

Minard Community Trust – AGM and Ordinary Meeting Minutes

Wednesday 4th March 2026

People Present:

Brian Barker (Chair), Margaret Moncur (Treasurer), Jinnie Davis, Magda Krause (Argyll & Bute Council), Silvia Jost, Tracey Ferguson, Becs Barker (Minutes), Colin Moncur

Apologies:

Anne Paterson

Chair's Address

Brian thanked the many volunteers who contribute so much to village life, including (but not limited to):

1. The regular volunteers who organise and run the coffee mornings.
2. Colin, Paul, Donald and friends for keeping the village tidy, maintaining community spaces, and supporting the Jubilee Garden.
3. Paul for his excellent catering, especially at the barbecues.
4. Anne for organising Gardener's Question Time, along with the panel of experts.
5. Theresa for running the craft group.
6. The gardening group for planting up the Jubilee Garden and organising plant swaps.
7. The Duck Derby volunteers, who made the day such a success.
8. Maria, Julie, Liz, Jinnie and Margaret for their excellent organisation of the panto.
9. Everyone who took part in the beach clean.
10. Fire Service volunteers for their help in the Duck Derby and Bonfire Night.
11. Becs for facilitating the Big Conversation.
12. West Loch Fyne Community Council, especially for managing the windfarm grants.
13. Everyone else not mentioned individually but equally appreciated and thanked.

The purpose of Minard Community Trust was noted as being to care for village assets, including the Village Hall, shop, Jubilee Garden, and several small parcels of land within the village.

Acknowledgement and thanks were given to the estate of Moira for the generous donation of the bench in the Jubilee Garden.

Annual Finance Report

Margaret presented the annual accounts, which were approved by those present.

Additional Thanks

Further thanks were extended to Brian and Margaret by others in attendance for the extensive work they undertake on behalf of the Trust, including applying for grants and managing the day-to-day responsibilities of the organisation. Margaret contributes so much to organising village activities, applying for grants and for keeping the Hall clean and tidy.

Recently, this work has also included exploring options regarding the future of the school. Brian gathered and presented findings to support informed discussion and decision-making within the community.

The AGM was then concluded, and the meeting moved on to ordinary business.

School

Those present agreed that progressing with the development of a community-led initiative for the school was not viable and should therefore not be pursued. The community owns the strip of land at the front and side of the school, bordering Achagoyle and the A83. The land is underused and there may be future costs for upkeep. There is potential to sell the land, either in conjunction with the Council when they sell the school or separately. No decision was made regarding the land. Options will be discussed in more detail at future community meetings. Brian will update the Council.

Unpaid Work

Magda Krause joined the meeting in her role as Unpaid Work Coordinator for Argyll & Bute Council's Criminal Justice Department. Magda outlined how individuals undertaking unpaid work could support tasks within the village. Those present agreed that this would be very welcome and thanked Magda for her offer.

Bridge Works

The path leading to the new bridge on the Circuit requires attention. Magda's team will work with the Trust to complete this work.

Village Hall

The Trust is currently seeking quotes for maintenance and upgrades to the Village Hall, including lowering the ceiling, improving insulation, and installing new heating. Magda's team may also be able to assist with tasks such as decorating.

SSEN Community Benefit Fund

SSEN has asked Minard Community Trust to administer the Community Benefit Fund for local use in the West Loch Fyne area (SSEN are not allowed to do this via community councils). The Community Trust can still access the funds. SSEN will provide more details and the Community Trust will have to devise a fair and transparent application process based on the guidance from SSEN. Agreement was reached to proceed with this responsibility.

Sauna Proposal

Silvia Jost presented a proposal to establish a small business operating a wood-fuelled sauna on the foreshore (Trust land). She shared a business case and offered a community benefit, including the potential donation of 10% of income to the Community Trust. Those present recognised the benefits of the proposal and agreed to support Silvia. A site visit with Trust members will take place in the coming days.

Dates for the Diary

- Panto booked for **16 January 2027**
- Duck Derby and Plant/Seed Swap provisionally agreed for **11 April**
- A **Big Conversation** to be offered in **April/May**