

GARGUNNOCK COMMUNITY COUNCIL
AGM Monday 9th May 2022 1930 hrs
MINUTES

IN PERSON:

Garden Room Gargunnock Community centre

VIRTUAL:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87431420638?pwd=UDk3a2xLY1hBY01QZzd4WFMrZDA1Zz09>

Meeting ID: 874 3142 0638

Passcode: 588147

Members Present: -

In Attendance:

1. Apologies

2. Adoption of Previous Minutes

Minutes 4th April regular meeting were proposed by X and seconded by Y

3. Chair's Annual Report

The Chair's Report is in Appendix A.

4. Secretary's Annual Report

The Secretary's Report is in Appendix B.

5. Treasurer's Annual Report

The Treasurer's Report is in Appendix C.

6. Election of Office Bearers

Chair, Secretary and Treasurer cannot have more than one position.

Office Bearers therefore are:

Chair:

Vice-Chair: Christine Phillips

Secretary: David Millar

Treasurer: Douglas Barr

Planning/Licensing Representative: Julie Cole

Roads & Transport Representative: Lovat MacGregor

Facebook Administrator/Communications: Mike Buckley

Wind Farm Representatives: David King/David Millar

Membership of GCC in full is:

| Position | Name | Contact Details | Membership |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|-------------------|
| Chair | Vacant | | Full |
| Vice-Chair | Christine Phillips (CP) | 07919 917792 cphillips16@gmail.com | Full |
| Secretary | David Millar (DM) | 07553 016754 dwjmillar@gmail.com | Full |
| Treasurer | Douglas Barr (DB) | 07785 522739 barr727@btinternet.com | Full |
| Social Comms Media/ | Mike Buckley (MB) | gargunnockcommunitycouncil@gmail.com | Full |
| Planning & Licensing | Julie Cole (JC) | 07773 391747 juliecole67@googlemail.com | Full |
| Roads & Transport | Lovat MacGregor (LMG) | 07971 513 144 lovatmacgregor@gmail.com | Full |
| Cycle Path Lead | David King (DK) | 07909 927381 dggking@aol.com | Full |
| Windfarm Representatives | David King David Millar | | Full |
| Associate | Lorna Rodger | 07733 227965 lornarodger@gmail.com | Associate |

7. Date of Next Annual General Meeting

The date of the next AGM will be shared at a later date.

8. Any other business

Appendix A:

Gargunnoch Community Council (GCC) Vice-Chair's Report to the AGM on 9th May 2022 (draft)

Despite the Covid-19 restrictions, Community Councillors have continued to support the residents of Gargunnoch; meeting every 8 weeks virtually by Zoom and when appropriate at the Community Centre (CC). The following is a summary of the main issues and activities of the GCC since the last AGM on

1. Planning

GCC reviews planning applications for projects within the Community Council area, and where appropriate may meet with developers to understand the project and may provide comments to the planning authority. Planning applications that have raised community interest included:

- Shelloch Wind Farm: This proposal has been granted planning permission for five wind turbines on the Fintry Hills, to be located just West of the existing Earlsburn and Kingsburn Wind Farms.
- GCC recorded our support for the project.
- There will be a Community Benefit Fund that could support projects in the village. In order to take advantage of the expertise of Gargunnoch Community Trust in negotiating with Wind Farm developers, and the Trust's experience in the management of community benefit funds, GCC asked Geoff Peart from GCT to support negotiations on the Shelloch Windfarm Community Benefit Fund on behalf of the village. The Trust has accepted this invitation.
- Leckie Estate applied for planning permission to construct forest Roads in the woodland between East Lodge Cottage and Watson House. This was granted.

2. Roads & Transport

STATION ROAD/ A811 JUNCTION

We have continued to engage with Stirling Council (SC) on the subject of safety at the junction of Station Road and the A811. SC's Environment & Housing Committee have indicated verbally that they will support option 4 (detailed below) LM, as the Roads lead will continue to work with the committee, agree a timescale for the work to be completed

Option 4 - Remove high masonry wall, divert BT apparatus and remove vegetation

This option would require the consent of land, property and public utility owners and/or land acquisition.

