

BUTE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the 28th Meeting of the 11th Bute Community Council
held in the Pavilion, Rothesay at 7.30pm on Wednesday 18th July 2012

Present: Miss G Strong, Convenor, Mr F Baxter, Mr D Bauld, Mr M Blair, Mrs J Donald, Mr C Fryars, Mr I Gillespie, Mr P Hamilton, Mrs M Hill, Mr I Hopkins, Mrs E Jukes, Mr D MacLeod, Mr P Wallace

Argyll & Bute Councillors: L Scoullar, I Strong, R MacIntyre

Press: Mr C Borland, Miss K Keith

Apologies: Mr D McDougall, Mrs J McIntyre, Mr W McQueen, Mrs G Reynolds, Insp. G Anderson

Guests: Mr N Wilson, Mr F Lee

Members of the Public: Mrs B Harrison, Mr T Harrison, Mr J Thomas, Mrs Y Thomas, Mrs E Lofting, Mr I McCulloch, Mrs U McCulloch, Mrs C Morrison, Ms K Kilpatrick, Mr R Browning, Mrs K Molloy, Mr T Molloy, J Campbell, Mrs C Magennis, Mr G Gillespie, Mrs G Forester, Mrs C Carley, Mr R Carley, Mr P McKay, Mr A McDonald, Mr P McTaggart

1. **Notification of additional agenda items:** A report in relation to the Bute Advice Centre and an item on Fishing on the pier were added.
2. **Declarations of Interest:** Mr P Hamilton advised that he was a resident at Rothesay Court, however members agreed to him speaking about the changes to Sheltered Housing.
3. **Presentation:** Mr N Wilson, SSE Operations Manager covering Bute, advised he had come to answer queries and concerns raised following the January storms. Mr J Campbell asked why power lines were so close to trees, and why they had not been cut back from the lines. Mr N Wilson advised this was an on-going issue, with trees cut back within falling distance, however there were difficulties gaining access from landowners. Although it had been easier due to the storms some people won't give access. Cllr I Strong said this was shocking and asked if the problem was on the island. Mr N Wilson advised it was on the Argyll mainland, where they have big battles to get in, adding they don't have an automatic right to access unless there is imminent danger to life.

Mr P McKay asked if the power problems during the storm were on the island or off, to which Mr F Lee replied that there were lines down on the island as well as off the island, with barn roofs blown 1000m through lines. Asked if the local problems were fixed before those on the mainland, Mr F Lee advised that they didn't know where the majority of the faults were before the power lines feeding the island were restored, with the Millport feed via Bute. Mr N Wilson advised there were 3 feeds on to the island from Argyll, but that the winds were exceptional, advising staff were brought in from all over the country to carry out the necessary repairs.

Mrs J Donald asked if SSE had done anything to improve the identification of weak and elderly people. Mr N Wilson advised there were initiatives in place for lists of elderly people, and they have an emergency list but this is generally people on oxygen, advising there was a generator available if a similar event happens. Miss G Strong said social services have lists.

Mr F Lee highlighted that during the storms the telephone system went down, with communication non-existent, suggesting a central communication hub was needed. This issue had been raised with BT who were going to look into it.

Mr I McCulloch asked if there was a disaster recovery plan, and why the police did not communicate anything, saying he believed there were people starving, and that generators should have been here on day 1. Cllr L Scoullar advised that following the incident, all emergency services and electricity suppliers met to put together a plan. Miss G Strong advised there may be a trial run in the future.

Mr T Harrison said he had experienced difficulty trying to get back onto the island, with a lot of people waiting for the ferry at Colintraive being told the vessel was not allowed to sail as there were no lights on at Rhubodach, however they did eventually persuade the skipper to sail using vehicle lights on the car deck, suggesting this was an issue that could be easily solved. Cllr L Scoullar suggested this was an issue for CalMac. Mr N Wilson said that the same comments were made on Cumbrae, and SSE are prepared to make offers of help, and could use a small emergency generator on the island for this purpose. Mr T Harrison said that the situation was exacerbated as the main ferry couldn't sail due to the weather. Mr N Wilson said this would form part of the disaster recovery plan. Miss G Strong asked Mr F Baxter to raise

this issue with CalMac.

