



GARGUNNOCK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes



Date: 6th October 2025
Time: 19.30 hrs
Location: Gargunnoch Community Centre

GCC: Mike Buckley (MB), Julie Cole (JC), Tom Jamieson (TJ), Martin Harrick (MH), Christine Phillips (CP), Tom McEwan (TM)
Councillors: Gerry McGarvie (GMc)
Minute Taker: Jenny Campbell

1. Apologies: David Millar (DM), by default.

Five residents were in attendance at meeting. One of our local Community Police constables was also in attendance for part of the meeting.

2. Guest Speaker – Gordon Mackenzie of Stirling Voluntary Enterprise See Appendix 1

Gordon gave an interesting insight into the range of services the partnership offer, free of charge to their members. Some examples are;

- Producing a Health and Social Care Bulletin monthly
- Managing a Health and Social Care Forum to share information in-person
- Administering the Stirling Community radio and the Stirling Community lottery
- Organising member breakfasts around key topics of interest
- Assistance in setting up social enterprises
- Managing a volunteer portal

Their third sector 'Integration and Engagement Officer' (within the Health and Social Care Partnership) works to offer a wide range of activities to help reduce social isolation and poor mental health in rural areas of Stirlingshire and surrounding areas.

Gordon highlighted the flexibility of the partnership in building opportunities and their willingness to help promote events for communities (*walking groups, adverts for gardening project assistants, etc*).

In merging with the National Health Service (*NHS*), the partnership has supported the roll-out of NHS programmes within communities – hosting gatherings in community led venues.

The expertise within the group of individuals facilitating the Stirling Voluntary Enterprise, can be utilised by community groups and individuals. Two examples being; Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (*OSCR*) assistance, or help with employment in a community.

Support and services can be utilities via their online portal with communities using it as a means of findings volunteers for jobs for example, arranging and advertising village breakfast clubs and publicising training opportunities for individuals and groups.

GMc congratulated Gordon for his informative presentation and encouraged anyone wishing to pursue opportunities for inclusion, to contact Gordon or SVE and not to feel afraid to approach the organisation.



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Action: Gordon to send across an advert, to be circulated by being placed in the quarterly CC magazine. CC aim to achieve any additional information sharing method they see fit.

3. Adoption of previous minutes:

a. Adoption of XOM's April minutes (MB)

The minutes were accepted as accurate (Proposed by; CP, seconded by; TM)

b. Adoption of Community Council's August minutes – (MB)

The minutes were accepted as accurate (Proposed by; JC, seconded by; TJ)

4. Declarations of interest (MB)

None

5. Matters arising from August meeting (MB)

a) Roads

Leckie Road and Main Street are specifically a concern whereby repair works have made the condition of them worse. With the Council's budget limited, the community wish to raise awareness to the matter and are aware they need to prioritise as desired.

Repair works are not being programmed for this year but appear to be programmed for next year/2026.

Regarding the A811 / Station Road junction, Stirling Council provided an agreement approving the works alongside drawings 2024-25 however any progress has yet to be seen.

The number of accidents on the road is a real priority.

Communication with landowners of Leckie Estate had been sought after to investigate the 'state of play'. They were fine with the land being used for repair works however it was believed there had been no response to them from Stirling Council.

It was raised that road and pavements concerns taken to Stirling Council, primarily regarding the transportation and moving of the tele communications box were being overlooked.

Traffic light signals have been at the bridge on Station Road for over a year and from correspondence received, residents have been made aware of the road subsiding. No specific date has been provided for a date to commence work. People's cars are not being sensed by the lights, thus making some residents uneasy and impatient and driving through red signal lights. Stirlingshire Police can accept various reports but cannot take forward one single witness report on the matter.

A formal letter was highlighted at August's Community Council meeting explaining why the council are in the position they are with it. A positive and helpful result from the works undertaken so far, is clogged drains being cleared.

GMc has a licence to gain further information on the A811 junction project.