The project would include:

1. Removing a high masonry wall to improve visibility to the west of Station Road's junction with the A811
2. Removing vegetation to improve visibility to the west and east of Station Road's junction with the A811
3. Diverting BT infrastructure to improve visibility to the west and east of Station Road's junction with the A811.
4. Relocation of the roadside fence line to the east of Station Road's junction with the

A811, approximately 2m south of its current position

These works would provide an improved visibility splay by increasing the x-distance to 2.4m, providing the recommended 215m-distances to the west and east of the Station Road junction and would leave the junction open to two-way traffic. Improved visibility splays are likely to encourage the junction's use by motorists. With the junction still operating below the recommended standard, this is likely to increase the risk of slight injury accidents but could reduce the chance of a perpendicular collision at this site.

Estimated cost: £50-100k depending on costs associated with land acquisition and diverting utility infrastructure

SPEEDING WITHIN VILLAGE

Several years ago the GCC put forward a proposal to the CC for the installation of Radar Speed Signs to better control speeding drivers through the village. At the time this was not approved by the CC.

However, speeding continues to be a problem in the village so the GCC are going to propose a sign at each point coming into the village i.e. Manse Brae, Leckie Road and Station Road with the hope that funding can be secured from the Community Trust.

CHARGING POINTS

After many communications with SC, 2 electric vehicle charging point have been installed in the near future on Main Street (opposite the Gargunock Inn). These currently provide charging points at no cost

At the request of GCC, following communications from residents, Police Scotland has conducted occasional speed checks on vehicles in the village.

3. Pathways and Cycleways

The Paths group is a subgroup of The Gargunock Community Trust and it's main purpose is to maintain and where appropriate upgrade the existing Paths network and also to take forward new projects identified by the village community. As most residents will appreciate during the Covid 19 pandemic the existing pathways were extensively utilized and as such require some substantial maintenance to compensate for this. Projects identified include repairing sections of The Ladies Walk and also sections of The Leckie Loop adjacent to Watson House. Funding has been sought for this from the Windfarm Funds and it is expected that these works will be addressed prior to the Autumn and Winter months. Thanks are expressed to Stirling Council for the provision of materials to enable the upgrading and redirection of Charlie's Loan Application for funding for the Detailed Design element of the proposed pathway from the Village to Stirling has now been submitted. This is a culmination of 3 years dedicated work by the Trust involving substantial effort in directing and coordinating the works of specialized contractors and liaising with Sustrans the funding body and Stirling Council Officers. The outcome of our application should be known in July.

4. **Communications**

GCC has regularly submitted articles for Stirling Observer, The Bugle newsletter and posted information on Facebook providing information for residents, and updating the community on our work. Information posters are also placed in the CC and local Gargunnoch Inn. In addition the GCC with help from GCT and some residents have hand posted survey invitations & updates regarding the Village shop

5. **Village shop**

In the past the village hosted 3 shops and a post office, before supermarkets came to dominate shopping habits. Gargunnoch now has 1 local shop, closed since July 2021 due to a fire

GCC formed a Village shop working group, inviting GCT, WFP and 2 local residents who were previously owners of the Village shop.

The aim of the Gargunnoch Village shop working group was to understand what the residents of the Village wanted. The first output of the working group was to create and successfully launch a shop survey. The survey was conducted between Dec 2020 and Jan 2021-for detailed results see end of Vice-chair report. Full results shown in embedded PDF. If required can be made available directly, upon application to GCC email address

The survey clearly showed that the retention of a Village shop was a priority for Gargunnoch residents. GCC has tried several times to contact the current owners, but so far, they refuse to be in communication. A community-based project involving a partnership between Gargunnoch Community Council (GCC) and Gargunnoch Community Trust (GCT) has been established- to facilitate local people having ownership of the shop building, to be run as a successful local shop/café/deli.

