

MINUTES
Meeting date: Thursday 28 May 2026, 6pm via Zoom

Attendance: Alex Harvie (Chair), Duncan Fraser (CCC), Angus Campbell (CCC), Robert (CCC), Gregor Harvie (Adviser CCC), Lorraine Fraser (Cumbrae Forum), Rena McIntyre (Town Hall), Paul Kernachan (Wee Cumbrae), Calum Corral (Largs and Millport), Kirstin and Martha from Greenwheel Hunterston, Cllr Collier, Cllr Hill + members of the public, 28 total

Apologies: Graham Wallace (Adviser CCC), John McHenery (CCC), Canon Alec (Cathedral), Jan Wilkie (CCDC), Scott Watson (CNI)

	Recording of the meeting available online: https://youtu.be/B2DXUTeb0OU
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
Greenwell Electric Hunterston Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning timeline: Two separate applications submitting in approximately two months, environmental impact assessments not required but landscape/visual appraisals completed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EV Charging Hub: Plot 1A at roundabout entrance, ultra-rapid charging with ancillary retail unit, public access without security checks Solar farm: 5 megawatts on Plot 16 (13 hectares) near old railway sidings to power the charging hub Viewpoint assessments: Landscape architect visited Ayrd Hill and ferry slip on Cumbrae Public consultation: Drop-in event scheduled June 11 in Fairlie, request for Cumbrae event – to be followed up after the meeting. Noise assessment: Background monitoring completed, full noise impact assessment included covering operational traffic and battery equipment noise, request by CCC to pay particular attention to sound traveling over water.
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"> No report
CCDC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No report
Cumbrae Forum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thistle Help visit: Mobility and small aid specialists brought scooters, rise/recliner chairs and footwear to Millport; high attendance, willing to return twice yearly. Summer camp: KA Leisure running 4-day camp for primary school children July 13-16, including packed lunches provided by Ritz Cafe, funded by Cumbrae Forum Charity shop: Low stock due to high sales; requesting donations of books, bric-a-brac, small electrical goods. July fundraising: All shop takings during July donated to Cancer Research; Premier Store donation bucket also contributing; end-of-season Lunch Club raffle proceeds going to Cancer Research.
Golf Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No report
Cumbrae Primary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No report
Field Studies Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May activity: 3 universities (Aberdeen, Dundee, Glasgow) brought 100+ students for marine biology, ecology, and surveying; 7 schools brought nearly 400 pupils for activities including campfire building, rock pooling, treasure hunts, rafting, rock climbing, adventure walks. Wedding: Sixth wedding held at centre with 150+ guests.
FUG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summer timetable status <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Second vessel: CalMac actively considering larger second vessel for July-August peak period, dependent on fleet maintenance and breakdown issues

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Passenger numbers: April down 23% in passengers and 15% in cars compared to last year; reductions significantly higher than Wemyss Bay-Rothesay route despite poor weather ● Winter timetable proposals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ CalMac proposal: 40-minute service representing 25% cut in sailings ○ Ferry Users Group counter-proposal: Maintain 30-minute service with 5-minute turnaround, achievable with lower winter volumes (average 11 cars and 12 foot passengers per sailing) ● Survey results: Over 50 islander submissions received; majority accepted occasional delays in exchange for maintaining frequency over moving to 40-minute service <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ CalMac response: Seriously considering 30-minute service option after lobbying; meeting scheduled in couple of weeks ● Infrastructure projects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cumbrae slip rebuild: contractors progressing site works, stone delivered, marshalling area and walls construction underway; targeted for completion by end of December 2025 ● Road closure: Drainage works at new slipway, Monday-Friday for two consecutive weeks starting next week ● Islands Community Impact Assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Challenge submitted: CalMac did not properly conduct Community Impact Assessment for summer timetable; review now underway ○ Impact summary: Profound effects documented including inability to reach work/medical appointments, early departures, late returns, overnight mainland stays required, lack of train connectivity, no 9am Glasgow arrival, and confusing bus timetable described as "random number generator" ● Winter assessment: CalMac produced winter timetable impact assessment yesterday; Ferry Users Group believes document fundamentally flawed, challenge submitted ● Accessibility concerns: Loch Tarbert vessel completely unsuitable for disabled passengers; staff sometimes refuse boarding due to safety issues with car loading sequence, lack of pushchair/assistance dog space in foot passenger cabin
Wee Cumbrae	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● pontoons require planning permission ● Sent away for Legionella testing, working on the electrical certification and the energy certificate
Dun Creag Shores (Sailing centre)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No report
Key island projects	
Place Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Second home survey results: Overwhelmingly negative responses showing policy making people reconsider staying or moving to island; summary available on Community Council website, sent to North Ayrshire Council for Cabinet review
CNI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No report
Walking Orchard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Project Plan: Near completion, to be sent soon with new dedicated email address for communications ● Sites assessment: Island walk completed, 13 potential locations identified for trees or tree clusters ● Workstreams: Jack ground-truthing mainland studies; Hayley creating contact list; Fiona researching tree types; Diane pursuing future funding for master Gem of the Clyde project ● Historical resources: Former FSC director's widow Margaret provided 1960s plant information, original labelled flower photographs from attic, Alex to share with the team.

