GARGUNNOCK COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Minutes

Date: 30th March 2026
Time: 19.00 hrs
Location: Gargunnock Community Centre

GCC: Mike Buckley (MB), Tom Jamieson (TJ), Tom McEwan (TM), Martin Harrick (MH), Julie Cole (JC), Maitland Clark (MC) Christine Phillips (CP)

Councillors: Gerry McGarvey (Councillor)
Minute Taker: Jenny Campbell

Three residents were in attendance.

1. **Apologies:**

2. Declarations of Interest (MB)**:** None.

3. Adoption of previous minutes Accepted as accurate.
(Proposed by Julie Cole Seconded by Martin Harrick).
Amendment – change Windfarm representative – to be Tom McEwen (Not Tom Jamieson)

4. Matters arising from previous meeting

a) Roads / Cycleway (JC)

Stirling Council have removed the signals from Station Road. Thanks to JC for chasing this to fruition.

A811 Station Rd; The farmer to gain a one-year notice regarding his lease for the BT box. The junction works will begin 2027-2028, Julie to keep GCC informed.

Charles St where garages are – flooding and oil in the water reported - Julie awaiting a response on this.

Kings Highway; Stirling Council seem eager to action the cheaper of the options. People's views from the physical consultations included the lack of visibility and dangers on routes proposed. Gerry highlighted that the commitment to this project, could change in the future. It was discussed that GCC, representing residents, wished for higher ambitions for the project and are not prepared to settle for something residents will feel disappointed in.

JC highlighted the financial element and the budget for the project, being surprisingly low. It was raised that the personal competence of the people running the project must be made aware, lack of local knowledge and ownership, etc – and that although Stirling Council are running the project, they do not themselves get into deep levels of discussion with residents. More clarity is required to ascertain who is the project manager, who does the Walk Wheel Cycle Trust report to, etc. A delayed thought-out response to be created by the village, rather than rushing it.

ACTION: *MB to write to Gerry as Chair, for Gerry to take forward the concern formally of the professionalism of the consultation.*

b) Planning (TJ & JC)

- Earlsburn Windfarm Extension: Little progress on this and little local plans submitted. There was an objection submitted for the tree felling. TM & JC are continuing to attempt to get a meeting set with the windfarm company. The project has been reduced in size. No firm timescales at this point.
- Eurowind – There is no physical impact on the village, of this site. However, a meeting is being held 31st March with the team running the project over near the Carron Valley. JC highlighted she felt the project already had their funding. There is a hope that Gargunnock may be eligible for benefits.
- Glasgow airport - No updates to the GCC regarding flight plans for the area of Gargunnock, in terms of air travel routes. It appears that there is no significant impact on us.

The concept of the village taking ownership of a wind turbine should be explored along with future income streams (and outlays). Basis of the output of the turbine would be discussed.

TM investigated the example of Fintry *(as they started their ownership 20 years ago),* the policy is that villagers should have shared benefits.
JC investigated Octopus Energy's example, highlighting that there are approaches that should explored further.

MH urged the Community Council to acknowledge the maintenance and decommissioning charges when a community concludes their ownership (or lease), of a turbine.

It was agreed by the CC that it would be a worthwhile exercise to investigate different examples and options fully.

Nedara are keen to encourage community input. The sooner the conversations happen, the better and it was raised that Earlsburn will at some point, come to an end in the nearer future.

Gerry highlighted he has an association with a community-owned turbine in Lewis (Sandwick Trust) where the community benefits extend across the full island of Lewis and income generated reaches beyond the territorial area of the community itself.

There is a perception that sometimes there is 'ad hoc' management of a community owned (or part-owned) turbine and communities need to understand the longevity of the turbines and decommissioning costs.

GCC were asked by a resident if solar panels were still in the pipeline as an environmental scheme for the residents however it was discussed that the process/income of solar energy is very marginal and that the company exploring this had walked away from the project.

ACTION; *Gerry to send the GCC, contact details of the Lewis Community/Sandwick Trust.*
ACTION; *TM to get in touch with the Fintry Community or ask to attend meeting/s.*

c) Village Fountain & Tidy Up – (MC)

MC met with Fionn McIntosh of Stirling Council, 27th October 2025 and reported to CC on 1st December that the damaged area is deteriorating. It was agreed and minuted that "GCC plan to reinstate the fountain and surrounding area to useable conditions". Impressions in Stone is preparing an estimate for petroanalysis of the stone and repairing the damage. No approach has been made to the WFT until this estimate is received.

The possibility of restoring the water supply is something that SC are interested in, and MC is maintaining contact with them.

The damaged memorial benches have been removed and discussion regarding the potential for the area are ongoing. MC has three landscapers contacted but with no response.