Mr M Blair said the real problem was with communication, suggesting we had come to rely too much on technology, adding radio Scotland was still audible for those with a wind up or battery powered radio, suggesting the way to go was back to old style battery powered radios.

Cllr R MacIntyre said that the 3rd January was a 1 in 50 year storm, but that there were severe storms in 2008 and Boxing Day 1998, commenting that they are happening more often, suggesting we should be prepared for that. He asked if the sub-sea cables were resilient enough. Mr F Lee said these cables were new, it was the overhead ones that went, adding there were some cables that will be reviewed with some going underground.

Mr D MacLeod said there were meetings on the 4th day, but this was far too late. The resulting system worked, but was 3 days too late. Mr I McCulloch said this information was not spread widely enough. Miss G Strong said the Police had advised they had megaphones that could be borrowed in similar circumstances. Cllr I Strong advised that the Pavilion is designated as an emergency centre, but has no generator, which she characterised as ‘ridiculous’. Mr F Lee advised that since the storm there is a designated generator for use in the Pavilion. Mr N Wilson said to let SSE know if another generator was needed.

4. **Minutes 20th June 2012:** The minutes of 20th June 2012 were accepted with some amendments.
Proposed: Mr I Hopkins ; Seconded: Mr D MacLeod

5. **BCC Correspondence 21st June to 18th July 2012**

	Incoming Mail:		
25 Jun 2012	C MacDonald, SBB	Short Break Bureau Newsletter	Referred to meeting
27 Jun 2012	Cllr I Strong, Bute Ward	Care Pathway for Falls and Frailty	Referred to meeting
29 Jun 2012	J Gillies, ABC	Community Empowerment Consult...	Referred to meeting
02 Jul 2012	E Fitzpatrick, ABC	School Catchment Areas	Referred to meeting
03 Jul 2012	S Loudon, ABC	Community Council By-elections	Referred to meeting
03 Jul 2012	F Murray, ABC	Additional Sites, Local Dev. Plan	Referred to meeting
12 Jul 2012	D Tulloch, Historic Scotland	Floodlight Agreement	Referred to meeting
16 Jul 2012	G Morrison	Proposed Ascog Wind Turbines	Referred to meeting

6. **Matters arising from minutes:**

- a. Miss G Strong asked about correspondence with the Sailing Club. Mr P Wallace advised that Mr C Zavaranoi had not been on the committee for some time, and they had asked for a copy of the letter. Cllr L Scoullar advised he would be in touch with Scottish Water on another matter and would ask for a copy of their email.

7. **Matters arising from Communications**

- a. **Ascog Wind Farm:** Miss G Strong advised that representation had been made to the community council on the proposed wind farm at Ascog, however as no planning application had yet been made. All members would do at this stage was to listen to the concerns being raised.

Mr J Thomas advised members that the documents submitted were from a broad spectrum of the community and people were very concerned about the proposal, suggesting most think it would have a detrimental effect. He advised the main objections were: the proposed turbines were vastly oversized at 74m; situated on top of a very prominent site which could be seen from all round the island; incredibly close to properties, with 70 properties within a 1km radius, and some within 500m. He advised the existing monitoring mast was within 20m of 20 listed buildings; existing cables were not up to the required standard to carry the output from the turbines and would require to be upgraded.

Mr J Thomas also commented that the claims that the turbines could provide 67% of the island’s electricity had dropped to 20%. He added that recent pictures of a turbine at Ardrossan bursting into flames gave residents living in close proximity great cause for concern and put people’s homes at risk. He said the area was one of outstanding natural beauty.

Mr R Falconer suggested that with the increased frequency of the stormy weather experienced in January, there was an increasing risk of debris coming off the turbines. He continued that the key point was the visibility, saying the turbines would be clearly visible by all visitors coming to Bute, and he was “sure it would have an adverse effect on tourism.” He added that there was a potentially devastating impact on wildlife, advising he had seen geese roosting at Loch Ascog, and had seen them flying over Ascog Hill, and the geese would be decimated by the turbines.

