

MINUTES
Meeting date: Thursday 29 January 2026, 6pm via Zoom

Attendance: Alex Harvie (Chair), Duncan Fraser (CCC), Robert Wilson (CCC), Angus Campbell (CCC), Kari Lundie (CCC), John McHenery (CCC), Jan Wilkie (CCDC), Lorraine Fraser (Cumbrae Forum), Canon Alec (Cathedral), Scott Watson (CNI), Cllr Murdoch, Cllr Hill, Cllr Collier + members of the public, 26 total

Apologies: Graham Wallace (Adviser CCC), Gregor Harvie (Adviser CCC), Millport Town Hall, John McGarrity (Golf Club), Cllr Marshall

	Recording of the meeting available online: https://youtu.be/wptnP3uJMIc?si=u4nwnPh7xzH3sE6h
Welcome Alex H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chair declared the meeting quorate. No declarations of interest. Minutes of previous meeting approved https://cumbrae.org/CCC_Minutes.html
Discussion: LirIC Interconnector Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chris Jenner, Head of Land & Consents and Barry Turley, Stakeholder Manager, gave an introduction to the LirIC Interconnector Project. The proposal is to install a 700MW electrical interconnector between Hunterston and Kilroot in Northern Ireland. The aim is to export low carbon energy. There will be an onshore converter station at Hunterston (max roof height 23.8m) Construction would be 2027-2032 The baseline for noise is being completed now Full presentation on CCC website – www.cumbrae.org
Police Scotland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No report
Coastguard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No report
IOCTA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AGM 18 Feb 6pm Goldfish Bowl Thanks to Christmas helpers
CCDC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Garrison House scaffolding removed end of December; building now fully visible. Hilston & Bennett on-site addressing snagging issues. Painters assessing glazing; replacing blown panes and ensuring window paint overlaps glass by 2mm to prevent water ingress. Garrison Café reopens Friday, 30th January, operating 7 days a week, 10am–3pm. Drop-in Centre - Cumbrae Youth Project to begin bathroom upgrades and installation of a new external door and entry system. Preparing for launch of a Breakfast Club and After-School/Homework Club alongside existing Youth Club sessions. Community Shop now offers Thursday evening hours, opening at 5.30pm. Current exhibition: Jack Rigg, launched 24th January, runs until end of February. Next exhibition: Stephen Jordon, opening March. CF Tree Services felled four unsafe sycamore trees, replanting planned to compensate for removals. Pit Stops Funding projects underway: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cumbrae Slip: new floors, flooring, and heaters installed in December. Croc Rock & Fintry: works to commence when weather allows. Overnight Parking & Camping Discussion meeting (10th December): CCC, CCDC and NAC discussed wild camping concerns (Bell Bay, West Bay, Glasgow & Kelburn Streets). Agreed to form a short-life working group including CalMac representative. Next meeting date pending. West Lodge - Allied Surveyors Scotland completed required surveys. Awaiting report for Stage Two funding application to the Scottish Land Fund. Stage One funding covered survey costs; aim to purchase building from Cunninghame Housing Association.
Cumbrae Forum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lunch club restarted 14 Jan, well attended. Christmas raffle - £1,000 to Ayrshire Hospice New digital information board – who we are and what we do as well as useful info, thanks to David Martin

