



AGM 2025 Minutes 27 November 2025 Held at Gargunnock Community Centre

Present

Directors:

Jill Patrick, Geoff Peart, Stuart Ogg, Steve Barnet, Gavin Fleming, Gill Bell, Nathan Anderton, John Steele, Mairi Jackson

Trust members

Jane Arneil, Douglas Johnston, Jane Bain, Edmond Mansion, Tom Jamieson, Sandra Anderson, Dave Penman, Maitland Clark, Anne Christie, Mike Bickley, Lorna Rodger, Barbara Linklater, Jackie Campbell,

Apologies: Lois Simpson, John Steele

Introduction

NA, Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting and indicated that he was happy to take any comments or questions during the presentation of the Trust's activities over the past 12 months.

Minutes of Previous AGM 26 November 2024

The minutes of the previous AGM were accepted as true record of the previous meeting.

Matters Arising

There were no outstanding matters arising from the previous AGM minutes.

Report on Trust's activities

Community Centre

NA noted the main trends and issues regarding the Community Centre, noting the trend in bookings, the work commissioned from Business Energy Scotland to consider future options for the heating system at the Centre, and the issues regarding cleaning and the current heating system.

Comments from the floor focused on concerns about the lack of toilet rolls, issues with the microphone, the panels not being open when requests had been made on the booking form and the issues about accessing the chairs and tables when there was already an event happening in the Main Hall.

NA explained the Trust were aware of most of these issues and would be taking action to try and resolve them as soon as possible. GF noted that a new three phase electricity supply was being installed so that a larger heater could be used as a backup to the biomass boiler which because of its age was causing the current problems. He acknowledged that this was a temporary fix and the Trust would be taking action to find a longer-term solution. It was noted that an audit of the electrical equipment would be carried out. CG also noted that plans were in place to redecorate the Garden Room.

Telephone Box

SB and SO had recently completed the refurbishment of the telephone box housing one of the Trust's three defibrillators and sanitary products. Rowena Barnet and Roddy Chambers were both thanked for their help. Rowena for painting the crowns at the top of the telephone box and Roddy for making and installing the new shelving.

Glebe Park

Ponds and Wildflowers

Dave Penman explained that developments over the past year had included the planting of groups of native woodland plants taken, with permission, from local estates and farms. Seeds had been harvested from the wild flower meadow and these had been distributed to a number of local people wishing to establish their own wild flower areas.

Bee Group

GF explained that the bees located in the Glebe park continued to do well.

Historical review

Douglas Johnston explained that in two years it would be the tenth anniversary of the Trust taking ownership of the Glebe Park, having transferred ownership from the defunct Gargunnoch Village Interests Association. After transfer of ownership the Trust had commissioned a full environmental survey of the Park, which contained a series of photographs from different locations showing its condition at that stage. He hoped that it would be possible to take photographs from the same locations as those included in this report to highlight how things had changed over the past ten years through the work of the Trust and the many volunteers who had been involved in establishing the Park as an important environmental asset for the village.

Paths Group

Gargunnoch to Stirling Active Travel Route.

GP explained that there had been difficulties with the commitment from Stirling Council to this important project until the start of 2025 when the Council made a bid to Transport Scotland to access funding to start to revive the project. This gave reassurance that the Council was back on board and to try and help make the project more affordable than the original Sustrans sponsored design. They had also kept in touch over the summer.

As nothing had been heard from Transport Scotland, GP contacted local MSP's in September to seek their support. Alexander Stewart responded and raised the issue in the press and with Transport Scotland helping to gain their agreement to release the funding. GP noted that he had met the new Council's project officer and was reassured that a concept design for the path would be undertaken in the next financial year. Moreover, there was a commitment to monthly meetings to review progress.

GP felt overall that things were now looking more promising than they were a year ago.

One query regarded the routes shown on the slide, GP explained that these showed the original options including the one along the old railway line, however due to land owning issues it was the one along the A811 which was now the preferred route. Furthermore, he felt that now that the Council was re-engaged this might help gain landowner support for the project.

Other Path developments

GP noted that the Paths Group were aware of the condition of the other paths particularly Charlie's Loan. The voluntary input made by Alan Nicol in mowing the grass to help maintain the path down to the Community Centre and along Charlie's Loan was welcomed. The issue of drainage along the path however will involve a more substantial project.

SO noted recent maintenance work carried out and was pleased that the path continued to be well used by the community.

CycleShare project

NA explained that this project was launched at the Gala and so far, a number of families had subscribed to the service allowing them access to the cycles. A new bike shed had been installed at the Community Centre. Full details and how to borrow the cycles will be available on the new Community website. He noted the work done by John Steele and Gordon Webber to bring this project to fruition.

There was a query from the floor as to whether the Trust also supplied helmets, locks, etc. NA confirmed that these were available to those who used the cycles. The funding raised through the rental subscriptions would be used to help maintain the cycles.

