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 29 January 2026 @ 7.30pm
held at Gargunnock Community Centre

1. Present:

Trustees: Nathan Anderton (Chair), Jill Patrick, Gill Bell, Stuart Ogg, John Steele, Gavin Fleming, Geoff Peart, Lois Simpson, Steve Barnet

Apologies: Mairi Jackson, Crawford Gordon

2. Declarations of interest

No declarations of potential interest were noted.

3. Minutes of Meeting on 30 October 2025 and AGM held on 27 November 2025

Minutes of the previous meeting held on Thursday 30 August 2025 were adopted as a true record of the meeting.

The draft minutes of the AGM were noted with minor amendments suggested. The issues and actions arising from the AGM were noted and are recorded under the relevant minute headings other than a Chair's letter to Louise for her work on the Bugle.

Action: *Chair to write to Lousie Crawford*

4. Appointment of office bearers and allocation of roles

Following the AGM **office bearers** for the next twelve months are:

Nathan Anderston - Chair
Gavin Fleming – Treasurer
Secretary – Gill Bell

Roles and Responsibilities:

Bank signatories – Nathan Anderton and Stuart Ogg
Bite and Blether – Jill Patrick
Bugle – Mairi Jackson
Community Centre – Crawford Gordon
Community Centre users – Lois Simpson
Cycle hire/project – John Steele
Defibrillators – Gill Bell
Membership list - Mairi Jackson
Minute secretary – Stuart Ogg
Paths – Geoff Peart
Website – Nathan Anderton
Windfarm Panel liaison – Stuart Ogg

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

Defibrillators insurance See whether this can come under the Community Centre insurance

Action *CG to check whether defibrillators could be covered by existing insurance arrangements*

NA had produced laminated signs for all doors to remind users of their responsibilities to clean up after use. It was agreed these should be placed on all doors.

Action*: NA to post notices on all doors*

It was noted that considerable effort had gone into negotiating with Scottish Power regarding the Feed-In Tariff. Gavin suggested the Trust should commit to another one-year contract with Scottish Power given that we have been on a temporary contract since last year as this could help reduce costs and potentially increase income. Gavin and Steve were thanked for their efforts in trying to resolve the issues. (see further discussion under AOB)

Store room to be cleaned out. Lois to send message to WhatsApp user group stressing importance of having a clear out and setting aside anything which needs disposing of. Shelves will be labelled after clear out.

Action: *LS to message users' group regarding clear out of store room.*

Previous action ongoing

Additional trustee required (All)
Develop new residents' welcome pack, in part need now satisfied by new website. (SO)

6. Secretary's Report

GB noted the Community Centre revaluation notice received recently.

Gambling License renewed. It was important that any local groups running raffles using the over provided by the Trust's licence need to follow the correct procedures which includes reporting requirements.

Action: *GB to send copy of procedures to relevant user group.*

GB noted the invitation received regarding employability for parents.

GB noted the email from Mike Buckley regarding attendance at Trust meetings, access to Trust accounts and Trust membership.

During discussion it was agreed a joint meeting with the Community Council sometime in the Spring would be a useful way of exchanging information about projects being taken forward and to discuss the contents of the Local Place Plan.

Other points noted were the full Trust accounts were available at the AGM which was also the opportunity for members/residents to seek clarification on any issues and to hear what the Trust had been doing for the community. Attendance at Trust meetings, according to the SCIO constitution approved by OSCR and recommended by Stirling Voluntary Enterprise, approved and adopted in 2024, indicates that attendance by non-trustees was at the

discretion of the Trust. Normally, anyone attending will be presenting on a topic of interest and relevance to the Trust. These arrangements allow the Trust to focus on operational matters at its regular meetings.

Action: *GB to draft response to Mike noting the points made during the discussion.*

Further discussion focused on the membership database which it was agreed needed to be updated as many members will have now moved from the village, while many new residents will not be aware of the membership scheme so in a future Bugle article the membership scheme can be promoted once the exiting list has been reviewed.

Action: *MJ to confirm with Mike that he is now on the membership list. A review of this list to be undertaken to remove those who have left the village.*

7. *Treasurers Report*

GF presented an update on the quarterly accounts highlighting the various movement of funds and in particular some of the higher costs incurred over this period. GF concluded that that the cash balance position remains fairly stable with a modest increase in room hire. Bike hire will be promoted again in Spring so should start to generate more income.

Action: *JS to speak to CG regarding the feasibility of putting the bicycles onto the Community Centre insurance as current arrangements are quite expensive.*

8. Community Centre Report

GF noted he had reviewed the bookings for the Community Centre and reconciled them with income. He noted that Debbie Masson was stepping down as the bookings administrative role and that Jackie Campbell had agreed to take on the role, for a temporary period although could not commit to undertaking any setting up activities e.g. opening panels, setting out chairs etc. Thankfully Debbie has agreed to continue to provide this service when she can.