Millport Town Hall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open day May 23 well attended, 3 bricks purchased, funds added to donations, suggestions collected for naming Town Hall Garden and Town Hall Bar • Holiday apartments: Tour of Baloch apartment impressed viewers with scenic views and high standards; 12 new bookings received since last meeting (500% growth from previous month). Available through Millport Town Hall webpage, Booking.com, and Airbnb • Fundraising: Boys Brigade raised £1,300 at May 15 quiz night • Community bookings: Care at Home (North Ayrshire Council) information session held; Primary School; birthday parties scheduled • Upcoming events: Millport Dance Troupe Summer Show (June 3), Grand Central Band Independence Day dance (July 4), Taylor Swift Tribute (July 5), Crocodile Rock play (July 18), Elvis tribute (July 25), Psychic Vision (August 3) • Volunteer opportunities: seeking more musicians; also volunteers across all activities • Contact: Venue manager Alan "Pat" Patterson
Marina	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No report
Cathedral	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No report
Planning & licensing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sauna 14 Bute Terrace
North Ayrshire Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue raised by resident in West Bay about bins – Alex to forward
Golf Club land sale proposal	<p>Representation by Golf Club</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial context: Club has 180+ members, employs 4 full-time staff (including one apprentice) plus 4-5 seasonal workers, attracts up to 3,000 visitors annually • Business vulnerability: Cash reserves insufficient to absorb another bad season • Development plan: Seeking planning permission for house on Curling Pond/Bothy site to maximize land value (tens of thousands without permission, six figures with permission). Profits intended for 1-2 tourist chalets near clubhouse to attract multi-day visitors • Other land: Fintry Bay marketed as woodland; Gladstone area land retained for potential community donation if suitable custodian found • Market timeline: Land going to open market within weeks, subject to planning permission process • Bidding process: No concessions, all bids to be anonymized to ensure no favouritism, committed to achieving market value <p>Representation by Curling Club</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historical tenancy: Club has rented land since 1845 when Bothy was built, no written lease but continuous yearly payments (originally to Marquis of Bute, then Golf Club) • Heritage: One of very few remaining traditional curling ponds with Bothy intact in Scotland; 180 years of local and national sporting history at risk • Lack of consultation: Golf Club made no formal contact before publishing planning application; Curling Club only learned through public notice • Member position: Emergency meeting held; overwhelming membership opinion to fight to keep pond and bothy • Place Plan alignment: Application contradicts Island Place Plan which had large-scale democratic consultation and opposes residential development outside town boundaries • Request to Community Council: Asking Community Council to represent community's stated wishes and object to application • Site maintenance: Trees recently cleared by external contractor to improve freezing conditions; annual pond trimming and periodic major maintenance conducted

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current use: Annual social events with barbecue and maintenance work; site used when weather permits curling <p>Next steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Council: Will vote following published policy for handling contentious applications; members with Golf Club or Curling Club interests will abstain • Public input: Community members encouraged to submit individual representations to North Ayrshire Council
Councillors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Collier: Request one designated disabled parking bay outside Premier Store/butchers area • Cllr Collier: Check beach maintenance schedule frequency and confirm if Newton Beach sand shifting planned; coordinate with Janice (beach cleaning) before any beach work to allow plastic removal by volunteers • Cllrs Hill and Collier: Revisit Largs ferry terminal traffic light filter proposal with Transport Scotland
Next meeting	<p>Thursday 25 June 2026, 6pm via Zoom https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85971422973</p>