

GARGUNNOCK COMMUNITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Gargunnoch Community Council Meeting

Monday 11th November 2019

Garden Room Gargunnoch Community Centre

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

In attendance: Three local residents, Councillor Alistair Berrill, PC Gary Martin, PC Steven Graham, Pam Campbell (Stirling Council).

Apologies: David King.

1. Apologies

Jeremy opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and noted apologies.

2. Declarations of Interest

None declared.

3. Adoption of Previous Minutes

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

4. Matters Arising

Gargunnoch CC Noticeboard

Jeremy reported that the application for a grant from the Windfarm Trust had been rejected. A grant of £1500 has been successfully awarded from the Stirling Council Community Pride Fund. There was discussion that Gargunnoch Community Trust maybe able to provide the necessary additional funds. JW suggested the Robertson Trust as another possible source of funds.

Action: JW to investigate funding options.

Rats around George Place area.

No further update on situation – item to be removed from minutes.

Gate at Sawmill Cottage

Julie has requested via Leckie gamekeeper that Landowner contact GCC.

Action: Helen & Julie to continue trying to contact the landowner.

After School Bus (Resident Request)

General discussion on GASC losing numbers, Pam reported that options and potential costs were discussed, Taxi from Kippen being the most practical option compared to maintenance costs for a bus etc. Currently no plan for the GCC to move forward with this item. No further action planned.

Abandoned Vehicle on Main St.

Car was still on street at time of meeting. It was also raised that a car is being parked half on pavement on corner of MacNeil Cres.

Action: Police to follow up.

Gargunnoch Community Trust

Notification of Windfarm Advisory Panel looking for members. Item brought up to share information on the situation.

Bus Service Provided by First Direct

Ongoing issue with level of service provided mainly driven by another community council.

Action: Lovat to resend same concerns on service level to Stirling Council.

Rest Garden

Contact made with Land Services at Stirling Council concerning uneven paving slabs causing a tripping hazard. Jeremy has suggested levelling some of the paving slabs and removing slabs where they have been disturbed by tree roots. This suggestion has been accepted by Land Services.

Action: Jeremy to monitor situation.

Road Sweeping

A resident had been in contact about the frequency of road sweeping in the village, Stirling Council plan is no more than twice per year.

Telephone Exchange Condition

Area needing to be tidied up also includes bus shelter and railings. David had been enquiring on how Kippen bus sheltered was funded, Pam stated that there was mobility access issues with the old one in Kippen.

For the telephone exchange there will be new fan exhausting onto Bennetts way that needs clarified for planning application, concerns are mainly due to noise.

Uneven Pavement on Leckie Road (between George Street and the Inn)

Information given that repairs to eliminate the tripping hazard are scheduled by SC for next fiscal year.

5a. Police Report

Report was compiled by PC Graham.

A811 was discussed due to two recent accidents, discussion centred on the junction of Station Rd to A811, main point was that there is poor visibility when entering the A811 from Station Road. Cllr Berrill reported that previous petition for improved safety at this junction was to be closed by Stirling Council. After intervention from Cllr Berrill, SC has agreed not to close the petition, and will investigate the possibilities for improving the sight-lines at this junction. The CC discussed options such as roundabout, but modifying the wall to improve sight-lines seems the best solution, however this may involve compulsory land purchase. Submission of a Participation Request to SC may help push for a resolution.

Action: Lovat to discuss with adjacent landowner to understand their views on improving safety at the junction.

PC Graham stated that incident reports/records are not available from Police Scotland for the recent road traffic accidents on the A811 as no injuries occurred.

Other items discussed:- recent break-in on Manse Brae.

The GCC discussed the recent newspaper articles stating that “Forth Valley’s Police Chief believes community councils are not reflective of communities” and his suggestion that social media was a better means for interacting with the community rather than having officers attend community council meetings. GCC believe that we represent our residents and strongly support police officers attending our meetings.

Action: Christine agreed to draft a letter to Chief Superintendent McLoughlin outlining our views.

5b. Stirling Council

Pam requested that the SC resident’s survey is shared as at the time of the meeting there were only 11 responses from Gargunock residents, generally responses to the council were that education and leisure facilities were good but roads and refuse collection were getting bad reports. Other points were safety on A811, fly tipping and anti-social behaviour. Details of the survey have already been posted on the village facebook page by Helen.