Mr T Harrison said he had concerns about the distances from residential properties, highlighting instances from around the world of sickness due to ‘wind turbine syndrome’, which he described as the sub sonic sound, not measured by engineers, but by an audiologist. He advised that in Australia and Denmark new turbines must comply with sound levels and distance from properties, with Denmark leading the way requiring a 2km exclusion zone. He suggested with this new knowledge and research, any approval would be with the knowledge of unknown health consequences.

It was pointed out that TZCB had done a study and only came up with 2 potential sites for wind turbines, neither of which was the Ascog site.

A member of the public said the mainland was fast becoming polluted with wind farms and in the past tourists came to Bute as the Scottish Riviera, but if we allow the erection of wind farms we will lose the difference, adding during stormy weather the turbines would need to be shut down for safety reasons, so the island would have been no better off during the January power cuts.

Asked if there was a policy for wind farms on Bute, Cllr I Strong said the policy was county wide, but they would look at the impact on each area. She advised that the Councillors would take note of all that was said, including the environmental impact, and would listen to all sides. None of the local Councillors were on the planning committee, but were entitled to attend and speak, adding that if there was strong opposition then there would be a public hearing. Cllr L Scoullar added that at the moment the policy was purely a draft, but that the consultants had expressed a view that Bute was not a suitable location for anything over 25m in height, to blade tip.

Cllr I Strong said areas where permission for turbines had been granted had a much bigger landscape compared with Ascog, but said she could not comment now as it could come before the full Council in due course. Mr R Falconer suggested BCC seek clarification on the designation, saying if the proposal was designated as a wind farm then it could be expanded further at a later date. Cllr R MacIntyre advised it only took 12 objections to have a public hearing, saying it was ‘almost certain.’

There were some suggestions from the public that wind farms were not a viable green solution given the amount of energy needed to build them, and there was hardly any saving on CO₂, and that they were not economical. The suggestion was that more focus should be given to underwater wave/tidal turbines with a flow 24/7. Mr T Harrison said the objections being raised were not about wind farms in general, saying that those present were in favour of green energy, but the objections were to where they were to be sited. Mr J Thomas said he moved to the island as it was a truly beautiful unspoilt oasis, no matter what is said about the climate, and it was vital to protect that environment.

A question was raised as to who would be notified about the application, given that the turbines would be visible to the whole island. There was a suggestion that people were unaware of the turbines at Ardbeg until they were erected. Cllr I Strong advised it was the Council who carried out neighbour notification, but it would be different for wind farms, notified through the local paper and online.

- b. Changes to Sheltered Housing:** Mr P Hamilton advised that a letter from Bield Housing Association, owners of Rothesay Court and Foley Court, which more or less notified residents that they would be discontinuing the sheltered services. He advised that overnight care had already been withdrawn, and the pull cord is no great comfort when someone is ill. He advised in the past if the cord was pulled, someone would come to the flat to see what had happened, now there is a connection to a call centre in Glasgow, and ‘2 big police officers will come and lift them back into bed.’

Mr P Hamilton advised that he had personally sold a nice flat in the town, on advice from the doctor, for the benefit of the additional support of sheltered housing, but was now in no better position than he was before. He advised there would still be some staff looking after the building, but they are forbidden to give any care. He continued that currently the warden is able to meet someone if they have a panic attack, or if they wander, or even simply make them a cup of tea and provide reassurance to them. Bield have now changed the service they are to offer tenants, without any consultation with tenants, and no proposals to reduce the rent. He added that Bield allege local Councillors know all about the changes, and are in full support.

Cllr L Scoullar advised that he had received a letter on the same day as Mr P Hamilton, telling him exactly the same thing, but was never asked for an opinion. Cllr R MacIntyre and Cllr I Strong responded likewise. Mr P Hamilton suggested Bield were in fact lying to tenants. Cllr I Strong advised that she had spoken to a lady in Foley Court with similar concerns, adding most people moved into the complex for the additional support of sheltered housing.

