Gargunnock Community Trust

www.gargunnock.org

A Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO)

OSCR Scottish Charity Regulator www.oscr.org.uk

Registered SCIO SC036793

Trustees Meeting
Thursday 28 August 20205 @ 7.30pm
held at Gargunnock Community Centre

1. Present:

Trustees: Nathan Anderton (Chair), Jill Patrick, Gill Bell, Steve Barnet, Crawford Gordon, Stuart Ogg, John Steele, Gavin Fleming, Mairi Jackson, Geoff Peart

Apologies: Lois Simpson

2. Declarations of interest

No declarations of potential interest were noted.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting on 15 May and 23 June 2025

Minutes of the previous two meetings held on Thursday 15 May and 23 June 2025 were adopted as a true record of the meeting.

4. Matters arising and follow up actions from previous meetings *(only those still to be actioned are noted)*

Matters arising

On-going Actions:

Additional trustee required (All)
Develop new residents' welcome pack (will now await launch of updated website). (SO)
Follow up to the issue of the field next to the Drop-In Centre (Awaiting response from Gala Committee. (GF)
Drain cleaning at Community Centre (picked up under Community Centre) (GF)

5. Secretary's Report

GB noted that she had returned the domestic rate notice. She also noted the negotiations GF had carried out with HMRC regarding the prospective fine. This had now been resolved and while we do not need to submit a declaration form annually it has to be submitted periodically. This ensures the Trust is not required to pay corporation tax.

6. *Treasurers Report*

GF provided an update on the financial position of the Trust and Windfarm Funds. Having recently received the allocation for 2025 there is currently nearly £59k available albeit this excludes the recent Windfarm Fund Panel allocations.

GF explained the detail in the accounts concluding that the cash balance position remains fairly stable.

7. Community Centre Report

GF/SO explained the current position regarding the proposed heating upgrade. So far it has not been possible to get an explicit recommendation as to how best to heat the Community Centre. Current thinking switches between replacing the existing biomass boiler and air to air source heating.

Having invested in a new ignition system in the existing boiler it was agreed that the Trust would continue to investigate potential replacement systems possibly by visiting other community centres which had switched to air to air source or similar heating systems.

It was agreed that meantime the Trust would purchase additional larger stand in heaters although this may require new three phase sockets to be installed.

Additional electrical requirements required by the Trust include PAT testing all electrical appliances in the Community Centre, the socket below the TV in the Graden Room repaired and the light in the telephone box fixed.

Actions:

CG to ask Ross Corry to look at installing new three phase sockets for bigger heaters, carrying out PAT testing of appliances in the Community Centre, repair the socket beneath the TV in the Garden Room and fix the light in the telephone box.

New heaters to be purchased

CG noted he had been in touch with Décor9 to redecorate the Garden Room. This is now on the list of projects for the company.

GF noted his pressure washer was currently not working so couldn't flush out drains/downpipes. After discussion it was agreed to get a private contractor to quote.

Action: CG to investigate potential private contractors to clean drains/downpipes.

It was noted that the smart meter had now been installed. Discussion focused on whether the Trust should change supplier, however the current contract runs until early 2027 at which point consideration will be given to changing. With the smart meter installed the Trust should now be eligible for feed-in tariff.

Action: SB agreed to investigate what is needed to receive the tariff.

8. Windfarm Fund and Panel

After discussion the proposed changes to the governing documents for the Windfarm Fund were agreed. However, the changes including the proposed Educational Bursary Grant for 16 to 22 year olds, raised the debate about how much should be awarded to revenue grants as opposed to retaining sums for larger capital projects, like those being proposed in the Community Council's draft Local Place Plan. It was agreed that the Trust and Windfarm Panel should consider this issue after consulting with Foundation Scotland to see how other communities deal with retaining funds for major projects against the current condition that not more than two years of allocation can be retained.

Action: Trust and Windfarm Panel to consider if and how capital sums can be retained for larger projects.

The Trust confirmed that Ashley Fleming's term of office of Panel Chair could be extended. The Trust expressed its sincere thanks to Ashley for her first two years of office and very much welcomed her decision to stay on.

Action: SO to communicate decision to Ashley.

It was agreed that wherever possible the summary of recommendations from the Panel as presented to the Trust, should include the percentage of the overall project cost that was being funded by the Panel.

The Trust discussed and endorsed the Windfarm Panel recommendations as follows:

GWF 14-25 Curling Club – Come and try sessions, pins and tops £2,992

GWF 15-25 Laptop for young person £400

GWF16-25 Laptop for young person £500

GWF 17-25 Cambusbarron Village Nursery £3,000

GWF 18-25 Cricket Club facilities development £4,000

GWF 19-25 GVC Support 2025-26 £4,744.86

GWF 20-25 Outdoor Book Library £500

Proposed bursary for those aged between 16-22 approved and should be monitored to assess the level of demand against available resources and other demands on the Windfarm Fund such as the need to retain capital to invest in longer term projects.

Action: SO To communicate the decisions to the Windfarm Panel administrator.

9. Projects

Local Place Plan

Draft of Plan had been circulated and some comments had been made. There was agreement that the presentation of the updated draft was very professional. It was felt that strategically the plan still lacked enough place planning content. In particular, it was felt that the 26 houses over 10 years was insufficient to ensure the longer-term sustainability of the school or give adequate long-term support to the shop of pub. Additionally, without more new people moving into the village than is projected then many of the other aspirations in the plan, which invariably rely on voluntary effort, are less likely to be implemented given the natural limits in any community to volunteer contributions.

In this context there was a query as to whether the planning process had adequately rehearsed various scenarios which linked levels of housing development to the ability of the community to sustain existing and implement new facilities/services/activities.

It was also felt that the definition of affordable housing needed to be clarified. Normally this term is used to refer to social housing rather than smaller houses for new market entrants or downsizers.

Action: NA to collate GP's previous comments on the first draft plan which are still considered relevant as well as the specific comments on the detail in the draft plan and send them to the Community Council.

Cycle Route project

GP explained that he thought that the Council were now working on the project again having appointed a new project officer whom Geoff hopes to meet in the not-too-distant future. He also believes that it is now included as a priority in the Sustainable Mobility Strategy and that it has Tier 2 status as part of the bid submitted to Transport Scotland in February this year. The local Councilor is to set up a meeting with key parties. Geoff hopes to have more details for the next meeting. Gavin agreed he would attend.

Website

NA presented the updated version of the new website which was generally welcomed by the trustees.

Paths

GP felt that the Trust needed to establish a path maintenance team of volunteers to ensure existing paths did not deteriorate. He would set up a Paths Group meeting to take this idea forward.

Action: Paths Group to meet, GP to arrange.

Telephone Box

Refurbishment almost complete, with a view that it now looked much better albeit the light needed to be fixed. Roddy Chambers has agreed to manufacture a shelving unit which will provide additional storage space. SB and SO were thanked for their work on the telephone box.

Defibrillators

GB noted that she had purchased new pads which should last 5 years for the one-off Manse Brae and the one in the telephone box. The one on the Community Centre was a different type and had a much shorter lifespan. It was agreed that at the right time the one on the Community centre should be changed so that they are all the same. It was agreed that insurance for the defibrillators should be investigated as they could be added to the Trust's existing insurance policy. Further training was felt to be important.

Action: GB agreed to find out about additional training for the use of the defibrillators.

10. AOB

There was no other competent business.

11. Dates of meetings in 2025

Thursday 30 October 2025 (Garden Room)
Thursday 27 November (Garden Room) - AGM

Meeting closed at 9.50pm