

GARGUNNOCK COMMUNITY COUNCIL MINUTES

**Gargunnoch Community Council Meeting
Monday 11 March 2019 Garden Room Gargunnoch Community Centre**

Members Present: - Jeremy Wilkinson (Chairman), Julie Cole; Charlie Fitches; David King; Lovat MacGregor; Christine Phillips; Helen Rowell and Douglas Barr.

In attendance: Four residents, Councillor Graham Lambie, PC Gary Martin, Pam Campbell and Fraser Sinclair.

Apologies: Jon Sutherland and Councillor Rob Davies

1. Apologies

Jeremy opened the meeting by welcoming everyone. Jeremy noted apologies for Cllr Rob Davies and Jon Sutherland.

2. Declarations of Interest

None declared.

3. Adoption of Previous Minutes

Minutes of January's meeting were accepted.

4. Matters Arising

Jeremy reviewed the minutes and covered the following as matters arising:

Insurance

Jeremy confirmed that he had provided the following list of Community Council assets to Stirling Council for insurance purposes: Defibrillator, Telephone box (used to house the Defibrillator), Noticeboard, Christmas Tree & Lights.

Stirling Council have offered the possibility of increasing "Trustee Liability" coverage from £250,000 to £1,000,000 for a cost of approx. £20/year. After discussion and input from Pam Campbell, the Community Council agreed to request this increased cover.

Action: Jeremy to request the increased cover.

Notice board

It was discussed that the community council are looking to procure a notice board for the village to share council information from minutes of the meeting, Cllr information, Police Report and other community news. Jeremy pulled together some quotes and they have roughly come in at £2600 (including installation).

Grant requests have been submitted to Stirling Council's Community Pride Fund (for £1,500) and to the Gargunnoch Windfarm Fund (for £1,100).

The grant request to the Windfarm Fund has been rejected for the following reasons:

1. Other media exist for informing residents (website and The Bugle).
2. Existing noticeboard could be better managed with a dedicated section for Community Council, and the removal of adverts more timeously.
3. Lack of consultation with residents in George Place.
4. Not clear if planning permission is required.

Pam advised that there are other grants that could be applied for to assist with procuring the notice board. Pam did advise the outcome of the Community Pride Fund will be announced next week. Jeremy and the members agreed to await the outcome of this funding application and Jeremy will go back and discuss with the Wind Farm Fund Panel about negotiating or reducing the size of the notice board to seek whether this would be deemed appropriate by the Wind Farm Fund.

Action: Jeremy to follow up with Wind Farm Fund also await outcome of the application process with the Stirling Council application.

Julie suggested using the back of the current notice board.

Pam confirmed for the notice board that planning permission is not required, just Council approval – Pam confirmed this approval is given. Lovat asked if any discussion had been had with neighbours. Jeremy confirmed that he had now done this and they were quite happy with the proposal.

Uneven Steps on the South Side of Main Street

Jeremy did a site visit and clarified the steps in question. Jeremy put in a formal complaint through Stirling Council. The response back was that Stirling Council had been on site to inspect the steps and that they will upgrade the steps in the new financial year (starting April 2019) as a part of a wider programme of works.

Decaying Trees Overhanging Road

Helen gave an update advising that she is in discussions with Touch Estate and Galbraiths (for Gargunnoch Estate) regarding the trees requiring attention. The factor from Touch Estate is going to remove the branch that is overhanging. Helen went back to Galbraiths and they have indicated that the road has to be closed for removal. They advised they will be back in contact in the next few days but advised they should have this removed this year.

Rats

Cllr Lambie advised that for rodent removal there is a cost of £66 per rodent. David confirmed the location and advised that it is a communal area in George Place. Councillor Lambie confirmed he would follow up with Safer Communities.

Action: Councillor Lambie to follow up with Safer Communities.

Shooting Activity

Following January's meeting, another complaint has been received regarding the noise from shooting activities. The group agreed the season is now over but problem will likely re-commence next winter. Problem will be raised with Stirling Council if concerns persist for the next season.

Gate at Sawmill Cottage

The gate is allowing pedestrian access (ie it is not locked), and there are alternative routes that can be used to by-pass the gate, however, Julie added that anyone using a wheelchair, pram, bikes horses etc it's not wide enough to allow them through. Jeremy will raise this concern at the next Stirling Area Local Access Forum that monitors implementation of the Land Reform Act. Councillor Lambie suggested that Jeremy gets it on the panel forum for discussion on 21 March.

