tourists. The meeting gave us

confidence that things will improve. Especially with the input of John Paterson.

John Paterson was a breath of fresh air and hopefully communication and consultation will improve over the next period of work on our canal. Little or no progress has been made on the refurbishment of Dunardry Bridge. We are waiting feedback from Laurie Piper on the proposed next steps. Further discussions will take place over the summer about the closure of the canal for next winter for the ongoing refurbishment.

Forestry Land Scotland

Several informative meetings have taken place throughout the year with very good representation to explain the work programmes and the impact on the environment, wildlife, historic sites and the users of the woods around us.

An excellent walk for a small number of people was organised to see how the organisation manages the forests, wildlife etc

Tayvallich Initiative

We have had excellent updates from Martin Mellor on the development of this exciting Community project.

Matt Shaw, as always, has given us a very clear reports of the issues facing the police and our community in North Knapdale.

I would like to thank our Councillors, Dougie Philand, Jan Brown and Garret Corner for their excellent input over the year and taking our issues to Argyll and Bute Council. In addition I would like to congratulate Dougie and Jan for their recent appointments as Provost and Vice Provost.

Finally I would like to thank the Community Councillors and our friends and neighbours attending our meetings and ensuring that issues that we face are brought to the appropriate authority for resolution.

5. Treasurer's Report and NKCC Accounts:

These were approved. Funds are at £2261.12.

6. Election of Office Bearers:

Iain Ritchie – Convenor, Richard Stein – Secretary and Andy Grant – Treasurer, were all elected unopposed.

7. Date of Next Meeting: in May 2025 – date to be confirmed.