Mr G Gillespie said the same thing happened in Ferfadd when ACHA took over, with calls going to Glasgow, and then to the police. He asked why these services were being provided by private companies on the mainland, but not on the island.

Cllr I Strong commented on an incident in Ferfadd Court the previous evening when a confused resident tried to get into the wrong flat, police were called at 3 in the morning.

Mr P Hamilton advised the response he had from the call centre on reporting someone wandering in the grounds was 'what do you want me to do.' Mr L Walsh said despite people being in the building, the controlled entry also went through to Glasgow.

Cllr I Strong said the councillors tried to get something done about the situation with ACHA, but didn't hold out any more hope of success with Bield. Cllr L Scoullar advised at the time Bield were keeping a Full Time warden and ACHA were going to Part Time, the Resident Care director for Bield, asked to speak to ACHA about warden sharing, but they point blank refused. At the time he was encouraged that they had wanted to keep the service going.

Mr M Blair said this move was very short sighted, asking with Telecare and care in the community, what advantage was there in moving into a Bield home? Miss G Strong also commented that Argyll and Bute was one of the first places for implementation.

Mr F Baxter suggested that Bield be asked who they contacted, and who in the Council said they were happy with the situation, and why council officers did not inform local councillors. Cllr I Strong confirmed there had been no consultation with councillors. Mr F Baxter said it was worrying that matters involving Bute are not being relayed to local councillors.

Mrs B Hill advised there was to be a meeting regarding the changes and suggested it would be advantageous to have councillors present. The councillors agreed to take up this issue. It was also agreed that in addition, BCC would write a strong letter.

- c. **Castle Floodlights:** Mr P Wallace advised of a further letter from Historic Scotland, attaching a copy of a letter from BCC asking that they set aside the previous cancellation of their agreement. Mr F Baxter said he could not remember at any point setting the termination letter aside, and was of the opinion the agreement had finished. Mr I Hopkins pointed out there had been no bills in at least 5 years, asking 'Why?', if the agreement was still in force.

Miss G Strong said she remembered the unanimous decision to opt out. Mr F Baxter said that arrangements were made with Cameron Electric to repair broken bulbs as a final one off gesture. Mr P Wallace agreed to check back through the minutes for clarification.

- d. **Development Plan Additions:** Mr P Wallace advised of proposed additions to the Development Plan were to include an area above Rhubodach farm in the community forest. Mr R Falconer urged caution, advising the last time changes to the Rothesay boundary were proposed residents were not consulted, and said proper consideration was needed for any changes to the plan. Cllr L Scoullar

advised BCLC was in discussion with planners, but any subsequent proposal would still require planning permission.

Mr I Hopkins asked if its inclusion would mean any development would be looked upon more favourably, to which Cllr L Scoullar replied 'No.' Cllr I Strong advised that all planning stages would need to be followed for any proposals. Mr F Baxter asked if it was the 'first nail in the coffin' allowing further development of the area. Cllr L Scoullar advised it was needed to make any development possible. Mr D MacLeod said the proposal was for BCLC to build a bunkhouse. Mr I Hopkins agreed to look at the changes in more detail and email round if there were any concerns.

- e. **Council Website:** Members were asked for ideas for inclusion on a Community Council page on the Council website, but no suggestions were forthcoming at that time.
- f. **Correspondence not dealt with above:** Mr P Wallace advised of the correspondence detailed in the table above.

8. Councillor's Reports:

Councillor Scoullar: advised the meeting of the following: The Council are preparing the Local Development Plan on which there will be extensive public consultation, with a seminar for members in August followed by public meetings in affected areas. As a result of the Council's Audit Committee recommendations, procedures have been put in place to improve information on Social Work Direct Payment Scheme, and made available to staff, users and carers.