Action: Jeremy put forward for agenda discussion at Panel Forum on 21 March.

Replacement of Storm-Damaged Bus Shelter on A811 at Mains Cottage

The new shelter is in place. Jeremy thanked the Council for their prompt action. Douglas raised concerns about the hedge borders to which the bus shelter backs onto. The hedge is considerably higher at one corner than the rest of the hedge which does not allow you to see the bus coming from the west side of the village. Councillor Lambie knows the owner of that field and is happy to discuss with her.

Action: Councillor Lambie to discuss with field owner about reducing height of hedge.

Jeremy pointed out that there is a redundant post (old bus stop sign) which is sitting in front of the bus shelter. Jeremy actioned Lovat if he could liaise with Roads Dept. for them to remove it.

Action: Lovat to liaise with Land Services about removal of post.

5a. Police Report

PC Martin circulated his report and discussed the content. PC Martin discussed that following on from the last meeting it was agreed to do a trial surgery in Gargunnoch. PC Martin advised that they recently did this in Drymen and no one attended.

The Community Council has agreed to pay for a room at the Community Centre for the surgery.

Jon had emailed PC Graham regarding paying of the community room and dates. There was no clarity of a date as yet. Jeremy actioned Jon to follow up with Police to confirm date. Jeremy agreed that the Community Council will advertise the surgery date when confirmed (using poster supplied by Police Scotland).

Action: Jon to confirm dates with Police Scotland and Jeremy will arrange advertising when confirmed.

Lovat suggested that it would be beneficial if on the poster they gave a few examples of what can be discussed with the Police to give residents an indication of what can be covered in the surgery with the Police.

PC Graham had emailed to ask of any community events happening this year. Jeremy stated that Jon has responded to advise that there is the Agricultural Show, Gala Day and Beer Festival. Jeremy advised that Jon will have sent the email to the Police of the dates but will confirm with Jon.

Action: Jeremy to confirm with Jon that email with events and dates has been sent to Police Scotland.

Resident brought up with the Police dangerous parking opposite the village shop on George Place to which the car is half on the pavement half on the road which is a risk to pedestrians and obstructing views. The resident passed on the details to PC Martin and he will follow up.

Action: PC Martin to follow up with resident.

5b. Elected Member

Councillor Davies submitted a report and noted his apologies. Jeremy read out Councillor Davies update to the group.

Councillor Lambie circulated his report and discussed the items listed below:

White lining and cats eyes on A811

Councillor Lambie has been told that this was completed, however, he is not sure if it's been completed correctly and will follow up.

Action: Councillor Lambie to receive confirmation of completed works.

Wider discussion was had about entering and exiting the village at the junction of Station Road and the A811, and that there is a significant risk to traffic coming in and out of the village. It was agreed that discussions need to be had about different options that could be factored in such as deceleration/acceleration lanes. Julie suggested that all information regarding accidents, near misses, speed recording needs to be looked into and that specialists need to come and monitor the area. Councillor Lambie agreed and will follow up with Carlyn Fraser (Stirling Council) on what could be achieved.

Action: Councillor Lambie to liaise with Carlyn Fraser.

It was discussed that a Participation Request submitted to the Council would be the best method to achieve an outcome for safety concerns at the junction of Station Road and the A811. Pam explained that the Community Council would work with the Gargunock community to gather people's opinions, and then submit their request to Stirling Council. Pam suggested that the Community Council review Strathblane's recent submission. Pam will ask Strathblane if they are happy to share their material with Gargunock Community Council.

Action: Pam to ask Strathblane if they would be willing to share information to Gargunock about Participate Request.

Upgrading of the A811 Road to Trunk Status

Stephen Kerr MP is campaigning to change this road into a Trunk Road so that there would be more investment, ensuring the road is maintained to a high standard and road safety improved. The Community Council agreed to support this campaign. Jeremy will communicate our support to Mr Kerr.

Action: Jeremy to email Stephen Kerr.

Transport

Trial £50K has been granted for a Sunday Bus Service which will start at Balfron and come through Gargunnock before going onto Stirling and Forth Valley Royal. It will commence in the summer and be trialled until the following summer. Formal announcements will be coming out shortly.

