

North Knapdale Community Council

Minutes of the North Knapdale Community Council meeting held at the Tayvallich Village Hall on 14th May 2026.

In Attendance: Iain Ritchie, Richard Stein, Alka Foster, Martin Mellor, Ewan Halley, Norma Kelly, Mike Kelly, Cllr Garret Corner, Alan Hutchinson, Libby Butler.

Welcome Iain Ritchie welcomed everyone.

1. Apologies: Catherine MacLennan, Andy Grant, Jean Whittaker, Sue Hillman, Chris Purslow, Cllr Dougie Philand, John McArthur, Graham Walker, Kate Walker, Cllr Jan Brown.
2. Approval of minutes of last meeting: The minutes of the meeting on 4th September 2025 were approved.
3. Matters arising not on the agenda/correspondence
Moving on Mid Argyll AGM 5.30pm Monday 18 May, Mayds Hall, Lochgilphead.
BT is proposing to decommission the public pay phone box at Castle Sween. Representations to lukefrederick.horner@argyll-bute.gov.uk by early July 2026.
4. Police Report: Written report for March 2026 was circulated with the agenda. The April report is circulated with these minutes.
5. Argyll & Bute Council update
We thanked Cllr Corner for stepping in to come to our meeting in place of Cllr Philand who is absent due to serious ill health. Cllr Corner reported that much of their public work stopped during the purdah period before the Scottish Government elections. Has restarted now. The Council has decided to distribute extra money to all Community Councils. We will receive an additional amount in addition to the £444.40 we receive every year. We can also apply for further amounts.
We agreed that we should consider any projects locally that we would like to fund for the public good. Agreed this should be an agenda item for our regular meetings.

All Community Councils in Argyll & Bute are up for re-election on 20 August 2026. Unfortunately as we noted in the AGM earlier on, only one councillor is standing again, either due to ill health or moving away from the area. We agreed to publicise the election as widely as possible. Nominations open on 5th June and close on 25 June. Nomination packs will be available on the Council website from 1st June. There is more information here: <https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/my-council/elections/community-council-elections-20-august-2026>

Of course there will only need to be an election if there are more candidates than the eight places we have.

Agreed, we will make all the efforts we can to encourage people to stand. Iain, as Convenor, will send out an email towards the end of May encouraging applications.

6. Scottish Canals

The Canal reopened on 1st May. This is annoyingly late – and seems to happen every year. Unfortunately they never seem to start work until the new year even though they always close the Canal at the end of October. There is a welcome improvement to the quarterly meetings with Scottish Canals now that they are run by Sam Shaw.

We note that there are many more Crinan Canal posts on Facebook. The next quarterly meeting will be online on Thursday 16th July from 17.30 till 1900. The Teams registration link will be on the Scottish Canals website nearer the time.

7. Forestry & Land Scotland update

The report received from FLS was summarised. A copy, including maps, is attached to the minutes.

8. Tayvallich Initiative – Martin Mellor gave an oral update at the meeting. TI had its AGM at the end of March. A copy of his report, including a link to the AGM minutes is attached to the minutes. A flyer for the Celtic Blessing Walk on 24 May starting at 1pm from Tayvallich to Keils to reflect on what has happened on the Tayvallich Estate in the last few years is also attached. Outline planning applications submitted by the Barrahormid Trust to restore 8 ruined dwellings, which we discussed at our last meeting and put in supportive representations to the planners, have now been granted permission. This is an important positive development to support new housing for local people.

9. Planning Issues – None

10. Highway/Transport issues – None

11. AOCB – none

12. Next Meeting – The meeting agreed to recess in August and leave arranging the next meeting to the new Community Council that we hope will be elected on 20 August.