

## Gargunock Community Council

### Minutes of meeting held on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2018

**Present:** Maitland Clark ( MC), Chairman, Lovat McGregor (LM), Edmond Mansion (EM), Charles Fitches (CF).

Apologies: Julie Cole (JC)

Minute Taker: Harry Burt,

Pam Campbell (PC) – Stirling Council, Cllr Graham Lambie (GL) and 3 members of the public.

Minutes of the meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2018 approved

#### **Matters Arising:**

1. Discussion took place about the installation of safety barriers being placed at the Beeches Path Drummond Place road crossing and the possibility of Stirling Council installing the barriers which would be purchased by GCT / Windfarm Fund. **PC** and **GL** will progress this matter.
2. Representatives of the Gargunock Community Trust who were present at the meeting confirmed their continuing activity concerning the establishment of a programme of maintenance for the pathway known as Charlies Loan.
3. At this point, Jeremy Wilkinson ( as a member of the public ) spoke on behalf of the Gargunock Community Trust and their recent activity in formation of the “Gargunock Community Paths Group”.( GPG) The function of this group is to promote and develop paths within the village and trails connecting with the surrounding path network. This group is also directly in contact with Stirling Council as investigation continues in a number of areas within this heading. An article introducing the Gargunock Paths Group to the local community will be published in September’s edition of The Bugle.
4. It was confirmed the Funds which are earmarked for upgrading the area known as the “Rest Garden” will eventually be released and there is nothing we can do to accelerate the process. **PC.**

5. It was confirmed by MC that the former bus shelter at Meiklewood will not be replaced due to lack of funds.
6. Footbridge repainting by GCT is due to commence during September weather permitting.
7. Remedial work on the non standard step on south side of Main Street will be chased up by (PC) .
8. Results of survey on 4G reception in the Gargunnoch area may have been aired on the 4G network but due to poor reception no information is currently available.
9. Problem drain on McNeil Crescent / Main Street not yet fixed.( PC) to follow up.
- 10.It is noted that Stirling Council have completed the upgrading of play facilities within Provost Park. MC confirms having successfully tested the new equipment.
- 11.It was noted that the cemetery had benefitted from recent maintenance work. During this work, the last vestiges of “Duke Street” had been exposed and it was noted that local interest had been expressed in ensuring protection of this historical focus.
- 12.Concern was raised by a member of the public concerning the continuing risk to the public from the deteriorating condition of some of the gravestones within the Church graveyard. PC undertook to establish responsibility for ongoing maintenance work in this area.
- 13.The ongoing planning applications for development of Leckie Estate have been relatively static since the last GCC meeting. However, it was noted that the Roads Dept had withdrawn their objection to road access in vicinity of The Bield Farm.
- 14.**Treasurers Report:**            Current Balance £368

**Police Report:** It was not possible for the Community Offers to be present but the principal items within the Community Policing Report are as follows.

#### **Antisocial behaviour**

A report was presented to the Police in relation to poisonous pellets being placed in the garden of a residential property in Gargunnoch. Police attended and the issue was quickly sorted out quickly with no further reports of similar incidents.

A male was wanted in relation to a Breach of his conditions of bail, he was quickly traced by Police and reported accordingly.

A report came to our local Wildlife Officer in relation to a tree being felled within the grounds of Gargunnoch House. It transpired that this tree contained a red squirrel dray with 4 squirrels within. One of the squirrels subsequently died. These types of incidents are obviously treated very seriously by our Wildlife Officer and the incident is being investigated thoroughly with positive lines of enquiry. This incident did in fact made Central FM news.

### **Road Safety**

There have been no notable road traffic collisions or incidents in the Gargunnoch area over the reporting period.

Local officers have continued to carry out high visibility patrols in the area. Traffic Officers have also been in the villages and carrying out more high visibility patrols which is a tremendous asset to the area.

There have been numerous calls in relation to sheep and cows, even horses on the surrounding roads so please be extra vigilant and careful on your travels.

As always, there has been regular hi-visibility patrols on the A811. The Central Scotland Safety Camera Partnership has continued to operate on the A811 to contribute towards improving road safety.

An abandoned vehicle was reported in the village. This was dealt with and we confirmed that the owner had in fact lost her key and vehicle was thereafter removed.

