

GARGUNNOCK COMMUNITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Gargunnock Community Council Meeting

Monday 27th January 2020
(rescheduled – 13th Jan was cancelled due to powercut)

Garden Room Gargunnock Community Centre

Members Present: - Jeremy Wilkinson (Chairman), Jon Sutherland; Julie Cole; Charlie Fitches; Lovat MacGregor; Helen Rowell and Douglas Barr.

In attendance: Seven local residents, Councillor Alistair Berrill.

Apologies: David King, Christine Philips, Police Scotland.

1. Apologies

Jeremy opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and noted apologies.

2. Declarations of Interest

Jeremy declared that one of his neighbours has submitted a planning application.

3. Adoption of Previous Minutes

The minutes of November's meeting were accepted and approved by CC Members.

4. Matters Arising

Gargunnock CC Noticeboard

Total cost for the noticeboard is estimated to be £2,600. A grant of £1,500 has been received from Stirling Council Community Pride Fund, but a condition of this grant is that expenditure must be completed by 13 March 2020. Jeremy reported that the application for a grant from the Windfarm Trust for the remaining amount had been rejected. Robertson Trust grant was not applied for as criteria not met. The Gargunnock Community Trust has agreed to help provide outstanding funds. Advertising Consent from Stirling Council for installation of the noticeboard is required.

Action: JW to apply to Stirling Council for Advertising Consent and obtain advice on delaying the expenditure from the Community Pride Fund.

Gate at Sawmill Cottage

A letter to the owner has been prepared raising residents' concerns about access. There was discussion on recent incident where an ambulance going to Knock-o-Ronald farm could not pass the gate and the paramedic had to walk the rest of the way. Additional discussion on actual purpose of gate.

Action: JW to contact owner for face-to-face discussion.

Abandoned Vehicle on Main St.

Car has been moved. Issue closed.

Bus Service

Jeremy has responded to request from Arnprior CC giving support from Gargunock Community Council for Arnprior's recent Participation Request to Stirling Council. The Participation Request asked that Arnprior Community Council and Stirling Council work together to jointly develop a bus service for the western villages that best matches the needs of residents within the resources available to Stirling Council

Rest Garden

Stirling Council have agreed to resolve the tripping hazard in the Rest Garden that was recently reported by a resident. SC will remove paving slabs where they have been disturbed by tree roots, and level the remaining uneven slabs.

Woodland Creation.

A representative from Leckie Estate has been in contact concerning plans for woodland generation and had asked for our views on paths used by the public in this area. JW responded and identified the well-used paths/roads and tracks through the area.

Members of the public at the meeting raised the following concerns on the impact of the tree planting:

- 1). Deer fencing around the proposed woodland would force the deer to move to adjacent land, potentially causing damage.
- 2). The species of trees proposed for the area adjacent to Wester Leckie were poisonous to horses.
- 3). The proposed woodland may cause damage or disturbance to archaeological and historic features in the area. It appears that an archaeological study may not have been performed.
- 4). The water in the reservoir and burn has turned green.

Actions: The resident agreed to contact SEPA about the water quality in the reservoir and burn. Jeremy will contact Stirling Council's archaeologist to make sure he is aware of the proposed woodland development.

Car Share Scheme

Correspondence from Stirling Council was that it is being investigated.

Car Chargers

Suggestion that parking place opposite pub should be considered as a possible location for chargers. However, as this would reduce the number of available parking spaces, it was agreed that the residents and pub owners should be consulted

Action: Lovat to gather views from residents and business owners adjacent to the proposed location.

Road Safety at Junction of Station Road and A811.

Cllr Berrill met with roads department. Official response is that the junction at Station Road has had no major accidents so is perceived safe. To meet highway requirements a major change to the junction is required including compulsory purchase of adjacent land. There was discussion that moving the wall would increase visibility.

Stirling Council will investigate the options, and a Roads representative will then attend a Community Council meeting to discuss options.

Private Pavement on Main St

It has been suggested that Stirling Council could adopt pavement.

Action: Councillor Berrill to follow up

Resident's Request Concerning Sale of School Land

As agreed at the last meeting, Jeremy has responded to the resident and suggested that he contact Stirling Council for this information.

Police Chief's Comments about Community Councils

Christine had prepared a draft letter to Chief Superintendent McLoughlin outlining our response to his recent negative comments about Community Councils. This letter was not sent as Chief Superintendent McLoughlin has now moved to a new area.