Road Repair Priorities

Wider discussion was had regarding the state of the roads in our area and was agreed with the new financial year coming in that our concerns should be added to the priority list for the roads team.

6a. Chair Report

Douglas and Jeremy attended a meeting on 21st January organised by the Community Engagement Team from Stirling Council for representatives from community organisations. Objective of the meeting was to meet senior managers of the "People, Planning & Performance" team at SC. Results of Stirling Council's `The Big Conversation` relating to financial budgeting were discussed. Jeremy has a copy of the report from The Big Conversation – if anyone wishes to review it.

Douglas and Jeremy attended a Citizenship Ceremony at Old Viewforth on 30th January for a resident of Gargunnock who has recently become a citizen of the United Kingdom.

David and Jeremy met with Land Services regarding Stirling Council's planned "deep clean" of Gargunnock village streets and park areas.

Jeremy met with Bruce Crawford at his surgery on 12 February and had a general discussion which included the poor condition of the A811 and general road conditions around the village. Mr Crawford is also supporting the discussions on a new path from Stirling to Loch Lomond. Resident asked if the path would also be cycle user friendly too. Jeremy stated that although discussions are at an early stage, it is likely that it would be a multi-user path.

6b. Secretary Report (and Correspondence)

Public Notice has been issued by Stirling Council for a Public Procession on Saturday 15th June (Gargunnock Gala Day)

An invitation has been received to attend a meeting of the Licensing Forum on 22 March.

An invitation to respond to the Draft Developers Contributions Supplementary Guidance has been received. Anyone is welcome to review or comment. Pam clarified that this is part of the Stirling Local Development Plan, the purpose of the guidance is to do with Section 75.

Information has been received from Home Energy Scotland.

Invitation received for NHS Forth Valley Annual Review event on 13th March.

Stirling Council holding engagement sessions on “Community Energy Priorities – there are drop-in sessions in Balfron, Stirling and Callander.

Invitation received to a consultation on “Fireworks in Scotland”.

Discussion was had regarding emails which had been circulated regarding MP Stephen Kerr and his latest campaign which is community safety in connection with doorstep callers and what procedure to follow. Stephen also submitted flyers with his contact detail which Jeremy distributed around the table to all. His contact details are already displayed on the village noticeboard.

6c. Treasurer Report

Douglas reported that the process of changing the signatories of our Royal Bank of Scotland account continues and will comply with our decision to remove the current signatories (Edmond Robert Mansion, Robert Maitland Clark and Carolyn Ann Rivers) and replace them with John Douglas Barr, Jon Sutherland and Christine Phyllis Phillips.

Looking at the accounts for the Financial Year 17/18, balance at year-end was £517.45. Primary source of income for this year has been from Stirling Council. Expenditure has covered such items as Fireworks, Christmas Lights and Hall Bookings. Douglas reviewed the paperwork and saw that a payment of £250 was being made yearly as a contribution to Gargunnock Community Trust for the village website. Discussion was had and the Council agreed that we will review this payment later and not pay just now.

Current balance is £639.37

Douglas and Pam discussed that the Community Council accounts need to be independently examined. The group discussed and agreed that Duncan Leask who had been doing them before would remain the reviewer of the accounts.

6d. Planning/Licensing Report

Leckie Estate – Estate Office & Parking Area: Appeal from Leckie Estate to the Scottish Government (requesting that Stirling Council’s refusal to grant planning permission should be over-turned) is currently under review by the reporter.

Julie advised of one new planning application. Ardleckie (Leckie Road) are looking to put a raised deck on the first floor. No impact on any residents or issues. Other items of Planning had been covered in Councillor Lambie report.

6e. Roads and Transport Report

Lovat received communication back from Angela McGibbon and Kenny Sneddon. With budgets being reviewed all of the requests submitted by the community council will all be factored in to the new financial year in April 2019.

The refurbishment lining works at The Square will be done very quickly.

The group discussed speeding in the village and what measures could be put in to prevent this from happening. Speed surveys have been carried out and it was all agreed that they await the outcome of the recent ones before progressing with anything else.

If the outcome of the speeding reports are high then funding may be made available. If not, then the Community Council can explore other options and apply to the Wind Farm along with Stirling Council. There is electrical supply to current ports for the old poles and could invest in it. Options are available.

The school will be getting the white/yellow zig zag lines. Julie advised that a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) needs to be put in place otherwise it cannot be enforced if cars double park there. Pam agreed and will follow up.

