

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BUTE AND COWAL AREA COMMITTEE HELD ON A
HYBRID BASIS IN THE QUEEN'S HALL, DUNOON AND BY MICROSOFT TEAM
ON TUESDAY, 7 MARCH 2023**

Present: Councillor Liz McCabe (Chair)

Councillor Gordon Blair	Councillor Yvonne McNeilly
Councillor Audrey Forrest	Councillor Ross Moreland
Councillor Daniel Hampsey	Councillor William Sinclair
Councillor Reeni Kennedy-Boyle	Councillor Peter Wallace

Attending: Stuart McLean, Committee Manager
Mark Calder, Project Manager
Douglas Whyte, Housing Strategy Team Lead
PC Eddie McGunnigal, Police Scotland
David Mitchell, Head Teacher, Dunoon Grammar School
Alex Johnson, Senior Depute Head Teacher, Dunoon Grammar School
Salma Murray, Dunoon Grammar School
Charlotte Fish, Dunoon Grammar School
Emma Bancks, Dunoon Grammar School
Adam Smith, Dunoon Grammar School
Dale Somerville, Depute Head Teacher, Rothesay Joint Campus
Holly Reid, Rothesay Joint Campus
Kitti Carpenter, Rothesay Joint Campus
Ewan McMillan, Rothesay Joint Campus

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence intimated.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest intimated.

3. MINUTES

The Chair ruled, and the Area Committee agreed, to a variation in the order of business. The minute reflects the order in which items were discussed.

4. PUPIL VOICE

The Committee gave consideration to a verbal update from Pupils from Dunoon Grammar School and Rothesay Joint Campus who outlined aspects of their learning journeys over the years.

Salma Murray, an S2 student from Dunoon Grammar School spoke of her transition from Primary to Secondary School which was done virtually due to Covid restrictions.

Charlotte Fish, an S3 pupil from Dunoon Grammar School spoke of her School trip to rural Tanzania in which she and 16 other pupils volunteered in the Community. Charlotte highlighted that it was an eye-opening experience, particularly the lack of facilities within the Schools.

S5 School Captains Emma Banks and Adam Smith from Dunoon Grammar School spoke of their experiences within the Senior School and their chosen career pathways.

Holly Reid, an S6 pupil from Rothesay Joint Campus spoke of her experience learning online and independently which she felt had prepared her well for the future.

S5 Pupil Ewan McMillan from Rothes

Manse Gardens in Strachur is classified as amenity housing and consists of 21 properties. Only 7 of these are currently occupied and the rest have been vacant for the past few years.

The Trust Housing Association, who own Manse Gardens, are investigating the possibility of redeveloping the properties to make them more acceptable to potential tenants.

Does Argyll & Bute Council support the redevelopment of Manse Gardens and, if they do, what are they doing to ensure that this redevelopment goes ahead.

The Committee Manager delivered a response on behalf the Housing Strategy Team Lead as follows:-

The short answer is yes, the Council is supportive of the redevelopment of Manse Gardens to meet identified housing need and demand.

The Council has met with Trust Housing Association (

The Project Manager advised that the Council have £8M for the roads Capital Programme but there is not enough money to make the roads to the standards wanted. The Project Manager advised that he would provide Mr Doyle with information on how decisions are made for the Roads Capital Programme.

Questions from Jennifer Wilson

Jennifer Wilson submitted the following question, which was read out by the Committee Manager:-

What policy do they have in place to tackle the scourge of derelict properties?

In Port Bannatyne on the Isle of Bute, specifically Buckingham Terrace (12, 14 and 16 Castle Street) and No. 21 Castle Street are derelict properties within a residential area. Can you confirm if these buildings have been removed from the Council Tax Register pending redevelopment and, if so, for how long has this been the case?

Buckingham Terrace, I understand, was bought via a compulsory purchase order by the Isle of Bute Housing Association in the late 1990's to provide affordable housing locally, however, this was never completed. During and since that period can you confirm whether any grants (public money) have been paid out for redevelopment and the total amount paid out for redevelopment, to whom and dates. Were any timescales given to complete redevelopment works?

No. 21 Castle Street is a derelict building covered entirely in scaffolding and advertising sheets. Can you confirm whether a grant has been made available for redevelopment of this building and, if so, has a timescale been given for completion of this work.

Councillor McCabe advised that the Buckingham Terrace property is owned by a private landlord and added that she had to contact them in the past to get the roof made safe with it lying derelict for many years.

The Housing Strategy Team Lead advised that the Council's general approach is through the Area Property Action Group and added that a Scheme of Assistance details advice

3. noted that work is ongoing and to respond to Sonya Thomas with requests or comments regarding the layout and format of the Performance Report and Scorecard.

(Reference: Report by Executive Director with responsibility for Development and Economic Growth, dated January 2023, submitted)

10. DRAFT BUTE AND COWAL AREA COMMITTEE WORKPLAN

The Bute and Cowal Area Committee workplan was before members for information.

Decision

The Bute and Cowal Committee noted the contents of the workplan.

(Reference: Bute and Cowal Area Committee workplan, dated 7 March 2023)

11. LAMONT BEQUEST AWARD RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee gave consideration to a report providing information regarding two applications that had been received for support from the Lamont Bequest.

Decision

The Bute and Cowal Area Committee agreed to award £100 to the family applicant and £50 to the individual applicant who met the criteria for support from the Lamont Bequest.

(Reference: Report by Executive Director with responsibility for Legal and Regulatory Support dated February 2023, submitted)