5a. Police Report

Report was compiled by PC Martin, and salient points read by Jeremy, including:

- 1). Two incidents of anti-social behaviour,
- 2). One case of speeding at 91mph on the A811, and
- 3). One RTC on the A811 at the junction with B8075 (Kirk Lane).

5b. Stirling Council

No update.

5c. Elected Member's Report

Cllr Berrill's update:-

Consultation on school holiday dates online until 21st Feb 2020. Stirling Council, Falkirk Council and Clackmannan plan to standardise school holidays.

Croftamie nursery will be closed and moved to Drymen.

Planning application approved for 3000 homes at Durieshill (between Plean and Bannockburn).

New homes on green belt at Cambusbarron was initially allowed on appeal but planner added further 90 homes then was rejected.

Budget approval meeting for Stirling Council on 20th Feb.

6. Reports

6a Chair's Report

Jeremy thanked Helen for circulating Christmas wishes from the Community Council on Facebook.

Jeremy thanked Lovat for organising the village Christmas tree and decorations.

Jeremy reported that he had supported a local landowner in discussions with Stirling Council on removal of dead trees and trimming of trees along The Beeches path. Stirling Council have approved temporary closure of this Core Path for the tree work, but work has not yet been completed due to the poor weather.

Jeremy will attend workshop later in January on “Place Making: How to Make Planning Work for Your Community”.

6b Secretary’s Report

Correspondence sent to GCC members. Relevant material published on the community notice board.

It was suggested that the next Community Council meeting is publicised in the Stirling Observer.

Action: Jon to place notice of next meeting on District News page of the Stirling Observer.

Email received from member of public detailing on-going litter issue at McNeil Crescent. Apparently, an Antisocial Behaviour report has previously been issued by Stirling Council.

Action: Cllr Berrill to report back to Stirling Council that problem is still on-going, and ask for an update on the situation.

Stirling Council circulated a note concerning insurance for Community Councils running external events. It was confirmed that no external event insurance was required by Gargunock Community Council as we currently do not organise external events.

Letter received from Stirling Council asking who owns the burn at the Primary School. There was discussion that it appears to be owned by Stirling Council (the Education Dept own one side of the burn, and the Roads Dept are responsible for the other side). There is ongoing issue with vegetation growth in the burn, including hogweed.

Action: Lovat to chase Stirling Council to clear this section of the burn

Information received that a new experimental Sunday bus service will be introduced on the X10 route on 2nd February.

NHS Forth Valley have notified us that they are seeking a new chair person.

Stirling Council invitation to a Public Participation Code Focus Group.

Information on possible VE Day Celebrations.

Volunteering opportunities with Poppy Scotland.

Transport Scotland – online survey for the Second Strategic Transport Projects Review.

British Heart Foundation – new fundraising group in Stirling.

Scottish Government – Consultation on Planning Performance and Fees.

Stirling Council – EU Settlement Scheme meeting.

Stirling Council – Holiday Fun Club Funding

6c Treasurer’s Report

Council administration grant of £594.69 has been received. Current balance is £2344.06.

6d Planning Report

Planning application at The Square for house extension.

Telephone Exchange Condition

Planning application for new air exhaust approved with condition to control noise levels. Our comments about the dilapidated state of the building were noted in the Handling Report for this application, acknowledging that “the building is in need of maintenance, however, this cannot be secured as part of this planning application”.

6e Roads and Transport Report

No response from Stirling Council on the poor road conditions at Main Street and on the Eastern entrance road into the village (at Hillhead farm).

Resident asked why the bus stop had been moved near the school. This was not a recent change, but apparently was due an access issue raised by a neighbouring resident.

Pot hole discussion due to one at Loftbrae Park. Residents are advised to report pot holes directly to Stirling Council via their website.

Dead tree branch overhanging road at Mains farm is still an issue and may require road to be closed for removal.

Action: Helen will continue to chase the landowner to remove the branch.

6f Defibrillator Report

The new defibrillator for the Community Centre has arrived, and is expected to be installed around 10th Feb. Charlie is organising a “CPR and Defibrillator Familiarisation” training course planned for March.

7. Community Council Business

8. AOB

9. Residents Forum

Flower Show committee member shared information that flower show funds may be used for display planters in the village.

Discussion on possible need for pavement between pub and community centre.
No action.

10. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 9th March 2020 at 7.30pm, Garden Room, Gargunnoch Community Centre.

Future Meetings:

11th May 2020 (AGM followed by ordinary meeting)

13th July 2020

14th September 2020

9th November 2020