

**MINUTES of MEETING of MID ARGYLL, KINTYRE & THE ISLANDS AREA COMMITTEE held  
by MICROSOFT TEAMS  
on WEDNESDAY, 7 SEPTEMBER 2022**

**Present:**

Robin Currie (Chair)

Councillor John Armour  
Councillor Jan Brown  
Councillor Garret Corner  
Councillor Robin Currie

Councillor Donald Kelly  
Councillor Tommy MacPherson  
Councillor Dougie McFadzean  
Councillor Douglas Philand

**Attending:**

Shona Barton, Committee Manager  
Mark Calder, Project Manager  
Anna Watkiss, Senior Planning Development Officer  
Seymour Adams, Vice-Chair, CHARTS

Prior to the commencement of business, the Chair made the following tribute to Councillor John McAlpine who passed away in July 2022;-

I take the chair of our Area Committee today very reluctantly due to the saddest of circumstances.

As we all know, our colleague and friend, John McAlpine, passed away suddenly on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> July after a short period of illness.

It is several weeks since his death, but this is our first Area Committee meeting since, and it is fair to say, I think, that the sense of shock and sadness is still very much with us all, and that we feel it especially today here, at this committee.

John was a fierce champion for Kintyre and the islands over the years, both in his council life and in his personal life. His election campaign earlier this year was full of determination, vigour and vitality. He was absolutely delighted to chair this committee with its focus on local matters of significance and importance. It is a tragedy that he did not get the opportunity to fulfil the promises he made with such passion and energy.

We know too that outside of council life John was very much involved in his home community of Tarbert, taking a very active part in local clubs and organisations, both as a keen supporter and a sportsman, too. There have been many stories shared not only of his talents as a footballer (in his younger days) but also of his involvement in the community of

## 1. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies intimated.

## 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

## 3. MINUTES

### (a) Minutes of the Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Area Committee held on Wednesday, 8 June 2022

The Minute of the Meeting of the Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Area Committee, held on Wednesday 8 June 2022, was approved as a correct record.

## 4. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Sarah Moorcroft from Carradale submitted the following question, which was read out by the Committee Manager:-

I refer to the recent BBC news article entitled the Kintyre Windfarms 'gold rush'

The article refers to the siting and planned sitings of large Windfarms across the whole of Kintyre, and highlights the deal that has been made between the Windfarms operators and the global giant Amazon, providing Amazon with fixed rate electricity.

I quote from the article

Scottish Power Renewables signed what is known as a power purchase agreement for Beinn an Tuirc 3 with Amazon. It means that all the power generated at the 14-turbine wind farm belongs to the giant US corporation. The deal also means that Amazon benefits from a fixed price for the duration of its 10-year deal with SPR.

During this time of extreme financial hardship, with massive increases in electricity prices, and with families across Kintyre having to make decisions about how to prioritise food or heating for their families, does the council consider that it is fair, that electricity generated on the Kintyre peninsula is being used to support a rich multinational organisation over and above the people who live and work on Kintyre? What support is being given by the council to help local communities negotiate with these energy suppliers, so that local people can benefit from local and reduced tariff electricity powered by Kintyre winds. The people of Kintyre need access both to locally generated electricity similar to the 20% ownership schemes in Denmark,

The Committee Manager advised on a response from Fergus Murray, Head of Economic Development as follows:-

The council determines the suitability, or otherwise, of on shore wind developments through the planning system. Windfarms over 50MW are determined through the section 36 process by the Scottish Government with the council consulted on to provide a local view. Wind farms under 50MW are determined by the council as a Planning Authority.

Private funding arrangements with the developers of on shore wind farms and third parties are not a matter the council has any jurisdiction on. Developers have to go down these routes to obtain the necessary finance to develop their schemes. Without access to this type of funding on shore wind was/is unlikely to be viable although the market is constantly changing depending on the price of electricity and Government subsidy. A key issue considered by the council when determining the suitability of a wind farm or otherwise is the impact on local communities and the landscape. This has resulted in a number of refusals being given and we also look at cumulative impacts.

It should be noted that not all the profit from these farms leave Argyll and Bute. Most companies have developed community benefit schemes that give back to communities and in Kintyre the latest scheme through Scottish Power Renewables distributes circa £270k split between 3 Kintyre community councils. We also have the example of Glen Barr a wind farm developed by Fyne Futures and of course Gigha which was one of the first community owned wind farms. Other commercial windfarms give discounted energy to neighbours including in Kintyre and other benefits some give nothing apart from the jobs during construction and maintenance.

The Scottish Government has encouraged communities to buy into wind farms but the raising of finance to achieve this has proved problematic and I am not aware of

There were no other questions received.

(Reference: Report by Executive Director with Responsibility for Performance and Improvement, dated September 2022, submitted)

## **7. ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES UPDATE**

The Committee gave consideration to a report which provided an update on the recent activities of Roads and Infrastructure Services and highlighted works being undertaken which were relevant to the Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands area.

### **Decision**

The Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Area Committee considered and noted the contents of the report.

(Reference: Report by Executive Director with Responsibility for Roads and Infrastructure Services, dated September 2022, submitted)

## **8. RECYCLING AND RECOVERY PERFORMANCE**

The Committee gave consideration to a report on the Recycling and Recovery Performance which highlighted details on the steady progress made on recycling and composting performance during 2021 after being affected during the early months of the pandemic in 2020.

### **Decision**

The Committee noted and considered the details as outlined in the report and the national policy drivers that will likely impact over the coming years.

(Reference: Report by Executive Director with Responsibility for Roads and Infrastructure Services, submitted)

## **\* 9. TARBERT AND LOCHGILPHEAD REGENERATION FUND - PROJECTS UPDATE**

The Committee considered a report which provided an update on the projects which have been undertaken funded by the Tarbert and Lochgilphead Regeneration Fund and sought approval for the allocation of any unspent funding from the Lochgilphead Front Green Project to support the delivery of the Ardrishaig North Public Realm project:-

### **Decision**

The members of Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Area Committee agreed

1. To note the progress made with the projects as detailed within the report; and

2. Recommended to Policy and Resources Committee the transfer of any unspent funding from the Lochgilphead Front Green project to support the ongoing delivery of the Ardrishaig North Public Realm project.

(Reference: Report by Executive Director with responsibility for Development and Economic Growth Public Document Pack, submitted)