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hub well used, Simply Support Thursday 2-3.30 is by appointment from now on.
Field Studies Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Centre reopened 5 Jan with 3 new members of staff • First group on 19 Jan, 30 pupils. Sanctuary care using accommodation while bad weather affected ferry • Burns Night supper 70 people successful • Boat back in water, annual survey coming up • Vacancies at centre – chef www.fieldstudies.org
FUG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 19 January announcement of plan to reduce ferry timetable by 25% • Written to Cabinet Secretary • MSP asked questions in parliament • Demonstration over half the island attended • Calling for return to 2025 summer timetable • Rebuild of slip has started • Loch Shira away for annual maintenance until 6/7 Feb
Wee Cumbrae	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation shared - charity which has taken the lease on Wee Cumbrae for the next 25 years, employs three caretakers • Applied for grants but not successful in any of them • Council tax – all three properties (including two derelict) been hit by second home council tax, aim to make main house business • Feasibility undertaken, aim to create a natural spring by 1 April • Running diesel generators, aiming to look at renewables • Pier accessibility – aim to improve • Met HES – for 2 scheduled monuments • Main house needs roof repairs • Limited income last year from Glamping and Camping • Award winning film director is planning on using island end Feb/March • Grant funding in to tag seabirds <p>Action – Alex to connect Paul with Cllr Hill, Cllr Murdoch and Calum Corral</p>
Millport Golf Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No report
Cumbrae Primary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No report
Key island projects	
Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solar farm is active, a digger was stuck on the land. NAC says they haven't had any contact from the developer. • No planning applications in this period • Second homes council tax - Irene Cambell wrote on CCC's behalf to NAC. • We asked what monitoring would be undertaken. • CCC plans to undertake base line economic study.
CNI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Won Best Community Project Award • Shortlisted for Ashton Award • Presented work at Scottish Parliament • Allocated finance for next year in budget • 130 rooftop solar installations across the island • Continuing on solar car park proposal • Funding for tree planting, small orchard project • Mentoring community group on mainland • Age concern visit pending
Millport Town Hall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since our grand opening in October 2025 we are pleased with the interest and feedback from locals and visitors. • Several local community groups including the Boys Brigade, Millport Pipe Band, Table Tennis Club, Scottish Country Dancing Group, Bridge Club, Sonoro Cumbrae Choir and 'My Art' Crafting Sessions are all enjoying their regular weekly get togethers either in the main hall, The Sitting Room or The Snug. • In addition a very successful Christmas event was held with Sonoro Cumbrae Choir to a sell-out audience and also the children's pantomime was equally well attended and much enjoyed. • The start of 2026 was equally successful with Cracklin' Rose again a sellout event.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Along with both private functions booked and further concerts coming up (more info in due course) the Trustees of MTH are happy to see the Hall in use and growing in popularity. For other members of the community looking to hire any of the rooms, please contact our Venue Manager by either popping in for a chat or emailing info@millporttownhall.co.uk. • Also good news that we now have both a full drinks licence and we are in the process of creating a stocked bar for future events. Another licence just granted is for our three 2-bedroomed apartments which will be available for rental in the near future. Again more on this shortly. This will help contribute funds to the running of our Town Hall. • Angie McCallum has stepped down ((for the foreseeable future)) and our deputy Chair has stepped in to the role of Chair for MTH. Working alongside the efficient team of our venue manager Alan (Pat) Paterson and Facilities Supervisor Alan Yule, and numerous amazing volunteers who had stepped up to help man the desk, assist on different ongoing projects - so many to mention here but truly awesome big team. • We look forward to revealing more good news in the near future. Thanks to all of our Community who are supporting the Town Hall. Remember to contact Alan Paterson if you wish to use the hall or please come and volunteer!
Marina	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with the consultants is ongoing.
Cathedral	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diocese has put into create a SCIO for Cumbrae Trust, hopefully will hear by end of Feb. Asked for financial support from diocese for three years on tapered level.
North Ayrshire Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bench locations proposed for 10 new picnic benches, consultation to be undertaken by CCC. Other benches to be removed unless wanted. • Japanese Knotweed – Scott said he would support in checking locations. • Overnight parking – in response to this 2 grant applications by CCC A ‘walking orchard’ could combine with other planting on the island. Perception change project ‘Gem of the Clyde’. Audit of what is on the island and then create signs.
Councillors	<p>Cllr Murdoch – parking meeting – need a deterrent and enforcement, ferry protest on Saturday well attended, Council: proposed change to deputy and leader to be debated 11 Feb, budget meeting 25 Feb.</p> <p>Cllr Collier – Mari Burns still leader of Council, budget a challenge.</p> <p>Cllr Hill – will pick up with Wee Cumbrae on grant applications, will support on grant applications as well as identifying which grants to apply to.</p>
Next meeting	<p>Thursday 26 February 2026, 6pm via Zoom https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85971422973</p>