5c. Elected Member’s Report

Cllr Berrill’s main item for discussion was the ongoing safety concerns with A811 junction and was attending the relevant meetings.

6. Reports

6a Chair’s Report

Jeremy thanked Lovat and Douglas for representing the Community Council at the Remembrance Sunday service.

Jeremy attended Stirling Council Training on the planning system.

Jeremy reported that the uneven steps on the footpath at Main Street (at the junction with McNeill Crescent) that we had raised with Stirling Council in January 2019 have now been improved.

6b Secretary's Report

Jon has provided 2020 Meeting dates to the Community Engagement team, however GCC agreed to also add a meeting on July 13th.

Action: Jon S to update Community Engagement and book hall for 13th July

Action: Jeremy to update the public notices (at village noticeboard, Community Centre, and pub noticeboard) to show 2020 meeting dates.

GCC was contacted via the email address by a resident concerned about the sale of school land. GCC was not involved and Pam stated that the individual should contact Stirling Council.

Action: JW to respond to the resident.

Correspondence has also been received from:

Stirling Council – asking that Community Councils who are involved in resilience planning activities (eg snow clearing, assisting residents in emergency situations) should contact Keegan & Pennykid to arrange insurance cover.

Arnprior Community Council – requesting our support for their Participation Request to SC concerning subsidised bus services. GCC agreed that JW should respond.

Action: JW to send email supporting Arnprior CC's Participation Request.

Community Engagement – 16 days of Action – Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls in Scotland.

LLTNP – Training course on “Leadership in Community Based Organisations” (no GCC councillors available to attend).

LLTNP – Training course on Community Assets: The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly” (no GCC councillors available to attend).

Stirling Civic Trust – talk at the The Smith Art Gallery

6c Treasurer's Report

Administration grant for hall hire and minute taker had been received.

6d Planning Report

Planning permission had been submitted for two houses in Manse Brae - no concerns.

WolfCraig Distillery expect to submit a planning request next year for a Distillery and visitor centre at Touch Home Farm.

Leckie Estate was in contact concerning plans for woodland generation (they first contacted the Community Trust). Discussion item was mainly that the right of way paths need to be kept open otherwise no concerns.

Action: JW to respond stating no issues as long as core paths and other paths currently used by residents continue to be accessible.

Telephone Exchange: A planning application has been submitted for installation of an air handling unit and exhaust cowl at the Telephone Exchange building on Leckie Road. Although the GCC supports the concept of upgrading the exchange, we have the following concerns:

- 1). Potential increase in noise from the air handling unit.
- 2). Exhaust air from the cowl may blow directly at pedestrians on Bennetts Way.
- 3). The Telephone Exchange is in the Conservation Area, and is an eyesore as it is in an unkempt condition and the boundary fence at Leckie Road is inappropriate for the Conservation Area.

Action: Julie to submit objection

6e Roads and Transport Report

White lining on speed bumps have worn away and need to be redone.

New bollards on A811 junction and Station Road exit causing obstruction of view when trying to exit.

Mieklewood Bus Stop has a redundant post in front of it which needs to be removed. As Stirling Council has not responded to Lovat's request for removal of the post, no further action is planned.

Resurfacing on Leckie Road at bridge had been completed but steps to path at the burn had been replaced with a ramp potentially causing slip hazard.

6f Defibrillator Report

Windfarm Grant has been approved for the defibrillator which will be installed outside of the Community Centre. The Community Trust will install and provide the power, defibrillator course to be scheduled.

Action: Charlie to arrange ordering of the defibrillator, and schedule the training class.

Action: Jeremy to coordinate with the Community Trust for installation of the defibrillator.

7. Community Council Business

Private Pavement on Main St

Councillors Berrill and Lambie will discuss with Stirling Council about possibility of adoption of private pavements on Main Street.

Action: Councillors Berrill and Lambie

8. AOB

Funds approved for Christmas Tree and new lights at the Square.

9. Residents Forum

Car Share Scheme

Member of public asked if it was possible to implement a car-share scheme, as public transport and patient transport service to hospital was not ideal. Comment was made that Fintry had a car club that may have been discontinued. Stirling Council will investigate if anything is possible.

Action: Pam Campbell to investigate

10. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 13th January 2020 at 7.30pm, Garden Room, Gargunnock Community Centre.

Future Meetings:

9th March 2020

11th May 2020 (AGM followed by ordinary meeting)

13th July 2020

14th September 2020

9th November 2020