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**Action: TM to keep the Community Council members up to date with 2026 plans.
Action: GMc to pursue tele-comms' box relocation and Station road works.**

b) Planning (JC)

Nothing has come out in the planning bulletins. Earlsburn Wind Farm Extension, after gaining permission, hope to provide CC details about expected community payout amounts. A decision is to be made as to what residents look to achieve from the funding; to be transferred over to the Windfarm panel? Help heat homes in the village and assist with energy prices? *(TBC payment amounts, but as an example; each household gains £50 approx. for heating)*. MB agreed the idea sounded plausible, that it's not a given these decisions are made elsewhere, therefore to keep on top of this one and take the time to stop and think best courses of action.

c) Village Fountain – (MB / TJ)

Monument itself is listed. None of the stones (*or area round about it*), is listed. Further clarification required. Maitland has arranged a meeting on Monday 27th Oct with Fionn of Stirling Council to discuss various actions regarding the village's fountain. Suggestions of topics; cleaning, repairing hole, drinking cup, flagstone and discovering what's underneath, gate painting, the potential of opening up the area '*from the back*' into one big area. It was discussed briefly - implementing a plinth to match the fountain and for it to host a metal plaque for visitors. Careful consideration prior to removal, clearing or cleaning due to its listed status. The hedge is in informal care of a village resident, so appropriate communication is required with them prior to reducing the holly hedge's height. Maitland will engage with this resident to reach a mutual understanding regarding future maintenance of the hedge. Future consideration could be taking that area into CC ownership, or speak to Green Routes or such likes to take responsibility of it.

Action: Maitland to help carry progress onto the next stages.

d) Christmas Lights (MH)

Lottery fund application was successful and funding also gained from Stirling Pride. An order has been placed for lights and instructions are for sockets to be implanted on certain lampposts. Plans are being made to gain the cherry picker, PAT testing arranged and an electrician is being instructed. Christmas tree size to be around the 10ft mark and it is usually approx. £90 to purchase. A local resident, Mike Kay, had helped with disposing post-festivities last year. Perhaps he can help again?

We have reached the limited that Stirling Council will agree to in terms of how far the display can be extended on the key routes in the village.

Action: Tom J to insure lights after they arrive.

e) Local Place Plan (JC / CP)

CC members agreed the printed draft form is excellent. Last meeting is in October, whereafter all points will be inputted providing the final report to the council. It will be reviewed each year, opening communication up with other sectors in the



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community. A real sense of direction has been felt since drafting the plan.

The platforms to view the Local Place Plan; Community Centre, Gargunock pub, NH has a copy, MB has a copy, JC has a copy – and it's online for viewing.

GMc highlighted that the CC should be proud of the effort gone into the LPP.

f) Website & Communications (MB / TJ)

Website is close to becoming live with a review on the 13th October (*LPP meeting*). Interesting viewing the website's content and it'll grow over time. Positive so far. All Bugle's are on the website. A new header photo for the website home page was proposed.

An improvement to the current booking system of the Community Hall was raised as its functionality is not running properly especially on many residents' mobile devices. Hallmaster is the current format for now.

g) Shop update (CP)

'Ticking over' nicely even though footfall has dipped since opening.

The creation of a Facebook page is in plans as well as a delivery service to the local community, for those more remotely based and perhaps tourists.

A wine tasting event (weather dependant) has been in discussion. A new shop attendant has been taken on board and the Manager will now be in three days per week going forward.

MB congratulated Chris and Julie for their Service Award within the Community. Coverage of this will be publicised as much as possible and the news will be included in *The Bugle*.

6. Finance reports (TJ) See Appendix 2

The current balance on the account is £2451.33.

- The fountain renovations have been paid for in full. The Wind Farm Panel has been reimbursed for the unused funds allocated for stone sampling which is no longer required as the fountain basin is not being repaired at this stage.
- LPP electronically submitted. Proposed 15 copies to print for those interested
- Tea, Coffee and biscuits to go through finances.
Tom J proposed taking £20 out as petty cash, to assist in reimbursement for refreshments.

7. External report

- a) Police Scotland Report See Appendix 3

Please take note of the community policing email address, for anything members or residents wish to raise that isn't an urgent emergency case. Police interest is criminality and the Stirling Council's interest is anti-social behaviour, two district parallel interests. Put worries towards *GMc* firstly (*or one of the elected members*) to arrange what response is to be given.

8. Council establishment and succession planning (MB)

A standing item on agenda as we would like to have a young person on board and succession plan for the coming years. MB proposed the idea of reaching out to Gordon (*Guest Speaker*), for some internal training on succession planning for the Council.