GF feels that these circumstances has created an opportunity to move bookings to a Xero based system as this will help ensure all booking fees are recovered and reduce administrative burden once established. Aspart of the process there is a need to assess whether Hall Master is still the right system to use given the amount of manual input required to run the process. Lois also volunteered to help out when she is around. After discussion these new arrangements were agreed.

Action: *GF to confirm new arrangements with Debbie and Jackie.*

Lois suggested that for some users they would find a hand rail next to the steps helpful also the fence along Leckie Road is leaning. It was agreed that a metal hand rail should be installed next to the steps off Leckie Road and that the fence should be repaired.

Action: *CG to arrange installation of metal hand rails and repairs to fence.*

GF explained a meeting had been held to discuss repairs to the Community Centre and the heating system with Douglas Johnston and Lee Masson. Douglas has agreed to draft a set of specifications for the work to be completed affecting the front part of the building.

In relation to the heating system the general feeling is that to avoid significant upheaval and potential cost it was agreed that the best option is to replace the wood pellet boiler given that the Centre already has the infrastructure in-situ.

9. Windfarm Panel

Having recently experienced a flow of applications for the Windfarm Fund out with the normal meeting timetable which means that decisions are being taken via emails or special meetings. The Panel would like to restrict consideration of applications to the scheduled meetings rather than between meetings. After discussion it was agreed to support the Panel's recommendation.

***Action**: SO to inform Windfarm Administrator of decision to support its recommendation regarding when applications can be considered*.

There is a need to prepare a paper putting forward a proposal to set aside Windfarm funding to support larger projects which are likely to have a longer-term legacy given the pressure for more revenue supported projects.

***Action**: GP agreed to prepare paper setting out the arguments and proposals for setting aside a proportion of funds for larger-longer-term projects. Once completed the paper will be submitted to the March Windfarm Panel meeting.*

GP also noted that he had been in touch with Nadara regarding the possibility of the community gaining ownership of one of the new turbines which have planning permission. He has copied Julie Cole from the Community Council into his emails. Further update will be given once Nadara responds.

GF explained that there will be a Windfarm application to purchase and refurbish the McLaren Cart. Bobby MacAllister has agreed to refurbish the cart and once complete it will be displayed under cover at the back of the pub. There is proposal to erect a plaque at the church to commemorate the establishment of the Gargunnock Agricultural Show in 1794. After discussion the proposal was approved.

10. Projects

Website

Current website was approved.

Cycle Route project

GP explained that he and GF had met the new project officer at Stirling Council who is responsible for overseeing the King's Highway path project including the section from Gargunnock to Stirling which will be handled by in-house staff.

They have agreed to a monthly meeting with the next one planned in the next two weeks. They will be looking at land ownership and they confirmed there is now £50k from Transport Scotland to help the initial design work. There will be further consultations on the longer route and the full route is now in the council's Active Travel Strategy.

For local paths, GP noted that a Paths Group will meet later in the Spring when there will be a call for volunteers and hopefully project managers to oversee specific projects. Pete Rowell has expressed an interest in continuing to be involved which the Trust welcomed given his experience.

Cycle Project

JS explained that there had been no promotion of the project over the winter months

however further efforts to expand the number of subscriptions will take place in the Spring. Insurance for the bikes will be investigated to see whether they can be included in the Community Centre insurance. GP noted he would be attending the Cycle Stirling meeting next week so will seek advice regarding insurance.

JS indicated that he would seek funding for funding to design a possible bike track and once completed would consult the community.

Newsletter (Bugle)

It was noted that Emma Hay will work with Louise Crawford to ensure a smooth transition.

Action: *NA to draft letter to Louise and Shona for their work on the Bugle*.

11. AOB

JP suggested that a blind should be positioned on the window between the Garden Room and the Main Hall. This was approved

Action: *CG to arrange for a blind on the Garden Room side of the window looking into the Mian Hall.*

JP proposed that a new dishwasher should be purchased for eth kitchen following external advice. This was approved.

Action: *JP to arrange for a supplier/plumber to install a new dishwasher.*

The issues associated with Scottish Power were discussed further This highlighted the issues arising from the Trust being on a temporary contract due to its name change. GF proposed that the Trust should renew the contract with Scottish Power for a specified period and then review the situation to ensure costs can be controlled and the FiT can be maximised.

The Church were seeking approval from the Trust to have a quarter page advert in the Bugle for a period at no cost to promote Start Up Stirling (Foodbank). After discussion this was approved.

Action: *Church to be advised that the Bugle can carry a quarter page advert for Start IUP Stirling at no cost for four editions.*

12. Dates of next meeting

12 March 2026 (Garden Room)

Dates for future meetings in 2026

14 May 2026 (Garden Room)
27 August 2026 (Garden Room)
29 October 2026 (Garden Room)
26 November 2026 AGM (Garden Room)

Meeting closed at 9.40pm