



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

The meeting was chaired by Peter Brown.

Welcome

Present for HCC: Nigel Millar, Cameron Foy, Norman McNally, Richard Trail, Joanna Pryce, Roger Clarke, Tariq Durrani, Peter Brown, Paula McIntosh, Stewart Noble, David Sinclair.

Argyll and Bute Councillors present: Fiona Howard, Paul Kennedy, Maurice Corry.

Apologies: Irina Agostinelli, Elizabeth Lambert, Stewart Steel, Polly Jones.

Public in person: 17

Declaration of interest/Minutes of Last Meeting

None/Approved with amendment regarding potential large planning submissions in regard to HSDF, Nigel proposed that the design subgroup was brought in to report back given their expertise. Polly Jones recommended that, with HSDF having such a significant potential impact on the town, all discussions at this early stage should remain with the full HCC and discussions on HSDF should be at full HCC meetings, not a subgroup. Cameron Foy seconded Polly's motion, the chair agreed with no objections.

Hermitage Academy Parent Council

Postponed until next month.

Introductions/Questions from the Public

Convenor

Discussed was LDP3 survey, recommended that a local councillor should be involved regarding Faslane expansion. HCC AGM due in May, public encouraged to join and be cooped to the HCC. Outdoor museum asking for designs, 3 drop-in consultations dated 31 March, 9 April and 11 April. Shape your community surveys open until 13 April and public encouraged to comment and voice concerns about the waterfront supermarket and retail proposals. Cllr Fiona Howard added public can contact her if anyone has trouble accessing or navigating the survey. All information for surveys can be found on the A&BC website.

Questions from public

Colin Thompson asked about the flooding risk to Helensburgh and if it really such a big risk as feared – response from room was yes.

Vivian Dance ask Why should we fill in surveys when all responses have been ignored in previous surveys. Also asked HCC to write to the Festive Lights Trust in support of the lights project 25th anniversary of local charity. Also requests HCC writes to A&BC in support that any changes to Colquhoun Square considers the need for access for large vehicles with hoists to install and remove the festive lights on the lamp standards.

Reports

Police – No report sent. Highlighted Road Smart event at the Civic Centre 19 April 10am-3pm.

Leisure Centre/Waterfront – Leisure Centre updates are on council website, 40% of phase 1 work is complete. No date of completion or revised opening date at the moment.

Waterfront campaign - thanks to everyone who signed petition, 137 signatures were provided to coop but only 84 qualifying so motion cannot proceed to their AGM.

No change in judicial review.

Secretary – Items discussed:

Active Travel Consultation. [Active Travel Strategy Consultation | Argyll and Bute Council](#)

Outdoor Play Consultation for Adults [Outdoor play survey for parents, carers and other adults | Argyll and Bute Council](#)

and Under 18's. [Outdoor play survey for children | Argyll and Bute Council](#)

Everyone is being asked to complete the Place Standard Tool. [Completing the Place Standard Tool | Argyll and Bute Council](#)

Consultation for LDP3 on Website closes on April 13th. Discussion on LDP3 Surveys including Playparks, the Place Standard Tool and Topic Papers - Norman McNally concerned these undermine or even ignore the recently submitted Local Place Plan. Dory Reeves (member of the Public, co-opted on the LPP subgroup), asked if A&BC could explain how they will actually use Local Place Plans in Local Development Plans.

Also discussed - Cameron Foy continues to work with Cllr Fiona Howard on the issue of bus parking being allocated for visiting coaches. Elizabeth Lambert is supporting the community around parking issues especially within the town centre area. There is a lack of clarity with signs and markings indicating legitimate parking areas or parking restrictions. The broken benches in Colquhoun Square have been cleaned. The restoration of the stepping stone path along the waterfront grassed area and restoration grass and paved areas is ongoing. Local volunteer, Andrew Stocks, started work on the stepping stones. The issue of the bus shelter in East Princes Street is ongoing as is the repair and replaced playpark equipment at Kidston and Hermitage. Support for Kirkmichael Community Development Group in their efforts to improve the play area at Kirkmichael AGM Sat 28th March 10am 41 Townhead Rd.

Dates for diary

Helensburgh East Bay Beach Clean - Saturday 18th April at 10.00 a.m.

HCC Meeting Thursday 30th April 7pm Civic Centre.

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

Helensburgh and Lomond Area meeting Tues 9th June 9:30am Civic Centre

Treasurer – Report circulated and approved with agreements for £242.75 for Clan Colquhoun Pipe Band following assurances given by Nigel Miller and Tariq Durani, enabling them to wind up the fund and close down HCC's Music in the Square initiative. and £200 for resilience group expenses for next 6 months. Both approved.

Planning – 3 planning applications. Porch extension on Mains Avenue, extension to property in Duncan Ave and a new property on West Abercrombie Street, all recommended for approval.

Twining

Public Invite to Twining Association AGM 29th 7.30pm April Victoria Halls. They are recruiting new members to join the organisation from HCC and public and new committee members to help organise fundraisers.

JLBT100

Exhibition scheduled for 9-27 April, daily 10am-4pm at Burgh Yard, volunteers wanted. Free festival event scheduled for 25th April - 12-5.30pm in the square, and 7-9.30pm in Helensburgh Parish Church. More information can be found at <https://jlbtv100.org/event-directory/>

Any Other Business

Cllr Fiona Howard asked for support from the HCC to ask that an elected representative for Helensburgh (the chair of H&L Area Committee or a local elected member appointed by the chair) be involved in the discussion regarding the MOD expansion of Faslane. Agreed by HCC. Vivian Dance said that A&BC should be put aside a maintenance fund for small jobs as we are relying on volunteers to do some jobs around the town.

Date of Next Meeting 30

30 April Civic Centre 7pm