A pilot scheme for on street parking is proposed for Oban following the removal of the traffic warden scheme by the police. A new temporary scheme of shared cost will see the police enforce parking rules for 13 weeks. Street Parking will be decriminalised allowing Council Officers to oversee parking fully. This is hoped to be rolled out to the rest of Argyll & Bute.

In year 2011/12, Argyll & Bute Council met its financial requirements in revenue and capital budgets, and also met the efficiency savings of 3% imposed by the Scottish Government. The new administration has dispersed the Executive Committee and as a result all decisions will be taken at full Council and Area Committee.

The Scottish Government is consulting on Planning, and is expected to feedback and draw conclusions in late summer 2012. The main aims are to promote plan led systems, improve performance, simplify the process and encourage development. New Performance Review and Scrutiny Committee to be introduced by the Council to review Planning, Schools Inspection reports, CPP and other performance matters.

Attended the excellent Rothesay Campus concert based on the former music group Queen. Attended wind energy seminar in Inverary which discussed report submitted to Council by consultants. Attended 'real time crash scenario' at Rothesay Campus which was staged by the emergency services, giving the community a chance to see and hear exactly what happens at the scene of a serious road occurrence. Thanked all those who took part for staging the event, which he had been seeking through Bute Community Safety forum.

Attended the Community Safety forum and heard of the revised safety strategy which asks for safety partners to share information to address issues based on Prevention, Intervention and Enforcement. Attended BFOV and heard of problems with disabled toilet access at the emergency and outpatient area of Victoria Hospital, which Cllr I Strong has also been pursuing. Had been assured by NHS that the matter was being dealt with.

Facilitated a private meeting between the Head of Social Work and the potential developers of the Ascog Residential Care Home. Bollards are to be sited at the Prom to exclude motor vehicles. Mr P Farrell was waiting for final permission, with every emergency vehicle being fitted with a key.

Spoke to Mr S Neilson about the fishing ban on the pier and was advised people were fishing where they were not supposed to, which was considered a risk by CalMac & Council H&S officers.

Councillor MacIntyre: advised the meeting of the following: Reported last month that boat at Port Bannatyne was to be removed, and was subsequently burned, however 3 days later another boat appeared. The owner of this boat, S Dunn, had given assurances that it was a very short stay until there was room for it at the boat yard.

Road resurfacing on the island was due to begin the following Monday, starting at Ettrick, Meikle Kilmory and Rhubodach, with Montague St done later in the year when it was quieter. Asked for report on Japanese Knotweed at next committee meeting, saying that the joint campaign with Mount Stuart had been a big help, with spraying successfully achieving a good kill, with only the area next the West Church needing attention, having appeared to have been sprayed haphazardly.

Advised the poor weather was affecting food production all over the country, saying hates to think what the harvest will be if it doesn't dry up. Advised repair work was underway for lighting at West Prices St, with a new lamp stand at Bannatyne Mains Road. Advised that the Scotland in Bloom competition would be held in August, saying he hoped the town would be looking its best, commenting that both supervisors were back in their own positions doing what they are good at.

Attended school prize giving acknowledging the tremendous amount of talent. Attended vintage tractor rally with over 70 vehicles. Every tractor had to pay entry, combined with raffle, saw sizable amount of money split between North Ayrshire Cancer Care and the Waverly.

Advised he had also met the harbourmaster about fishing on the pier, saying he 'couldn't for the life of him' understand why an area designated as a council work area had been shut off. He added that he understood the harbourmaster had also stopped fishing from the Albert pier.

Councillor Strong: advised the meeting of the following: Bute Councillors had a preview of the newly refurbished Rothesay Leisure Centre, and she cut the ribbon on Monday 2nd July to let the first people enter. The gym area is much larger and has new equipment, but there was a problem with some of the tiles, and part of the area had been cordoned off.

Advised Council meeting of 28th June was a lengthy one with financial reports, Treasury management, Revenue Budget monitoring and Efficiency Statement followed by revised Political management arrangements which discontinued the Executive with all decisions now coming to full Council, retaining Area Committees with 6 meetings a year and setting up a Performance Review and Scrutiny Committee with Short Life Working Groups as required.

