



# GARGUNNOCK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## Minutes



**Date:** 4<sup>th</sup> February 2025

Gargunock Community Council

**GCC:** David Millar (DM), Julie Cole (JC), Mike Buckley (MB), Tom Jamieson (TJ)

**Councillors:** Gerry McGarvie (GMc),

**Apologies:** Christine Phillips (CP), Mark Dickson (MD)

**Members of the Public** There were 14 members of the public in attendance.

### Agenda

**1. Apologies (DM)**

**2. Adoption of previous minutes (DM)**

The previous Minutes were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2024. Proposed MB, seconded JC.

**3. Declarations of interest (DM)**

There were no declarations of interest

**4. Matters arising (DM)**

(a) Village Shop (CP)

JC informed the meeting that the shop had enjoyed a very successful start and its opening, stock etc. had been well received within the village. The tenants will begin to pay rental for the premises from January. The shop was seen as a major asset which had brought a sense of community back to the village. GMc complimented the work that had been done and recognised its value. He also said that the approach and process Gargunock had used was likely to be a blueprint for other villages.

(b) Local Place Plan (DM)

The LPP was discussed with DM stating the importance of the plan in influencing future developments within in the village. It was recognised that the development of housing was perhaps the most controversial aspect of the plan. DM outlined the consultation process which GCC had undertaken to date – public meetings, open days, electronic copies of the plan, physical copies passed to every house in the village – and concern was expressed about the limited number of physical or online responses. GMc stated that a low response from the community was unfortunately fairly normal and that 10 - 17% would be seen as a high response. He stressed that we should not be despondent about this and recognised the enormous amount of work that had gone into the consultation to develop the draft plan to date. He further emphasised the importance of the plan in setting out how residents wanted the village to develop. This was a very important document in informing the local council about the value local people placed on their individual area and would be the key reference document used in consideration of future developments, within the local and national context.



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The question of what type of housing is required and the extent of any development was raised. TJ pointed out that the current sewage plant could only accommodate 26 new houses and that the LPP was an advisory document. Any plans for future development would have to go through the normal planning process. JC pointed out that in a recent meeting with the LA planners, that any larger developments would have to address the sewage limits and address these at the cost of the developer. This was seen as a limiting factor on any larger scale development in the village. DM added that any developments to the north of the village would be constrained by the flood plain and the proximity to sea levels, which meant that any builds would most likely be concentrated on the south of the village.

The current draft LPP will have more caveats added to indicate what the community would like to see preserved within the village, as well as any new development plans. It was emphasised that the plan should further highlight that there needs to be a strong consensus on the types of housing required. DM stated that the school has a falling role and that its future was potentially at risk if the decline continued.

#### (c) Roads (LM)

GCC has been campaigning for improvements to the road junctions with the A811 to be improved for many years. The recent accidents on the A811 near Gargunnoch have reinforced the need for action. An agreement was reached with Stirling Council that improvement works to the visibility splays at the Station Road / A811 would be planned in 2024 and that work would be carried out in 2025- 26. (See below from Stirling Council)

‘A topographical survey was undertaken in October 2024, and this was used to inform the preliminary design for a visibility improvement at the junction. Contact has been made with the agent acting on behalf of the landowner, and this preliminary design will be forwarded to the agent to discuss with the landowner. Once the proposals have been agreed with the landowner, legal representatives will be instructed to commence negotiations for the land, and the detailed design of the proposals will be developed. A funding application has been made for this project in the 2025/26 financial year, to include construction costs for the visibility improvement.’

GMc asked DM to write to him so that he could support this measure and ask for the detailed plans for the junction to be shared with GCC and to work to prevent any slippage in the time frame.

**Action: DM to write to GMc to seek further information on progress re junction**

The results of the recent speed surveys in the village were received from SC yesterday and were only briefly discussed at the meeting. They are attached below:

The traffic surveys were undertaken at four locations within Gargunnoch between 28<sup>th</sup> September and 4<sup>th</sup> October 2024, a summary of the data is shown in the table below.



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Main Street, Gargunnoch (Approx 128m west of junction with Leckie Road)				
Directional Traffic Data	Direction 1 Eastbound		Direction 2 Westbound	
Traffic Volumes	<u>Weekday Average</u>	<u>7 Day Average</u>	<u>Weekday Average</u>	<u>7 Day Average</u>
24 Hour Day	317	290	325	297
Vehicle Speeds	<u>Weekday Average</u>	<u>7 Day Average</u>	<u>Weekday Average</u>	<u>7 Day Average</u>
85 Percentile Speed (mph)	23.4	23.4	23.3	23.2
Average Speed (mph)	18.7	18.7	18.8	18.7
Leckie Road, Gargunnoch (Approx 150m northwest of junction with Main Street)				
Directional Traffic Data	Direction 1 Eastbound		Direction 2 Westbound	
Traffic Volumes	<u>Weekday Average</u>	<u>7 Day Average</u>	<u>Weekday Average</u>	<u>7 Day Average</u>
24 Hour Day	245	219	203	182
Vehicle Speeds	<u>Weekday Average</u>	<u>7 Day Average</u>	<u>Weekday Average</u>	<u>7 Day Average</u>
85 Percentile Speed (mph)	25.9	25.5	25.0	24.6
Average Speed (mph)	20.8	20.6	20.2	19.9
Station Road, Gargunnoch (Approx 130m north of junction with Leckie Road)				
Directional Traffic Data	Direction 1 Northbound		Direction 2 Southbound	
Traffic Volumes	<u>Weekday Average</u>	<u>7 Day Average</u>	<u>Weekday Average</u>	<u>7 Day Average</u>
24 Hour Day	148	140	416	292
Vehicle Speeds	<u>Weekday Average</u>	<u>7 Day Average</u>	<u>Weekday Average</u>	<u>7 Day Average</u>
85 Percentile Speed (mph)	25.5	24.8	23.0	23.0
Average Speed (mph)	20.5	20.4	18.8	18.8
Manse Brae, Gargunnoch (East of The Glebe)				