Action: Pam to follow up with Roads Team and Safer Communities.

Lovat advised everyone in attendance that Stirling Council have upgraded their website and there are many forms for requests or reporting of problems. It is advised that anyone wishing to raise concerns (eg pot holes) do so through the formal process via the website.

6f. Defibrillator Report

Charles tabled his report. It was agreed that either the Community Centre or the school would be best placed to house additional defibrillators.

Jeremy confirmed that Gargunnock Community Trust (as owners of the Community Centre) have agreed to allow a defibrillator to be installed on the outside of the Community Centre (facing onto Leckie Road). The Trust have confirmed that they will arrange installation of the Defibrillator (and charge any installation costs back to the Community Council), and will pay the on-going electrical running costs. The Trust understands that the Gargunnock Community Council will:

1. Obtain funding for the defibrillator, purchase the unit, and retain ownership.
2. Arrange all necessary insurance coverage.
3. Provide day-to-day management, inspection, maintenance and re-stocking of the Defibrillator.
4. Provide training on the use of the Defibrillator.

Pam will email Asset Management about requesting whether a Defibrillator be installed at the Gargunnock Primary School.

Action: Pam to liaise with Asset Management about Gargunnock Primary.

Charles confirmed that familiarisation training for the existing defibrillator is scheduled for Sunday 14th April (from 2:00pm – 5:00pm) and welcomes volunteers to attend. Notice about the training has been posted on the noticeboard. Charles to also send details to Helen who will publicise on social media.

Action: Charles send details to Helen who will put onto Social Media.

7. Community Council Business

Invitation received to the Rural South West Area Forum to be held at Balfron High School on Monday 18th March. Meeting will provide information on Stirling's road maintenance programme, and the "Your Stirling – You Decide" – participatory budgeting process. Meeting is open to representatives of any community groups. Douglas and Jeremy will attend the Forum on behalf of the Community Council.

Each of the seven Stirling Council Wards has been allocated £100K to go towards improvements to Infrastructure and Environment under the Participatory budget process.

The campaign `Your Stirling – You Decide` is to propose projects to the Council. Anyone of high school age and above who lives or works in the Ward can propose ideas. Discussion was had on some examples of how the monies could be spent in the area. Jeremy proposed the installation of a village gateway on Leckie Road with priority narrowing of the road (to reduce speed of traffic entering the village) and a new village entrance sign.

Deadline for submission is 14 April. Jeremy requested that any ideas or suggestions that Councillors wished to be submitted by the Community Council should be sent to him by 7 April. Residents should submit their ideas on the Stirling Council website.

Action: Any ideas from Councillors for participatory budgeting projects by the GCC should be emailed to Jeremy who will compile for discussion.

Action: Jeremy to post "Your Stirling – You Decide" poster on noticeboard, and send copy to Helen Rowell for the GCC facebook page.

8. AOB

Excessive Number of Pheasants in the Village

Julie raised complaints received from neighbours regarding large number of pheasants damaging their gardens. Pam will raise with Environmental Services and seek what advice they would give.

Action: Pam to follow up with colleagues in Environmental Services and seek guidance.

After-School Community Bus

Resident raised and discussed the need for an Afterschool Community Bus. The discussion was had by all in relation to funding, management/control, potential user groups, schools, etc. Pam acknowledged that Killin have a Community Bus. Pam agreed with resident to send contact details to the resident if they wish to make contact with organisers of the Killin bus on what steps would need to be taken. Lovat confirmed with the resident that he is more than happy to support the process.

Action: Resident and Lovat to arrange and discuss further about a potential community bus.

Poor Lighting behind the Drop-in Centre at the Community Centre

Resident raised concern about the lack of lighting behind the drop-in centre making access to Charlie's Loan footpath difficult at night.

Action: Jeremy will raise with the Community Trust?

Access across field from Leckie Road to Kepdarroch Farm

Resident raised concern about missing footpath from Leckie Road to Kepdarroch farm.

Action: Jeremy to investigate.

Lack of Affordable Housing

Resident discussed the lack of affordable housing in the area. The group had a wide discussion about this and it was agreed that the community council cannot assist with this and it would be a conversation needed to be had outwith.

11. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 13 May 2019 at 7.30pm in the Garden Room, Gargunnock Community Hall