Attended the Rothesay Academy Prize giving where Mr M McDougall was the main speaker. Attended and presented trophies at the Glasgow Celtic Society Shinty Cup at Strachur where they have a new sports field and clubhouse.

With Cllr L Scoullar, attended the Bute Forum for Older Voices hearing concerns about the lack of a disabled toilet at Outpatients for people attending clinics. Had previously been advised that people can use disabled toilets in the wards, however an individual who requested this was refused entry, saying the situation needs to be resolved. Concern was also expressed about people who need Blue Badges for transport if they have a short term condition. This issue is being looked at by the Scottish Pensioners forum.

Met with the group progressing the project in High St. Bute Councillors met with the Head of Service Mr Jim Robb to discuss the plans for the Ascog Care Centre. Met with the Scotland in Bloom Group to discuss arrangements for the visit of the Judging committee when they come to the island on 2nd August, adding it was hoped that everyone who had a property on or near the route will do their part to make the town look nice. Attended the launch of a book "The Place Names of Bute" by Gilbert Markus of Glasgow University, and commissioned by the Discover Bute Landscape Partnership, revealing the origin of place names on the island.

Met with Nina Graham who is the Development Officer succeeding Ciara Wilson and discussed on-going progress on the island. Attended a training course which is supposed to make Councillors more efficient in their use of IT. Opened a Football Exhibition in Campbeltown called 'The whole Kit and Caboodle' which was in the Museum which has had a facelift and new secure display cases.

Attended Film Night in the Discovery Centre to mark the achievements of the Discover Bute Landscape Partnership with a series of films by Brian Barr giving a flavour of the different activities undertaken over the past 4 years. An exhibition in Fyne Homes Board Room was opened the following morning, which she urged members to visit. Completed a walk to St. Blanes with a group led by Paul Duffy on the history and archaeology of the site in the morning and also a walk to Cnocnicoll Wood to look at the Biodiversity with Jessica Herriott. All the events which have been run by DBLPS have been free and thousands of people, both local and visitors, have taken the opportunity to enjoy the island. The legacy projects have been taken over by BCT, adding that the DBLPS has had some funding to tackle invasive species, but was not sure how much.

Questions to Councillors from members of the public & Community Councillors:

Mr G Gillespie advised that the judging for Scotland in Bloom had changed in the last 3 years, with the public gardens now accounting for under 50% of the score, with the school and allotments contributing to the score, advising that the town scored very high on the gardens, but with the changes, more of the general public needed to come forward with planters outside etc. Cllr R MacIntyre congratulated Mrs M Hill on the transformation at the allotments, saying the area had previously looked like a ‘war zone.’

Mr J Campbell commented on road conditions, asking if the repairs would be carried out it time for the cycle weekend of 15th Sept. Cllr R MacIntyre advised that the longest stretch to be completed was ½ mile, but was dependant on the weather. He continued that Mr Thompson knew about the 300 cyclists coming to Bute. He advised that Bute would be getting 23% of the roads spend this year, but added even after the scheduled repairs are carried out, there will still be other parts that require attention. Mr F Baxter recalled that part of the High St had not been resurfaced due to scaffolding at the time, asking that it be given priority. Cllr R MacIntyre agreed to raise the issue.

Mrs M Hill asked whose decision it was to burn the boat at Port Bannatyne, suggesting it could have been broken up and used for firewood. Mr D MacLeod commented that the residents were pleased to see it go. Mr I Hopkins said he was very pleased to see the boat removed from Port Bannatyne, but asked if anyone would collect pier dues for the new one. Cllr R MacIntyre advised there used to be a committee. Mr F Baxter said he had been talking to someone involved with the repair of the pier, advising that a limited company had been set up to do the repairs and was then dissolved upon completion. Mrs J Donald added that if someone claimed responsibility they would have to insure it.

Mr C Fryars commented that when driving to Glasgow via Rhubodach there were no litter bins in laybys, until one reaches West Dumbartonshire where there are two bins in every layby. Cllr R MacIntyre advised there was a different policy in Helensburgh and Lomond, but agreed to take up the matter.

