

Cumbrae Community Council**Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 27 August 2026**

Attendance: Alex Harvie (Chair), Kari Lundie (CCC), Robert Wilson (CCC), Gregor Harvie (Adviser CCC), Graham Wallace (Adviser CCC), Cllr Eleanor Collier, Duncan Fraser (FSC/IOCTA), Scott J. Watson (Carbon Neutral Islands), Jan (CCDC), Carol (Cathedral), Calum Corral (Largs and Millport), Jim Heaney (NAC), Brian Cavan, Sandra McIntyre, a Police Scotland representative, and members of the public (22 total).

Apologies: Cllr Marshall, Paul (Wee Cumbrae), Lorraine (Cumbrae Forum), Angus Campbell (FUG – written report submitted).

Chair confirmed the meeting was quorate. Meeting recorded: <https://youtu.be/hO1208uGXdM>

Quick updates – organisations**Police**

- July: 37 calls incl. a helipad camping incident (4 reported for summons), a housebreaking (1 remanded), and a Communications Act offence. August: 27 calls incl. an unreported assault (complainer disengaged), a theft of golf club “for sale” signs, a Merchant Shipping Act/assault on the ferry, a Dangerous Dogs Act inquiry, and a drink-driving arrest.
- Increase linked to themed weekends/good weather – drunkenness, antisocial behaviour, wrong-house entries, glass in the street; team resources very stretched. Ferry staff praised for managing/removing problematic visitors.
- Cllr Collier raised over-serving concerns; police have already emailed Police Scotland Licensing on this.

Action: Chair to connect Cllr Collier with police; notify police of campervan pavement-obstruction complaint.

IOCTA

- IOCTA: no report this month (busy season); update next month.

CCDC / Garrison House

- CCDC/Garrison House: successful July craft fair and KA Leisure summer camp; Scooter Rally campers on-site this weekend. Titanic exhibition popular until 21 Sept, followed by new displays. Glazing remedial works at Garrison House confirmed complete 21 Aug. Motorhome site busy, most weekends booked. Pit Stop toilets nearly complete – electrician due within 10 days to connect payment systems. Winter works planned: 5 shower rooms and apartment/Keyhead decoration.

Cumbrae Forum

- July charity shop takings donated to Cancer Research UK; Premier Store bucket collection raised £12,000. Dementia Café starts Fri 2 Oct, 2–4pm, Cumbrae Parish Church. Lunch Club waiting list continues; forms from charity shop or the Hub.

Ferry Users Group

- June carrying figures down 6% passengers/1% cars YoY; July up 12% passengers/4% cars (good weather).
- Winter timetable: CalMAC rejects the 30-min/5-min turnaround, offering 40-min/10-min (–25% sailings) or 34-min/7-min (–15% sailings) instead; Committee pushing for hybrid/original option, MSP meeting mid-September. Survey of 206 stakeholders showed 95% support for the community proposal.
- ICIA challenge on timetable reduction still awaiting formal review; further challenge submitted.
- Slipway rebuild: George Leslie progressing works; lane closures (up to 45m at a time) from 31 Aug for six weeks; handover to CalMAC expected new year, terminal building to follow.

Quick updates – key island projects

- Place Plan: new initiative to be brought forward next meeting.
- Carbon Neutral Islands: 14 open projects. 30-household solar/battery phase complete (1 exception pending SSEN); £144,500 secured for 17 more installs. “Cumbrae Model” white paper published. Knotweed treatment starting as flowering approaches, incl. new site near West Bay. Walking Orchard: site surveys ongoing, map/species study/funding plan targeted by end October.
- FSC: ~900 guests over 2 months (Baha'i, Quaker and Muslim groups; All Saints School this weekend). Waverley: 18 sailings, 875 passengers at Keppel Pier; recent sailing full. 2023/24 Economic Impact Assessment now available.
- Town Hall: written report on autumn events (Dramatic Club, tribute acts, IOCTA weekend); apartment bookings rising; volunteers sought (contact Alan Patterson); weekly activities restarting Aug/Sept.

- Marina: met NAC; proposal remains new piled pier (~35 berths) replacing wooden pier. Test bores expected October, likely requiring pier closure for 2+ weeks. Funding must be spent by 2030.
- Cathedral: still with Court of Session; hearing hoped for by Christmas. New Cumbrae Trust board recruited, ready once process moves forward.

Planning and licensing

- Pier Hotel application: conservatory + beer garden (~150 capacity) on the pier – a community strategic asset within the marina masterplan. Community Council has objected, citing noise and lack of consultation; concerned NAC may decide via delegated officer powers rather than committee. Cllr Collier noted any licensing stage would need a 28-day site notice and allow objections.
- Hunterston: data centre still at scoping/EIA stage – Cllr Collier described consultation events as disorganised. Request from CCC for event on Cumbrae. Liquid air energy storage facility (35m, greenfield, leased land) is more advanced; no clear economic benefit identified.
- Gregor Harvie noted where Hunterston applications were very large, CCC sometimes joins with Fairlie.

North Ayrshire Council update (Jim Heaney)

- Roads: processions 5 & 12 Sept; lighting scheme from ~14 Sept (George/Clifton St, Bute Terrace, to Jan 2027); weather station on B899 and culvert CCTV inspection both pending dates; Flood Scheme on track for end September; Subsidence made safe, 5-day fix target.
- Street scene: new bins at Cumbrae Slip; knotweed treatment starts within 2 weeks; Fintry top-loading bin trial this week; enforcement patrols due in coming weeks.
- Play park: works underway at West Bay, moving to Millport shortly – c. 3 weeks to complete.
- Sandra McIntyre: Inner Circle Road verges encroaching, nearly single-track – Jim to investigate cutting back.
- Brian Cavan: West Bay pipeline works – crawler crane damage to pavement/parking area, sand discharge into drains; contractor expects ~1 month to finish; Jim to raise with Roads.
- Robert Wilson: Swing Park works started/fenced; Bute Terrace closure now expected to run to ~11 Sept, Jim to investigate and feed back.
- Festoon lighting fault: Chair to resend email; Jim to action once received.
- Japanese knotweed: Spraying due asap.
- Window safety hazard (Main Street): Raised repeatedly since May – windows opening onto the footpath have already caused injuries. Legal/building standards/roads teams still unable to find enforceable legislation for existing properties.

Decision/Action: Jim will visit the resident within c. two weeks to request a window limiter be fitted, and report back.

AOB

- Gym (Garrison House): no opening date yet. Architects instructed to tender for preparation works (air conditioning etc.) following a meeting with NAC and KA Leisure; Jan awaiting architect timescales and will update the community.

Next meeting

Thursday 24 September, 6-7pm <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85971422973>

Action summary	Lead
Connect Cllr Collier with police contact Stuart; raise campervan pavement complaint.	Chair
Pass on police commendation for ferry staff to Angus.	Chair
Visit resident to request fitting of a window limiter (within c. 2 weeks).	Jim Heaney (NAC)
Investigate West Bay pipeline damage and drainage issues.	Jim Heaney (NAC)
Investigate cutting back encroaching Inner Circle Road verges.	Jim Heaney (NAC)
Instigate spraying of Japanese Knotweed.	
Follow up on Bute Terrace closure overrun.	Jim Heaney (NAC)
Resend festoon lighting email; NAC to action once received.	Chair / Jim Heaney (NAC)
Update community once gym works tender timeline confirmed.	Jan (CCDC)