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The key is to sell the CC for what it is; people to commit specifically if they have an issue or if the individuals feel strongly about something.

Concerns are felt about the lack of residents attending meetings whatever the age category.

9. Residents' forum

Gargunnoch's hill landscape means when the snow starts freezing in the winter, residents cannot get uphill home. Local farmers haven't continued to salt grit the main street and Stirling Council no longer grit the roads that lie out with the bus routes in villages.

To best prepare for snowfall situations – look for quality models of good practice. Kippen Community Council could provide a copy of their emergency plan to highlight steps in making incidents easier to deal with as a community. There was some discussion about the concept of developing a Resilience Plan for the village, which other villages have developed. The council intends to consider this as part of the Local Place Plan (LPP). This topic will be revisited at the LPP meeting scheduled for next week.

Clarification is requested to check if other communities road clearing is also limited to the bus route, as has been stated is the case for Gargunnoch.

Tom J to contact Stirling Council regarding this.

10. AOB

- a. WFP Budget – expected applications.
Brainstormed suggestions; Snowplough (*proposed by various*), Oral Histories recordings (*proposed by Tom J*)
- b. Zoom Online meetings – Since David stepped down, there's been no requests for the service. The subscription is due in December however the subscription will cease and wont continue.
- c. 7th November Pub Quiz Night (*fundraiser for Christmas lights*).
The fundraiser needs raffle prizes.
GMC highlighted the abundance of events in Gartmore; heritage nights, etc.
CP proposed that the advertising of the night begins soon.
- d. Community Projects application
There are various – which will be sent round via email for commentary.
MB to send as correspondence.

Meeting closed; 9.04pm

11. Date of next meeting – Monday 1 December 2025



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APPENDIX 1

Third Sector Integration and Engagement Officer (Health and Social Care Partnership)

Principle Responsibilities:

- To work within communities to maintain and build relationships with the wide range of third sector organisations/groups thriving and developing in Stirling with particular emphasis on supporting the Clacks and Stirling Health and Social Care Strategic Commissioning Plan 2023-33 to enable people in both areas to live full, healthy and positive lives.
- Support work to build relationships between key stakeholders such as statutory partners and community organisations, to support collaboration and partnership in health and social care initiatives and achieve positive outcomes for the people of Stirling.

In practice: ...

- Organise and chair the Health and Social Care third sector Forum.
- Develop and publish the Health and Social Care Partnership Bulletin
- Bring organisations into the community.
- Act as a conduit to and from members ensuring they remain knowledgeable around community developments.
- Champion the benefits of working together to achieve the best outcomes for our communities.

Services:

- Bulletin
- Forum
- Community Lottery
- Community Radio
- Expertise (OSCR/Social Enterprise/Employability etc)
- Volunteering
- Consultancy Services
- Networking opportunities
- Training



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APPENDIX 2

Financial Report

Gargunnoch CC Accounts. 6th October 2025

Credits

• Opening Balance April	3711.02
• Lottery Grant	1500.00
• Stirling Pride.	792.00
• Current Balance.	2451.33

Debits

• Minutes	50.00
• Hall Hire.	77.76
• Local Place Plan	157.50
• Larbert Print LPP.	67.50
• Refreshment LPP Consult	20.93
• Work on Fountain IIS.	1182.00
• Refund to WFP (Stone analysis)	732.00
• Purchase of new Christmas lights	1264.00.
	Total 3551.69

Forthcoming Credits:
Admin Grant SC. Nov 380

Forthcoming invoices:
Stirling Council Light Fixtures. 524.28
PAT Testing 80?
Electrical connections 350?

APPENDIX 3

**Police Service of Scotland
Forth and Endrick, Community Council Police Report**

GARGUNNOCK



**POLICE
SCOTLAND**
POILEAS ALBA

Anti-social behaviour:

A vandalism has been recorded after a vehicle parked unattended within the village was scratched by a sharp implement, unfortunately the person(s) has not been identified and there are no further lines of enquiry

Road Traffic:

A driver has been charged with dangerous driving and failing to stop and report after causing an accident after pulling out of a junction onto the A811 and into the path of an oncoming vehicle. This vehicle took evasive action and was able to avoid a collision however, mounted the verge and struck a hedge. Fortunately, no injury was caused as a result.