Mr I Hopkins said he was pleased that bollards would be used to prevent parking on the prom, but asked if a bylaw was also needed. Cllr I Strong suggested there would be a trial period without one, but said personally she thought it would be required, and agreed to seek clarification on the issue.

Mr D MacLeod said the new lights on Bannatyne Mains Road were excellent, but following the work the drainage ditch needed cleaned. Cllr R MacIntyre agreed to raise the matter. Mr D MacLeod commented that the metal bollards reduced the width of the road, and had caused damage to cars, suggesting they were not necessary. Cllr R MacIntyre advised that measurements had been taken following concerns raised from householders about emergency access, with no problems identified; suggesting drivers may not have been looking where they were going.

Mr D MacLeod advised that the field beside Bannatyne Mains Road had not been sprayed; Cllr R MacIntyre said it would be done this year. Mrs J Donald advised that Mrs G Reynolds had complained about a metal drain cover outside the Royal Bank, and the shelter at the former Baptist Church asking if anything had been done. Mr D MacLeod advised that Scottish Water had recently carried out works.

Mr R Falconer raised Health & Safety concerns with weeds on the ramp in the harbour, where a vehicle trying to launch a boat started to slide. Cllr R MacIntyre agreed to raise the issue with the Harbourmaster. Mr R Falconer also commented on potential opportunity to promote the island with a new book on the 4th Marquis written by R Hannah. Cllr I Strong advised the book had been reviewed in the Buteman, and anything that promotes the island should be encouraged.

Mr D Bauld asked if it was true that after the swimming pool was completed a supervisor had to come from Dunoon, staying overnight in the Victoria Hotel. Mr M Blair advised that Mr J Anderson was there, but was at no time taking the place of a member of Rothesay staff, advising he had supervisory responsibility for all of Argyll and Bute.

- 9. Police Report:** Insp. G Anderson advised of the following in a written report: Officers visited Prospect Terrace regarding speeding issue raised at last month's meeting. No tickets issued at this location but speed was monitored. Although the schools were on holiday officers continued to monitor speed at the Townhead area. Several reports of bogus callers took place in early July and this was highlighted in the local media. 'T' in the Port event passed off without any problems. Officers continue to address speeding drivers, use of mobiles whilst driving etc. with several detections taking place. The town centre has been busy with tourists, particularly at weekends, and officers will continue to patrol the area with regular foot and mobile patrols.
- 10. Holiday/Leisure Report:** Mr I Gillespie suggested every year visitors to the island reduce in numbers, but coach tours were going up. Having spoken to visitors, he advised people were only on the island for 1 ½ - 2hrs. He suggested this highlighted the need for promotion, as previously suggested, asking CalMac to give info packs to the drivers to distribute to people on the coach. He advised one visitor had commented on how small the statue to Lena Zavaroni was. He advised he had nothing further to report as 'nothing had happened.'
- 11. Social Media Report:** Mr Mike Blair advised former Dunoon Observer reporter was now the Council PR officer, with other discussions featuring proposals to demolish the Inverkip Tower.

Suggestions that money should be spent on a Children's Play Area, Guildford Square Bus Shelter, the Slip Way, Tennis Courts, Meadows Pavilion, were all raised on the Have Your Say page, with more focus on young people. Mr D MacLeod advised that most of these suggestions had been brought forward when considering the Bute Projects. Mr C Fryars said he was going to pursue the idea of trying to get an allocation of money every year. Mr M Blair commented that one of the dangers with social media was that it was immediate, rather than writing a letter or coming to a meeting. Mr C Borland advised that the invitation for projects had been published in the Buteman and on Facebook and Twitter.

12. Health Report: No Health Matters were raised at the meeting.

13. Transport Matters: Mr F Baxter advised there was again a problem with people missing the train when travelling on the 1010 sailing, saying it was the tightest connection and if the ferry runs late people will miss the train. He continued that BCC did achieve a movement of 5 min with the train, but said this was 'as much as we are ever going to get.'