It was clear that we needed professional expertise and support to assess the feasibility of the project and to develop a business plan. In our research, in speaking with other communities we were strongly advised to contact Plunkett's, a national charity that supports small community owned businesses

In addition, Plunkett's as they were strongly recommended to us by government agencies (e.g. DTA) and main funding bodies. Plunkett's did offer some "free" advice and steerage which was most welcome. Plunkett's have a panel of Business consultants who have the necessary experience and expertise to take this forward, at cost

The Village shop working group made 2 applications to the Wind Farm Panel (chaired by A Younger). Membership fee for Plunkett's (£240) and feasibility & Business plan, in the form of consultancy (£4800). Both applications were awarded

The Village shop business model is being developed with professional consultants with extensive experience in this field

This project aims to secure the Village shop, to be owned by the Village as a vibrant, active and socially conscious retail grocery facility supplying goods and services wanted by Gargunnoch residents and visitors. In turn this will support resilience in the local economy and support local producer of food, reducing food miles.

This will not only help to keep our rural village sustainable but will create a vital hub for this community

The shop will provide a welcoming social hub promoting social inclusion and cohesion, reducing isolation and associated health problems, especially for the more vulnerable members of our community

An open public meeting is planned for Thursday 17th May, all villagers have been invited via:

- Hand posted flyers to every village home (395 households)
- Information on the Village notice board and in the Gargunock Inn
- Facebook posts

GCC councillors can be contacted in person, by phone or email

Once the open public meeting has taken place and residents have had the opportunity to share their views the Village shop project will move to the next phase

Christine Phillips
Vice-Chair, Gargunock Community Council

Village shop survey results:



Village shop survey
FINAL vrs2. PDF.pdf

Appendix B: Secretary Report

- **Meeting updates.**
 - Meetings held virtually up until restrictions lifted in October 2021.
 - Hybrid (f2f + Zoom) Meetings Held since then.
 - Last hybrid meeting (f2f + Zoom) 4th April 2022.
- **Communication to email account. (gargunnockcommunitycouncil@gmail.com)**
 - **GENERAL**
 - 3 complaints about speeding in the village and options for better enforcement. CC contacted.
 - Request to share information for Befriending Wellbeing Scotland.
 - Applications for new Minute Taker – now on seat.
 - Setting up meetings regarding Gargunnock Shop purchase.
 - Meeting with Force 9 Consultancy regarding Shelloch Wind Farm.
 - Gathering of quotes for traffic mirrors opposite Station Road exit of village onto A811. No longer required following progress with Council on permanent solution.
 - **STIRLING CITY COUNCIL**
 - CC enquiry references
 - 2202818: Speeding in the village – lessons from other villages
 - Community Council Employer's Liability Insurance Documentation
 - **SPAM**
 - American Forest Foundation
 - Public Sector Executive
 - Charities Buying Group
 - Church Noticeboards
 - Playforce
 - OpusXenta
 - Website Developers
 - **Promotion of meetings.**
 - Facebook
 - Up and coming meetings posted on Community Notice Board also Gargunnock Inn
 - For exceptional meeting e.g. Public meetings, hand poster communications to all households
 - **Publication of approved minutes.**
 - To communityengagement@stirling.gov.uk once minutes are approved.
 - Gargunnock website.
 - Minutes need to be published on notice boards also.

Appendix C: Treasurer Report

Gargunnock Community Council

Statement of Accounts – 2021/2022

1 April 2021 - 31 March 2022

Gargunnock Community Council Account – Royal Bank of Scotland 00162462

At the start of the Financial Year the Community Council Bank Account had a balance of £2,970.39 and at the end of the Financial Year the balance was £6,627.15 a net increase of £3,656.76

Income

The reason for the inflated balance at the year-end is that the Windfarm grant for the Village Shop Consultancy was paid to Gargunnock Community Council when it should have been paid to Gargunnock Community Trust. Apart from that, the primary source of income is from Stirling Council amounting to £237.41 for the standard subsidy.

Expenses

Expenses throughout the year are as follows:

Hall Hire £19.48; Minute Taker Fees £120.00; Christmas Tree and Lights £54.00; Fireworks £80.97; Insurance £21.40; Printing £256.00; Part payment for new Notice Board £828.00.

Douglas Barr

Treasurer

Gargunnock Community Council

April 2022