Windfarm Fund

An outline of the various projects which had received Windfarm funds was outlined. Ashley Fleming and Jackie Campbell were thanked for their significant contribution to the work of the Windfarm Panel and all the other Panel members were acknowledged for their contributions.

Jackie also thanked the Trust for supporting the work of the Panel.

Maitland Clark noted the funding provided by the Panel to help the Flower Show carry out work at the Commemoration Garden.

Bite and Blether

JP explained that Bite and Blether was going well. It runs every first Wednesday in the month apart from July and August. JP noted the tremendous support she gets from the volunteer bakers/soup makers. It generates around £2500 which goes to help maintain the Community Centre. On behalf of the Trust, NA thanked Jill and the other helpers for their considerable support.

Bugle

MJ noted the amazing job which Loise and Shona Crawford had done on producing the Bugle over the last few years. It is recognised that it is not always a straightforward task in terms of editing and getting material in on time. It also involved a steep learning curve at the start but has proved a valuable activity for Louise. Having said that the editor role offers a very valuable experience and something to add to a future CV. The Bugle is recognised as an excellent source of local news and information with 400 plus copies being distributed to every household in the village and surrounding areas.

Lousie and Shona Crawford were thanked for their excellent service in collating and producing the Bugle.

As Louise is shortly leaving to go to university a new editor has been identified to take on the task.

One idea from the floor was to print on the front of the document that it should be recycled after use.

Defibrillators

GB explained that the Trust will complete the upgrade of the defibrillators so that they are all the same which means they will only require new pads every five years instead of three.

She noted that following an alert from Chole Bruce that the British Heart Foundation website showed five defibrillators in the village. After investigation it was discovered that when the Trust took on the responsibility for the defibrillators from the Community Council the BHF had not been notified. Following Gill's contact, the BHF had now changed the map which now shows the accurate picture.

Further the Trust had now arranged for further defibrillator training which will be delivered in March next year by the Trossachs Search and Rescue Group. There are 20 places on the course on a first come first served basis. Anyone interested should email the Trust's email address.

Website

This project had been initiated by the Community Council who had accessed funding from the Windfarm Panel to employ a web design company. This project had involved a considerable number of people and multiple inputs including new maps produced by John McLaren. Every page and the navigation between pages had to be built from scratch so took several months to complete as along the way there had been a range of tricky problems to resolve. However, the community now had a very good website for both residents and visitors.

NA thanked the Community Council for initiating the update and everyone else who had been involved. He made a particular point of thanking Jackie Campbell who had been absolutely central to getting the project completed and presented her with small gift to recognise the Trust's gratitude.

Future Projects

It was noted that future projects included capital works to the Community Centre, a new heating system, further path works and would work with the Community Council on the major projects identified in the Local Place Plan.

It was noted that the Trust already does a great deal for the village through volunteers and it is their time and energy which drives things forward.

From the floor Maitland Clark noted that the Flower Show Committee had carried out improvements including planting new fruit trees and attending to some of the flower beds which the Council had planned to grass over. It was also suggested that there could be an opportunity for the Trust to take ownership of the commemorative garden.

Again, from the floor Dougal Johnston wondered if there had been any news about the Windfarm extension. SO responded by indicating that Foundation Scotland were not aware of any imminent plans.

Secretary's Report

GB noted the recently held University of the Third Age event arranged through the Trust at which Douglas Johnston had given a very informative presentation. This had been received very positively by the group attending the event along with some local residents. Douglas was thanked for his contribution to the event.

GB noted that since the conversion from a Limited Company to a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation there had been less reporting required.

The Lottery licence has been renewed and is available to any group in the village wishing to use it. The Public Entertainment licence was also in place and would be renewed in 2026.

GB reported that the Trust had met 6 times including an AGM during the year and all were quorate.

Treasurer's Report for July 2023 to June 2024

GF highlighted key points regarding the annual accounts. The recovery in Hall bookings for the Community Centre continues with a 5% increase in sales as a consequence.

He then highlighted specific aspects of the accounts indicating that overall, the finances were looking healthy. Then Trust had agreed to set aside £35k for major capital works.

Finally, he noted that this year there had been, for the first time, almost a balance in the Windfarm Funds being received and being allocated to projects.

Appointment of Directors

SO explained that at this point all existing trustees/directors who have expressed their willingness to remain as trustees/directors stand down. They were then subsequently reappointed by the meeting. It was pointed out that there was still one vacancy for a trustee on the Board and the trust was particularly looking for anyone with construction or IT skills backgrounds.

The trustees/directors for the following year are therefore:

Gavin Fleming	Gill Bell
Jill Patrick	Lois Simpson
John Steele	Mairi Jackson
Nathan Anderton	Crawford Gordon
Geoff Peart	Steve Barnett
Stuart Ogg	

In accordance with its Articles of Association the Trust appoints the office bearers at its meeting following the AGM and this will take place at its next formal meeting after the AGM.

AOB

There was no other business so the meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Date of next AGM

The date of the next AGM will be confirmed nearer the time.