Regarding the benches - verbally the Windfarm Panel have highlighted they are keen to have the benches in the overall proposal to the WFP request, and not to have the benches applied for separately.

Funding options are ready to be applied for and the consensus of the GCC, all in agreement, was that the full works are required to be applied for together *(of all elements and areas).* CP was asked regarding the Shop Community funding potential.

With regard to designs suggestions, MC knows Stuart Ogg and will ask him who was involved with the Beeches Path. Also speak to MoLawn in Dunblane.

No response at all from the article in the Bugle, regarding ideas for the area. More engagement may happen in future *(perhaps with an open day?),* once three options can be proposed to residents.

***ACTION**: To continue with the area being described as identifying all elements for applications (other than solely the fountain itself)*

d) Christmas Lights (MH)

Discussion regarding the future of the Christmas Lights display - a '360 days' set up was proposed by MH for the Christmas Tree supply. Whilst walking past where Xmas lights are, you are having to physically cross the bridge. To make it more of a feature within the village it was proposed that underneath the bridge be lit with lights *(resulting in the whole area gaining a 'new lease of life' look during the festivities).*

***ACTION:** When the landscaper/s comes to meet with Maitland, also have in attendance someone from GCC who is aware of the usual Xmas light set up and the future requirement/s.*

David Millar is resigning completely from GCC and is unable to continue supporting the Christmas Light display. We need to explore what is required to allow us to install the display as in current

years. TJ engaging with SB to look at insurance and we are seeking guidance on what is required to fulfil legal / insurance requirements.

MH is familiar with the general risk assessment element required.

ACTION: *TJ to chase up Stephen B (& insurers)*

e) *Buses*

McGill's have the contract for certain routes. The residents are concerned if further cuts were to be made by Stirling Council.

f) Local Place Plan (JC)

Minor outstanding queries regarding a form of words and a request to include a map showing the locations of the prioritised projects. JC has emailed and there is a plan of the area on where the projects are to be in future being produced on our behalf by SC.

MB is arranging a meeting on 13 April with key stakeholders to explore how to move the prioritised projects forward and agree how to keep the LPP up to date yearly. One key area regards the football pavilion and GCC is keen to support the relevant people if they were interested in moving that forward. Nathan is exploring who are the key players in this area. It was stressed that this is something the football club must drive – it's not seen as a future GCC project.

This is also an opportunity to explore routes to move the Resilience Plan concept forward.

ACTION*: A meeting to be arranged with Nathan from the trust, MB, CP and others from Community – to try to engage people who are involved in the; Football Club (Pavillion), etc.*
ACTION; *MC to pass the 2017 history summary regarding the Pavillion to Nathan*

f) Shop update (JC)

The new manager is using the Facebook page to advertise special offers.

A fridge isn't working; however, it is not one that is owned by the Gargunnock Shop.
The Community Shop was defrauded when an awning was not delivered after payment, and subsequently went to court *(The director of the business involved asked to settle the case, however in the process £411 was lost*). An accountant will hopefully be able to put that down as debt.

Finding quotations for work is proving difficult.

g) More powers for CC's (per MB)

Some general discussion around the papers circulated to Council took place. Gerry McGarvey highlighted the importance recognising how Central Government can let down Local Councils and how that can impact councils' abilities to effect policy and procedures

He encouraged individually and collectively pushing for residents' voices to be heard more strongly as views in the past have been taken for granted. It was important to work together and stress the importance of the community's voice.

Gerry highlighted that there is a genuine commitment to communities who can self-start and noted that GCC is very driven and pro-active in this area. Stirling Council has financial constraints like never before. In showcasing empowerment and decision-making narratives, the Council will welcome the ideas however if it includes asking for financial assistance for any enterprise actions, residents may face a brickwall. GCC continue throughout meetings to pose the question of 'how do they better serve the community' and that level of engagement will be noticed by Stirling Council.

No appetite from GCC to take a general survey like that of Coupar Angus out to the community.

(h) Himalayan Balsam
GCC wrote to David Smith (trustees) of Gargunnock Estates and response is that they are awaiting quotation for the works to be undertaken. GCC are pleased and the interested parties and will be kept up to date.

(i) Food Bank
The advertisement went on the noticeboard, in the Bugle and on Facebook - work between GCC and the church will continue.

5. Finance reports *(per TJ)* *See Appendix 1*

The bill for installing the Christmas Lighting remains outstanding. MH has written to the contractor five times; TJ has written to Stephen Bly twice. A year later, there's an email highlighting that two months ago, they were going to be chasing it up.

One of the responses MH received mentioned that the employee who dealt with invoice retrieval has been 'laid off'.

