

SCCC MEETING 12 February 2025

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1. Present:

Alan Stewart, Joyce McEwan, Cathy Fagen, Liz Seabrook, Jan McCormack, Eleanor Stevenson, Alistair Lennie, Kyle Armstrong, Moira MacInnes

2. Apologies:

Michael Breslin, Ian McEwan, Linda Murray, Cllrs Moreland & Hampsey

3. In attendance:

Cllr Forrest

4. Declaration of interest:

None

5. minutes of last meeting held on 11 December 2024

These were proposed by Joyce and seconded by Eleanor

6. Matters arising

a. Lights at Toward primary school still not functioning. Cllr Forrest to look into it again.

7. Police report

none available

8. Treasurer's report

Account balance is £7496.36 (hydro funds included)

9. Update C.C. Energy and South Cowal Trust

Cowal Community Energy is now a valid company

Michael has been working on the creation of the South Cowal Trust and the application is now with OSCR

10. SCCC website & South Cowal Trust

The website has to change companies and Michael is in contact with a possible replacement

Alan proposed to join the community council and the Trust website together for the meantime which would be more cost effective. This was agreed by those present.

Calico (current website host) direct debit is valid until June 2025. This gives time to prepare the new site

11. Confirmation of request of funds of around £350 from the Hydro Fund for the setup of Cowal Community Energy

Agreed

12. Planned switch off of copper based landlines

Concerns were raised about:

Isolation of the most vulnerable within the community

Personal alarms connected to phones would no longer be functional without mains power

When the power fails and the mobile network drops out as happened, there is no communication possible for anyone.

It was suggested that power pack chargers be purchased by CC as an emergency backup in case of further longer power outages. Alan will check prices and how many would be needed

13. Planning issues

Nothing known at the moment

14. Cancellation of mid-morning CalMac sailings

Michael and Alan have a meeting scheduled with Transport Scotland in relation to the proposed asset transfer of the linkspans

Can Cllr Hampsey let the CC know if there have been any responses from his correspondence with CMAL concerning cancellations & staff shortages?

Purely as a matter of interest, can Cllr Hampsey confirm if there is a difference in berthing fees between Gourock and Dunoon?

The Community Council voiced strong displeasure at the service provided and using staff shortage was felt to be a poor excuse, given the whole service is subsidised, and this subsidy would have taken into account the cost of staff throughout the contract

15. AOB

The plastic panes from the Toward bike shed are missing due to storm damage

The Community Council expressed concern that the speed lights are still not working at Toward school, this is a safety issue given the adjoining 40 mph limits

Note: Next meeting will be on Wednesday 12 March 2025