At last month's meeting changes to patient transport were reported. Locals had said there were teething problems with the system; finding it difficult to get through. Mr F Baxter stated that he would raise the issue at the next meeting. He advised that locally there were reports that the ambulance personnel were not going push patients up the ramp, asking how anyone who arrives under their own steam gets up the ramp without assistance.

Mr M Blair commended CalMac staff for turning the ferry around quickly, observing that when the it gets to Wemyss Bay the person catching the stern ropes has then got to go to the passenger gangway, saying 3 ½ minutes were lost in the process. Cllr R MacIntyre suggested the observation should be sent to Mr B Fulton, with Mr F Baxter agreeing to write a letter.

14. Planning Matters: Mr D MacLeod advised that ACHA had applied for change of use for the former Salvation Army hall to change to offices.

15. Advice Centre Report: Mrs J Donald advised the meeting of the following: The financial report presented to the Committee confirmed the financial position of the Centre was sound at present. Most discussions at a recent meeting focused on the on-going situation with regards to the possibility of a merger with Argyll & Bute Citizens Advice Bureau. Many aspects were examined closely, and there were several points for and against the merger.

Discussion between the two groups had been in abeyance for some time due to the prolonged ill health

of both the manager and chairman of BAC. Both were now back to sound health and it was agreed that another meeting between the two organisations be arranged to examine the concerns which may be felt on both sides and to conclude whether there was any future continuing the discussions. Mr G Sutherland had been asked to liaise with his counterpart in Lochgilphead and arrange a further meeting.

16. Fishing on the Pier: Mr A McDonald drew member's attention to the Firth of Clyde Marine Spatial Plan, and in particular the policy on Sea Angling, 'promoting the development of appropriate infrastructure and facilities for sea angling, including slipways, safe anchorages and fishing piers.' He said that what we have experienced in Rothesay is a constant erosion of fishing rights on the pier.

He added that fishing should not be taking place when the boats are tied up, advising the area allocated during the day had been narrowed down to 25m, with the Albert Pier now shut, asking how anyone could get to the ropes casting from the Albert Pier.

Mr A McDonald said both CalMac and the Council have agreed to promote fishing, asking why there is a constant battle to keep fishing open. He said there shouldn't be any incidents of hooks caught in ropes when fishing takes place during the day when the boats are not tied up.

Cllr R MacIntyre advised he had received 2 phone calls and had visited the Harbourmaster, advising the area for fishing had been reduced by 50%. The Harbourmaster had said the Waverly berth had been vandalised, and there were problems with fishermen casting when boats were coming round the top of the butt.

Miss G Strong asked if there was anything BCC could do, to which Cllr I Strong suggested writing to the Harbourmasters boss. Cllr R MacIntyre advised that the Harbour Authority was the Area Committee. Mr F Baxter enquired if he was responsible to the Clyde Port Authority, and was advised 'No, not for fishing'.

Mr Brown said that he had fished from the pier for over 42 years and it was the safest place for children to fish, adding there should never be hooks in the ropes as there is no fishing when the boats are tied up. Mr I Hopkins asked why fishing had been stopped on the Albert Pier and was advised it was to prevent people casting onto bow ropes of vessels tied at the main berth. The possibility of this happening was greeted with much scepticism.

**17. Treasurers Report:
Statement No 2: July 2012**

Date	Company	Incoming	Outgoing	Balance
	Balance b/f			£73.66
05/07/2012	Hire of Pavilion, (18/04/12)		£26.25	£47.41
12/07/2012	Transfer from National Savings Account	£405.19		£452.60
	Totals	£405.19	£26.25	£452.60

Mr I Hopkins reported that last month he reported a closing balance of £74.06, however a Print Point Bill paid on 16/04/2012 was entered as £16.20 instead of £16.60 by mistake.

Date of next meeting: 7.30 pm, Wednesday 19th September 2012 in the Pavilion, Rothesay

Signed: Chairman

Date.....

Secretary

Date