ACTION: *Gerry will keep GCC and Tom Jamieson up to date regarding the invoice.*

6. External reports and speakers

a) ***Flood Risk Management (Phase 1) Consultation***
Scottish Environment Protection Agency *(per Catherine Isherwood); See Appendix 2*
MC asked Catherine advice regarding the potential build up of water at the Gargunnock bridge, as it has, in the past, flooded farmland near to the Kirk Lane, *(located nearer to the Forth River).*
In reply, Catherine highlighted that there has been no significant concern raised with the agency regarding the bridge in question.

It was also raised that the resident's at the bottom of the Glebe, have had gardens flooded in the past however tree implantation has helped eliviate.

Catherine explained that flooding is a topic requiring detailed consideration in planning, for

appropriate management against flooding. i.e. new builds need to be over a certain height above river level, etc. Catherine went on to discuss that the questions within the survey are in aim of understanding local concerns of any potentially vulnerable areas *(i.e. more so in Callander which is prone to flood).*

It was raised that the village's main street has streams (gullies?) in place to help cope with the effect of heavy rain however a lack of maintenance possibly alongside climate change (i.e. more rain) has had an impact on their functionality.

A heavy downfall of rain, often results in the Carse of Stirling having pockets of localised flooding and the main route into the town of Stirling can present dangerous driving conditions.

SEPA are trying to target their consultation to the mainly effected areas, to better understand how the risks for their communities are being managed. It will also help to allow the agency discover any unknown plans for builds and to investigate local place plans.

Catherine encourage anyone with connections to a higher risk area (*I.e. Callender or Bridge of Allan*), to complete the consultation online and highlighted that the consultation is not directed specifically to community councils but to individuals also.

***ACTION*:** *The CC to highlight to residents that the consultation is live - if asked for details on the matter.*

b) ***Forth & Endrick, Community Council Police Report*** *(Gargunnock); per Police Service of Scotland*

Anti-social behaviour:
A person has been arrested and charged and released with undertaking conditions for issuing threats to someone by telephone. A report has been submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

Poaching:
Two persons have been charged and reported to the Procurator Fiscal in relation to Hare coursing in the area.

Road safety:
Enquires are ongoing to trace the driver of a vehicle after pulling out of a junction, colliding with another vehicle's wingmirror and left the scene without exchanging their details with the other driver.

Another driver has been charged and reported for careless driving after pulling out of a junction and colliding with another oncoming vehicle. Fortunately, no one was seriously injured as a result.

7. Any Other Business

a) Residents Forum; *(Gargunnock Primary School's request and Flower planters)*
Any organisation in the Community who has an interest – the Flower show has done a lot over the years with the school, for example the show committee donating the two planters at the gate of the school.

MH mentioned that Laura is the contact he was in communication with regarding the school lights. Request of anywhere that kids can get their hands dirty for eco/gardening tasks. The

flower show have children's entries in their show annually, however felt disappointed after years of assistance and donations – that the recent miscommunication has happened.

***ACTION*: Maitland to have a direct conversation with the Primary School to ask what their thoughts are on their request.**

b) Continency plan of the situation of the old bridge becoming unusable.
The Stirling Council have inspected the bridge, have noticed some damage and are planning a further investigation. The Council currently don't have any contingency if there were to be an accident on the bridge which would restrict access and egress.
***ACTION:** TJ to chase again for the plan of action and express the requirement and need for*

Example being Arnprior and Port of Menteith – bridge was shut for 6 months plus (therefore if the same were to happen at the village bridge, during the day there's a weight restriction of 3 tonne and at night there's none.)

c) Trees for Goals – no one attended to speak to the topic. The original correspondence and engagement request had been circulated to GCC.
***ACTION;** MB to respond and ask if this is topic is still live. Have they contacted the landowners etc.*
Younger family had Dutch family staying with them, hedge planting was given funding at that time. Perhaps Alison Younger could be a contact to suggest to Fraser.

d) Voice of thanks to Mr David Millar who has formally resigned from GCC. We thank him for his service to the Community. A card and small present have been provided.

e) **Scamming attacks on the Council's account.**
ACTION: *If there happens to be any suspicion on any correspondence, ask for advice and report*.

f) Meeting closed; 8.55pm
Date of next meeting – Monday 1st June 2026.

APPENDIX 1 **per Tom Jamieson**

Financial Report

Gargunnock Community Council

22nd March 2026

- Current balance: £2605.32
- Credits: £0.00
- Income: £0.00
- Grants: £0.OO

- Expenditure since last meeting
  - Minutes £40.00
  - Leaving Gift D. Millar. £15.49
  - Google – storage for email £14.49
  - Hall Hire. £12.01

  Total. £81.99

- Outstanding invoice due from Stirling Council requested
  - £5-700??

APPENDIX 2 – per Dr Catherine Isherwood

SEPA Flood Consultation

Click for the Presentation – (PDF)
https://www.gargunnock.org/frontend/uploads/2026/04/Flood-Risk-Presentation.pdf