

Kilmacolm and Quarriers Civic Trust

Minutes of Meeting of the Executive Committee

Date – 29h January 2026 at 7.00pm

Location – Cargill Centre

In Attendance

Nicol Cameron (Chair)

Douglas Robin

Graeme Andrew

Jim Hood

Derrick Russell

Claire Jamieson

John Hunter

Niamh Gaston

Fraser McAlister

Esther Brombley

Apologies

Scott McFie

Audrey Johnstone

Hazel Thomson

Jonathon McCready-Colville

Hazel McEvoy

Brian Lang

1.0 Minutes of 25th November 2025

1.1 Derrick stated that the item on free membership would require to be formally confirmed by the Committee before it could be

publicised. This item was, therefore, fully dealt with later on under Membership.

1.2 Otherwise, the minutes were approved.

Items for Noting

2.0 Treasurer's Report

2.1 The latest accounts, which had been previously circulated, were approved.

2.2 Membership income for the current year was in the region of £2,180. It was noted that the life membership income was falling.

2.3 John confirmed that he had had some preliminary discussions with Scott on the matter of investment income. John suggested that a small ad hoc sub committee be established to discuss this matter and report back to the Committee. Membership to be agreed.

3.0 Archivist's Report

3.1 Digitisation continues. Derrick and Jim will arrange for the completed images to be added to the Trust Archive.

3.2 It was noted that of late there had been a number of enquires about specific houses from those with a Kilmacolm connection. Derrick could only refer such requests to the Archive, as detailed information, like who lived where when, or who is the person in a particular photograph etc, could not be answered.

3.3 Derrick has arranged a small display of available books in the KCT glass cabinet near the lift on the first floor of the Cargill Centre.

4.0 Audio Visual Project

4.1 The McGarva project was now available, that apart, there was nothing to report.

4.2 Still looking for a subject from Quarriers.

5.0 Membership Report

5.1 There was considerable discussion on the merits of making membership free. On the one hand the Trust would lose annual income of some £2,100. On the other, the likelihood is that membership would increase and interest in the work of the Trust broadened.

5.2 The Committee was reminded that it had received a substantial donation from an admirer of the work of the Trust and the proposal would likely be in the spirit of that donation.

5.3 There would, of course, be operational expenses, room hire, AGM costs etc also to be borne from reserves. This could be mitigated by suggesting that current annual fees continue to be made as voluntary donations. Also, while not guaranteed, investment income over the longer term could perform positively.

5.4 On balance, the Committee agreed to a trial period of five years, to gauge the effect on membership numbers and Trust finances.

5.5 The Secretary and others will draft a procedural guide to how the new policy might be applied.

Items for Discussion

6.0 Place Plan

6.1 There continued to be a lack of progress on the Plan. The Scottish Government had returned the Council's submission on how they should deal with local Place Plans. The deadline now appears to be April to agree a Plan for the Council, which is a very tight timescale. The Steering Group continues to do what background work they can in the absence of an outline of the Place Plan.

6.3 It was noted that an outline of how the Plan might look, e.g. introduction, chapter headings, summary, conclusions, appendices etc would be very helpful to the considerations of the Group.

6.4 Representatives of the Steering Group have a meeting with Planning officials from Inverclyde Council in the near future to discuss the current status of Inverclyde Place Plans.

7.0 Planning

- Cottage 19, Quarriers

It was confirmed that the Planning Appeal had been successful. The next stage for the applicant was to apply to the Council for consent for an HMO licence.

In this connection see paper prepared by representatives of Quarriers residents opposed to the proposal, attached. The objections relate to, for example,

- wrong location for such a proposal, lack of support, limited track record of the applicant with regard to this type of proposal.

- **Balrossie**

There continued to be uncertainty over the proposals for the site, 64 houses? Whatever the number, it would help contribute to the anticipated number of houses to be imposed on Kilmacolm/Quarriers in the Local Development Plan. The Smithy Brae site, being contaminated land, would be an unlikely development site in the short to medium term.

8.0 New Committee Member

8.1 Nicol introduced Alan Grant who wished to join the Committee. Alan gave a resume of his professional background, property and marketing mostly in England.

8.2 The committee members were happy to formally confirm Alan as a Committee member.

9.0 A G M

9.1 Graeme outlined a modified talk format, with the assistance of John Watson, for the A G M which is likely to suit Frank Walker. It will be an interactive presentation with slides.

9.2 The A G M is now confirmed for 29th April, 7.0 pm.

10.0 Any Other Business

10.1 Jim asked to be advised of any usability difficulties with the Trust website, although it was noted that he would not be able to resolve issues that relate specifically to mobile devices.

11.0 Date of Next Meeting

11.1 The next meeting was agreed for 11th March, 7.0 pm, Cargill Centre.

Distribution;

All those attending plus,

Scott McFie

Audrey Johnstone

Hazel Thomson

Jonathon McCready-Colville

Hazel McEvoy

Brian Lang

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