



Minutes of HCC Monthly Meeting – 30 October 2025 - Civic Centre Annex 7pm

The meeting was chaired by Convener Peter Brown

In attendance

Present for HCC: Peter Brown, Nigel Millar, Cameron Foy, Richard Trail, Tariq Durrani, Norman McNally, Roger Clarke., Elizabeth Lambert, David Sinclair
Present Argyll and Bute, Fiona Howard.

Apologies: Paula McIntosh, Stewart Noble, Joanna Pryce, Irina Agostinelli, Stewart Steel, Polly Jones,

Councillors: Paul Kennedy, Maurice Corry

Public in person: 7

Minutes of Last Meeting

Discussed and approved. Norman queried action points on issues raised at last meeting, eg clarity on business interruption insurance from A&BC or Live Argyll over Leisure Centre - no response received from either.

Action: Norman raise a question at next Area Committee meeting.

Police Report

Report received and discussed.

Introductions and Questions from the public

HCC and A&B Councillors introduced.

Questions from the public:

Colin Thomson is concerned that Scotrail's publicity about removing peak fares is misleading because it doesn't apply to concessions, so a peak train fare to Dumbarton has risen from £1 to £5

Vivien Dance on TTROs - proposals to charge voluntary groups £1200 to process street closures eg Colquhoun Sq would make larger events in the town centre unviable. They already have to pay for cones, signage & diversions as well as qualified stewards.

Action: Elizabeth to submit HCC response to TTRO consultation will raise these concerns

Reports

Waterfront campaign; No update at the moment.

Leisure Centre - Update on A&B website

Progress reports are too vague and give no indication whether the repairs are on target or falling behind. There should be key milestones these should be measures against baseline dates so show any potential slippage which may end up effecting the March 2025 reopening date.

Action: Peter to write asking for detail on measurements against targets

Secretary - Items responded to from website contact us

Complaint about lack of pavement in Victoria Road.

Complaint about cars using Colquhoun Street to avoid roadworks – resolved by roadworks moving higher up Sinclair Street.

Business Group Meeting 18:30 13 November 2025 Meeting Room 1 at Helensburgh Parish Church (Festive Planning, Police presentation on tackling crime, Business Networking).

Approved £21 for roomhire

Town Improvement Report

Play park equipment is out for tender

Ongoing Issues

Kirkmichael Portacabin

The portacabin has now been stripped out some of the waste has been removed by the council the rest went in a skip paid for by HCC and Kirkmichael Development Group.
The rest of the portacabin still needs to be cut up and removed.

Parking For Buses

Ongoing

Benches in Colquhoun Square

Repairs have finally been made to broken benches but many others are still unusable due to moss, fungi & mould on rotten timbers. Cllr Howard said she had a meeting with Mark Calder from A&BC about it and he was investigating costs for replacement benches which would last longer. Nigel said Planning Group wanted volunteers to take over responsibility for benches as they do for shrub beds and beach cleans., but this would be beyond the resources of volunteers and we are struggling to cope with the commitments we currently have.

Action: allow Cllr Howard/Mark Calder time to come up with proposals for replacing the wooden benches

Treasurer - Report submitted and Approved

Approved reimbursement of £165.60 to Stewart Steel for LPP website & survey tool expenses

Planning -

Report submitted

Local Place Plan –

presentation by Norman Burton on feedback responses & final stages of completing the LPP. Responses very positive. Regenerating the Pier proposal was most popular.

Total spend on LPP so far £2264.85

- Vivien Dance - when will LPP be in use? Answer: It will feed into LDP3 from 2029. It can be referenced against future development proposals

Chair suggested creating a few properly printed & bound copies of final version of LPP for library and general reference.

Action: Cameron will investigate cost -

Any Other Business

Town Centre Parking - Elizabeth presented details of the confusion around the restricted zone parking rules, misleading signs, poor road markings etc.

Action: Elizabeth will raise with Mark Calder from A&BC. Cllr Howard will also follow it up

Local groups and individuals are being offered the chance to work with an appointed artist to design and create a new artwork for the Outdoor Museum in Colquhoun Square.

<https://www.theoutdoormuseum.co.uk/community-competition/>

The deadline for submission is 10th November 2025

Train Station/Co-Op carpark stairwell - Tariq raised concerns about poor lighting and cleanliness of the stairwell, who is responsible for maintenance?

Action: Tariq will write to Co-Op and Scotrail

Shop Improvement Grants - Colin Thomson asked if businesses were aware of the current grant scheme and identified some shopfronts which needed improvement. It has been well publicised and there has been a flood of applications from Helensburgh businesses but it is still only a partial grant so businesses will still have to fund a substantial portion of the improvements themselves - <https://investinargyllandbute.co.uk/shopfront-improvement-grant-2025/> Deadline for applications is 21 November 2025

Christmas Lights - Vivien Dance reported that the Festive Lights charity had installed all the lights and were completing final testing so on target for switch on event on 22nd November 2025

HCC is working with the British Legion in organising Helensburgh's Annual Service of Remembrance Sunday 9th November Helensburgh Hermitage Park, Memorial Garden
Members of the public will gather in Hermitage Park Memorial Garden from 10.20 am to be in place by 10:40 am.
Volunteers from HCC to assist on day Norman McNally, Paula Mckintosh, Elizabeth Lambert, Cllr Fiona Holland's offer to help was gratefully accepted.

Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 27th November 2025 at 7pm, Civic Centre.