

GARGUNNOCK COMMUNITY COUNCIL
AGM
MINUTES

Monday 13 May 2019
Garden Room, Gargunnoch Community Centre

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

In Attendance: Three residents, Councillor Alistair Berrill, PC Gary Martin, Pam Campbell and Fraser Sinclair.

1. Apologies

Jeremy opened the meeting by welcoming everyone. Jeremy noted apologies for Lovat MacGregor, Christine Phillips, and David King.

2. Adoption of Previous Minutes

Minutes of the last AGM were accepted. Proposed by Charlie and seconded by Maitland and Jeremy.

3. Chair's Annual Report

Following the Community Council elections in October 2018, the inaugural meeting of the newly elected Gargunnoch Community Council was held on 26th November 2018. Gargunnoch was able to elect a full complement of 9 Councillors, and therefore form a Community Council.

I would like to thank the previous members of the Council who have provided many years of service to the village – some of these Councillors delayed their retirement to enable the Council to continue in operation. Particular thanks go to Maitland Clark and Edmond Mansion, who both retired from the Council having given nearly 40 years of combined service.

Following is summary of issues and achievements of the Council over the last 12 months:

1. Planning

The main Planning issue in the last year has been the ongoing concerns about developments on the Leckie Estate (following on from public meetings the previous year). Stirling Council has approved the application for construction of chalets on the estate, however, the application for the Estate Office and Parking Area was rejected by Stirling Council.

The landowner lodged an appeal to the Scottish Government against the rejection of the planning application for the Estate Office and Parking Area. Despite submissions by the Community Council expressing villagers'

concerns about the appropriateness of this development, and the inadequate vehicle access arrangements, the Government Reporter has now granted the planning application.

I would like to thank Julie and Martin Cole for their efforts in assessing these planning applications, and their help in preparing our responses on behalf of the village.

2. Roads & Transport

The bus shelter on the A811 road at Meiklewood was destroyed in a storm in 2018. Initially, Stirling Council had refused to replace this shelter, however after the involvement of the Community Council, a new shelter has now been installed.

The Community Council has supported a campaign led by Buchlyvie Community Council for provision of a Sunday bus service from Balfron to Stirling passing through Gargunnoch. No conclusion yet to this campaign.

The Community Council supported a local petition for road safety improvements at the junction of Station Road and the A811 – and has also supported a campaign by MP Stephen Kerr for improvements to the A811, including a possible upgrade of the road to trunk road status.

Communications with local landowners about removal of dead tree limbs over the eastern roadway into the village from Meiklewood has started. Some improvements have been made, and it is hoped that the remaining limbs will be removed soon.

Speeding vehicles in the village continues to be the subject of many discussions with Stirling Council and Police Scotland.

Some missing road name signs have been installed by Stirling Council, and white lines have finally been repainted in The Square.

As part of the Stirling Council's Participatory Budget process ("Your Stirling – You Decide"), local people can have a say in how money is spent. All residents of Stirling and community groups were asked to propose ideas for infrastructure improvements in their Ward. Gargunnoch Community Council has proposed the installation of Village Gateways at the three road entrances into the village. The idea is to create a roadway narrowing giving priority to vehicles leaving the village, so that vehicles entering the village are forced to slow down (or stop), thus hopefully reducing speeding in the village. In addition to road safety improvements, new signage at the Gateways would also improve the visual welcoming of visitors to the village. The concept of Gateways has been submitted, and if we are successful in getting the idea considered by Stirling Council, then more discussions with residents will be arranged before the public voting on the ideas submitted for our Ward.

3. Maintenance of Pavements, Parks & Open Spaces

Following a concern raised by a resident about uneven steps on the footpath on the South side of Main Street at the junction with McNeill

Crescent, the Community Council approached Stirling Council, and we have received assurance that the tripping hazard generated by the uneven steps will be resolved during this financial year.

Your Councillors supported the “Deep Clean” of the village roadways and parks by Stirling Council in March. Significant improvement was apparent around the village and in Provost Park, and the work was well-received by the residents, however, it is unfortunate that this cleaning programme only takes place once every 2 or 3 years!

After some nudging from a Community Councillor, Stirling Council has made significant improvements to the cemetery (including uncovering remains of Duke Street). The Cemeteries team have also stabilised headstones in the Kirk yard.

After involvement of the Gargunnoch Paths Group (part of the Community Trust):

- a. Work on improving Charlie’s Loan footpath by village volunteers (under the guidance of Stirling Council) has started.
- b. Stirling Council have made improvements to the Rest Garden – including the installation of three new benches and a new tree, together with various tidy-up activities and path repairs – and the area is now looking much better.

A resident has repaired and repainted the entrance gate to the Memorial Fountain in The Square, and a group of volunteers cleaned and painted the structure of the old footbridge.

4. Communication

An important role of the Community Council is to communicate residents’ views to Stirling Council, and to also communicate information from Stirling Council to the residents of the village. Although Community Council meeting minutes are available on the village website and on the Stirling Council website, the Community Council felt that the minutes were not easily accessible for many people in the village, and also that other information, particularly notices from Stirling Council, was also not well-communicated to local people. Consequently, the Community Council has proposed two additional methods of communication:

- a. The Gargunnoch Community Council facebook page has been created, and is proving a useful way of disseminating information.
- b. In addition, work is progressing (somewhat slowly!) on installing a second village noticeboard that would be dedicated to Community Council news. A grant from Stirling Council’s Community Pride Fund has been received to help pay for the new noticeboard, but unfortunately the request for matching grant from the Windfarm Fund has been rejected. However, work will continue on this project.

5. Other

In addition to the regular presence of Police Scotland at the Community Council meetings, the Community Council also arranged a Community

Meeting in April for village residents to meet and chat informally with our local Police officers about any of their concerns or to get advice. This meeting was well attended by residents.

There were no questions from the floor concerning the Chair's Annual Report.

4. Secretary's Annual Report

Jon confirmed there was no update.

There were no questions from the floor following the Secretary's Annual Report.

5. Treasurer's Annual Report

Douglas circulated his treasurer's report to the group and discussed the figures from current balance, to income that has been generated and expenditures for the past year.

There were no questions from the floor concerning the Treasurer's Annual Report, and with approval of all Councillors present Douglas will now submit these figures for independent examination.

6. Election of Office Bearers

All office bearers stood down. However as no other candidates had put themselves forward for election, and the previous incumbents were all willing to stand again, they were consequently re-elected.

Office Bearers therefore are:

Chair: Jeremy Wilkinson
Vice-Chair: Christine Phillips
Secretary: Jon Sutherland
Treasurer: Douglas Barr
Planning/Licensing Representative: Julie Cole
Lovat MacGregor: Roads & Transport Representative
Charlie Fitches: Defibrillator Representative
Helen Rowell: Facebook Page Administrator

7. Date of Next Annual General Meeting

The date of the next AGM will be 11 May 2020 at 7.30pm in the Garden Room of Gargunnoch Community Centre.

The Chair declared the meeting closed.