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Directional Traffic Data	Direction 1 Eastbound		Direction 2 Westbound	
	<u>Weekday Average</u>	<u>7 Day Average</u>	<u>Weekday Average</u>	<u>7 Day Average</u>
<b>Traffic Volumes</b>				
<b>24 Hour Day</b>	370	340	121	121
<b>Vehicle Speeds</b>				
<b>85 Percentile Speed (mph)</b>	22.7	22.6	23.3	23.0
<b>Average Speed (mph)</b>	18.1	18.0	18.3	18.0

(d) Planning (JC)

There were no planning requests.

(e) Village Fountain (DM)

MB has taken over the Fountain improvement project. The fountain belongs to Stirling Council and the monument is listed. We have been granted permission to clean it in line with listed building consent and Impressions in Stone have provided a quotation for this work. SC have advised that it can be cleaned with bristle brushed and lukewarm solutions which are non-abrasive. Some additional renovation of the stonework will also be required. Windfarm funds have been secured to allow this project to be completed and discussions are in place to allow the work to start.

**Action: MB to follow up with Stirling Council**

(f) Website & Communications (MB/ DM)

MB and TJ met with the Trust to agree the plans for a new community website. Funds have been agreed with the with Windfarm Panel and three quoted are being considered for a company to develop the website. DM has set out a brief and this and the developers quotes will now be assessed by Dan to ascertain from a technical perspective, which bid offers to best value and benefit for the organisations involved. Local schools will be contacted to assess the value in adding them in to the project as will other interested parties within the village.

### 5. External report (DM)

(a) Police report (DM)

A 'cold seller' was reported to be operating in various villages, including Gargunnoch. He was apprehended by the police and did not have a trading licence.

Several road accidents have been reported on the A811, including a fatality on Christmas day last year.



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There were reports of anti-social behaviour in other villages but no reports from Gargunnock.

### 6. Finance reports (TJ)

TJ presented the finance report. Existing projects, such as the Christmas lights, are within budget. The balance in the account is healthy and money has been allocated and retained for the Fountain Project.

### 7. Residents' forum (DM)

No residents' concerns were raised.

### 8. AOB:

- Chair Resignation

DM stated that he was resigning from his position as chair but would continue to be a Community Council Member. This decision was taken because of professional and family commitments. GMc thanked David for his contribution to the Community Council. This was reiterated by other members of the CC present. GCC requires at least one new member and preferably more and DM asked that anyone present who wishes to become a member to contact us or complete an application form on the website. A new chair will be appointed at the next GCC meeting.

- School Bus Service (Val Brand)

VB joined the meeting to discuss concerns about school buses. There is a designated school bus to Stirling high School which is the catchment school for Gargunnock. 19 students travel on this bus and the cost is covered by Stirling Council under their statutory obligations. 30 students from Gargunnock travel to Balfron High School. This is from parental choice and previously the parents paid for this travel to and from school. Young people under the age of 22 years can now travel on buses for free. This has caused problems because the service bus to and from Balfron is often full.

In general, travel to school is not an issue. However, on the return journey to Stirling, pupils from other villages often join the bus and this had led to issues that there is no space for other passengers. Val cited an example of an 86 year old man who was travelling from Kippen to meet a train, being unable to get on the bus.

VB also raised concerns about the behaviour of students on the bus and expressed concern that they were often taking up more than one seat, refusing to give up seats for other passengers, or leaving bags on seats. The service is operated by McGills and VB was keen for GCC to write to them to request an additional bus on the route.

TJ suggested that McGills might put inspectors on the buses to ascertain if there was genuine over capacity and to reinforce the behaviour standards on the bus.

**Action: ?????**



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- **Village Maintenance – Quotes**  
DM indicated that SC has reduced the maintenance services they provide within the village – such as weed control, grass cutting, gritting of Main Street and Manse Brae. SC has asked that volunteers pick up this service. Both GCC and the Trust have expressed concerns about these cuts. It has been suggested that Wind Farm funds are allocated to employ local people to carry out maintenance tasks. The issue is that Wind Farm funds should not be used to carry out Council's statutory duties. However, much of the maintenance is non statutory.  
Members of the community asked what we were paying Council Tax for? GMC stated that the Council Tax only provided 19% of the council's budget and that the remainder came from national government. Costs have risen dramatically, as have demands and consequently, councils can no longer afford to provide what they previously could.  
Further discussions will take place between GCC and the Trust regarding the provision of future maintenance.

**Next meeting:** Mon 31<sup>st</sup> March

### Membership of GCC in full

Position	Name	Contact Details	
Chair	David Millar (DM)	07553 016754 dwjmillar@gmail.com	
Vice-Chair	Vacant		
Secretary	Christine Phillips (CP)	07919 917792 cphillips16@gmail.com	



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<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Tom Jamieson (TJ)</b>	<b>07732696517 tfj1@btinternet.com</b>	
<b>Social Media/ Comms Wind Farm Panel Rep</b>	<b>Mike Buckley (MB)</b>	<b>07967 830144 mb_j@btinternet.com</b>	
<b>Planning &amp; Licensing Cycle Path Lead</b>	<b>Julie Cole (JC)</b>	<b>07773 391747 juliecole67@googlemail.com</b>	
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