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### **Community Engagement and Reassurance**

PC Scott Craigie and PC Gary Martin are based at Balfron Police Office and can be contacted at the police office, on 101, or at [ForthEndrickCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:ForthEndrickCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk). They have access to this email address mailbox, and it is recommended that this email address is used by the local community for email contact. Please contact us with any issues and we will attend to these immediately.

It was my hope to attend the meeting but I am now cited for court so it looks like I may not make the meeting, apologies. It is our intention we try and attend as many meetings as possible in the coming months as it is important to us that we are present.

### **Social Media**

Please remember that we regularly publish useful information and updates on social media, including appeals for information, updates about road closures and crime prevention advice. Our Facebook and Twitter pages can be found at [www.facebook.com/forthvalleypolicedivision](http://www.facebook.com/forthvalleypolicedivision) [www.facebook.com/policescotland](http://www.facebook.com/policescotland) [www.twitter.com/stirlingpol](http://www.twitter.com/stirlingpol) [www.twitter.com/policescotland](http://www.twitter.com/policescotland)

**Road Safety Report:** (PC) reported that all remedial work to the damage caused by the NetFlix film production on the back road has been carried out and no further work was planned.

(LM) gave a comprehensive report from his recent discussions with and on site visit from the responsible council representative. This covered a number of village issues concerning road safety generally and traffic calming in particular. There will now be reinstatement of yellow zigzag no parking road marking in the vicinity of the school entrance, new road markings at the road narrowing on Station Road, the repainting of give way road markings at the village square, repainting of the 20mph road markings.

A traffic speed survey system will be installed on Main Street to establish if further measures are necessary to ensure compliance with the village blanket 20mph speed limit.

LM also introduced the possibility of the installation of automatic speed indicator signage. PC and GL confirmed that funding existed for this type of installation. LM and PC to progress this matter.

Discussion ensued on the need for further traffic calming measures due to the observed disregard for the 20mph limit on the main trafficked areas within the village.

GL confirmed that the village signage on the main road approaches are scheduled for replacing and upgrading. See GL's Forth & Endrick News dated 17<sup>th</sup> September 2018.

It should be noted that PC confirmed that the Council will be carrying out repairs to the retaining wall at the north end of Station Road and this will require closure of the road between the school and the junction with the A811 commencing 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2018. Work should be completed with one week.

Discussion took place on the subject of Giant Hogweed removal in the vicinity of the burn. LM and PC agreed the best solution was a deep clean of the course of the burn from the bridge northwards beyond the entrance to the village. PC would research possibilities within the relevant council department.

**A.O.C.B.** MC invited Jeremy Wilkinson, on behalf of the Gargunock Community Trust ( GCT), to outline the proposals prepared by the GCT for the development of the area within the village known as the “Glebe Land”. A document outlining the proposals was circulated and it was confirmed that the September edition of The Bugle will publish the proposals in full, complete with drawings.

### **Village Defibrillator**

This report submitted to GCC by Charles Fitches :

On 15<sup>th</sup> September 2018 the defibrillator was called into action.

Two villagers, Alastair Weir and Jeremy Wilkinson, who had completed the Heart Start course in April were promptly on the scene and attempted to resuscitate the patient in her home. Unfortunately she was found to already have passed away. Emergency services arrived in good time and all procedures were duly carried out.

Whilst the loss of one of our villagers is a sad event at any time this is a timeous reminder of the importance of the defibrillator.

This would be a good opportunity to run another Heart Start course in the Village to draw attention to the importance of the equipment. However, one defibrillator in the widespread and hilly nature of the village is inadequate, we need at least 4/5 further units at strategic points. Each unit costs £900 with extra costs associated in providing suitable mounts for the cabinets. I suggest

that, once full costings are made, we should approach the Windfarm Fund Panel for the necessary funds.

Our thanks are due to Stuart Ballantine, Chairman, Trossachs Search and Rescue Team for his assistance on the 15<sup>th</sup> and for providing a temporary defibrillator whilst ours is being refurbished.

MC concluded the meeting by confirming that this will be the last meeting of the existing committee and all members are resigning. The existing community council ceases on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2018. The recent restatement by Stirling Council of the principles of all local community councils means that 7 new councillors will be the minimum number needed to reform the community council with nominations closing on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2018. Should more than 7 nominations be lodged, an election process take place.

MC confirmed that new members were essential to ensure that the community council would be reformed and all efforts should be made to ensure this happened.

**Provisional Date of next meeting : Monday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2018 or otherwise as decided by the incoming Community Councillors.**