



Minutes of HCC Monthly Meeting - 26 February 2026- Civic Centre Annex 7pm

The meeting was chaired by Peter Brown

Welcome

Present for HCC: Cameron Foy, Norman McNally, Richard Trail, Joanna Pryce, Roger Clarke, Tariq Durrani, Elizabeth Lambert, Peter Brown. Stewart Steel, Nigel Millar, Polly Jones, Stewart Noble, David Sinclair.

Argyll and Bute Councillors present: Fiona Howard, Paul Kennedy, Math Campbell-Sturgess, Maurice Corry.

Apologies: Irina Agostinelli, Paula McInotsh.

Public in person: 12

Minutes of Last Meeting/Declaration of Interest

Approved/None.

Reports

Convenor - Discussed was the report of the A&BC council tax increase of 9.7% and where the proposed increase is to be spent. Update from Hermitage Primary's annex site – due to the new budget the site is now on the asset disposal list meaning the site is under council review and funding options are no longer available to save and update the area for use as a playground. Councillors have requested a review of the school estate in relation to the expansion of HMNB Clyde and HSDF plans.

Police - circulated to members.

Leisure Centre – Leisure centre update on council website, available for all to read, the March 31st date will not be made but the redesign of the roof is complete, and updates will be issued fortnightly after the roof works start. Councillors were asked if there was a working date, there is no provisional date for completion at the moment. Swimming Club has confirmed the loss of most of their swimmers due to the lack of facilities. Public member asked if an update can be put on social media. Polly asked if the prices would go up, Cllr Howard replied that there is no intention to put prices up.

Waterfront – Convenor asked for volunteers to collect at least for 100 petition signatures to allow HCC to raise a motion at the Co-ops AGM to be submitted by the end of next week to ask the Co-op to listen to the community's viewpoint to not pursue a supermarket on the waterfront. The petition has been submitted.

Secretary - Current Consultations - [Community Justice Plan consultation | Argyll and Bute Council](#) close 13/03/26

[Health and Social Care Partnership \(HSCP\) – budget savings consultation | Argyll and Bute Council](#) close 12/03/26

Diary dates:

Area meeting Tues 10th March 9:30am Civic Centre

Ardencaple Beach Clean – Big Clyde Clean Up - Saturday 14th March at 10 a.m.

Helensburgh Pier Beach Clean - Saturday 21st March at 10.00 a.m. Helensburgh and Lomond

Community Planning Partnership Meeting Tues 12th May 10am Civic Centre.

Treasurer – Circulated and approved.

Planning – Circulated and discussed. No objection from HCC for the proposed new hotel at the Peckham's site. Discussion regarding potential large planning submissions in regard to HSDF, Nigel proposes involving the design group to bring in their expertise.

Resilience and Emergency Plan – Presentation by Norman McNally about the HCC Resilience and Emergency plan. The subgroup identified ways to build resilience, focusing on solving problems and realistic goals in the Helensburgh area. Points covered were; time targets for community resilience, the methods of delivering this to the community, where support would come from and the things that might go wrong, the main challenges we might face such as weather, pandemic, flooding, electrical failure, transport, cyber, industrial/pollution, contamination, animal and plant health. Top listed concerns for Helensburgh were storms, flooding, low temps, snow and ice transport disruption and surface water. Map showing predicted flood areas due to Climate Change. Next steps are to find a structure and what is realistic for preparation, meeting with neighbouring community councils preparing similar plans and develop project timing, and funding. Update at next meeting.

Report on AI

Presented by Tariq – Presented a programme to raise awareness of AI and its applications for the local community. Proposed is a programme to ensure residents, businesses and public services can benefit from new technology and give the tools to build confidence in using AI through workshops, demonstrations and hands on activities.

HCC agreed to advertise the sessions, but programme will run by the rotary club. Tariq will look into funding out with the HCC.

Questions from Public

Concerns that Helensburgh is underfunded by Argyll and Bute Council, in comparison to other areas in Argyll and Bute. Fiona Howard advised where details on the expenditure of the Council can be found on the Council website.

Is there an update on Helensburgh Pier? – discussions are still ongoing surrounding lease and reopening. We will try and invite the group to come to a future meeting to update us.

Any Other Business

Banking hub, The Banking Hub has opened the temporary office in the Civic Centre 9-5 Monday to Friday. With bank Rota Monday Royal Bank of Scotland, Tuesday Santander. Counter services: Cash withdrawal, Deposit cash, deposit cheques, pay utility bills, check account balance, collect change for registered businesses. BOS have extended closure until 24th march.

Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 26 March 2026 7pm Civic Centre.