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|  | **Gargunnock Community Trust**  **A registered company in Scotland (SC285574)**  [**www.gargunnock.org**](http://www.gargunnock.org) |  |

**AGM 2024 Minutes**

**26 November 2024**

**Held at Gargunnock Community Centre**

**Present**

**Directors:**

Douglas Johnston, Mairi Christie, Jill Patrick, Geoff Peart, Stuart Ogg, Steve Barnet, Gavin Fleming, Gill Bell, Dan Williams, Nathan Anderton, John Steele,

**Trust members**

Jane Arneil, Duncan Lawson, Lorna Rodger, Tom Jamieson, Gordon Webber, Edmond Mansion, Dave Penman, Ben Clokie, Sandra Anderson, Alan MacMillan.

**Apologies**

Crawford Gordon, Jackie Campbell.

**Introduction**

As the Trust does not currently have a chair SO as administrative secretary, welcomed all those attending the AGM and explained that the trustees had agreed tha the Chair’s report would be divided ip amongst those with responsibility for specific areas of the Trust’s business.

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**Minutes of Previous AGM 30 November 2023**

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

**Matters Arising**

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

**Report on Trust’s activities**

**Conversion to a Scottish Incorporated Charitable Organisation (SCIO).**

GF explained that during the year the Trust, following an EGM that it had converted from a Limited Company to a SCIO which would help simplify the accounting process thus reducing the burden on the volunteer trustees. This decision also meant that an updated constitution was drafted and approved at the EGM. So, the Trust became a SCIO at the start of July.

**Community Centre**

With regard to the Community Centre there had been a series of issues relating to the solar panels and battery which in most cases had been resolved. The battery had been replaced. So far it is estimated that there had bene about a £300 saving in energy costs.

**Glebe Park**

***Ponds and Wildflowers***

Dave Penman explained that developments over the past year had included an extension to the dead hedge around the ponds while the perennial wildflowers which had been set had grown well and had provided a good showing. Plans are in place to introduce turfs from other local woodlands to help introduce other local native plant species to the Glebe. With regard to the pons Dave noted that 7 species of dragon fly and damson flies had been recorded at the ponds.

***Bee Group***

GF explained that the Bee Group now had eleven colonies with 6 double sized hives and altogether the group thinks it will have produced between 700 to 800 jars of honey for sale.

**Paths Group**

***Gargunnock to Stirling Active Travel Route.***

GP explained that this main route, despite the amount of effort invested had come to a halt due to the Council’s unwillingness to support the project. He noted however that considerable amount of political lobbying had taken place to garner support for the project including a meeting with the new local MP who was very supportive of the project. He had written to the Chief Executive of Stirling Council to encourage them to include this project in their new Active Travel Strategy. Meetings have also been held with Cycling Stirling and TACTRANs, the latter is now responsible for the strategic approach across the Stirling area. There had also been a King’s Highway meeting of the various local groups involved.

Generally, while there is general support for the project to connect the communities and take the project further to crate the King’s Highway there is essential no funding. GP suggested that it would be sensible to wait to see what happens after the Council’s budget process has been finished.

GP highlighted that the local Councilor Geery McGarvie has given strong support for the Gargunnock to Stirling path and has assured us that he will aim to ensure that this and the link to the King’s Highway are in the Council’s new Active Travel Strategy.

GP summed up by noting a recent Audit Scotland report which highlighted the existing local authority model required review and a different approach adopted. GP had explained to the Councilor that we would be happy to discuss these issues further. However, GP also confirmed that should the Council not show any support or offer funding then the Trust may have to go it alone and seek other partners and funders.

***Beeches Path***

SO explained that the Beeches Path Improvement Project had bene completed in December 2023 with only minor works having to be finalised during the early part of 2024. The path had clearly proved popular amongst local people given the signs of the level of use. Some further minor improvements are required to improve safety at one or two locations which will be executed once funding is available. Finally, SO expressed the Trust’s thanks to John More for his ongoing support for the Beeches Path project.

***CycleShare project***

JS explained that the Trust had successfully raised £30k from the CycleShare scheme which had bene sued to buy a range of bikes which will be available to anyone wishing to hire them. He noted that the earth works had been completed providing a base for a bike store and workshop which will be installed early in 2025.

JS noted that further bike workshops will be held next year. He explained that setting up the software to facilitate the hiring f bikes was problematic due to the bikes being stored presently in different garages. However, once the new bike shed has bene erected then the intention is to open up the system to allow anyone to hire them.

**Windfarm Fund**

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

**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 and to SB and SO for helping set up tables and chairs etc. The funding raised which amounted to £3000 helps maintain the Community Centre. Jill and the other helpers were thanked for their support.

**Bugle**

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.

**Defibrillators**

GB reported the third defibrillator had been installed at Bobby McAllister’s the previous month and has been commissioned. New signs will soon be erected. It will also be recorded on the British Heart Foundation’s database which is accessible by the emergency services. GB indicated that if there is sufficient interest then further training will be arranged.

**Future Projects**

JS indicated that new projects which have been discussed but as yet no formal; commitment has taken place include:

* The field next to the Community Centre as a pump tack or some other sport related facility.
* Upgrade of other existing paths and connections between these paths
* Football changing facilities and main park which would require discussion with the Council.

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

**Secretary’s Report**

GB confirmed the change to a SCIO from a Limited Company effectively at the start of the new financial year. Consequently, last year’s annual report and accounts were submitted to Companies House for the last time.

Lottery licence has been renewed and is available to any group in the village wishing to run a raffle for example. The Public Entertainment licence was also in place and would be renewed in 2026.

GB reported that the Trust had met 5 times during the year and held an EGM and AGM 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 while the Drop-In Centre had now been let to a local business.

He then highlighted specific aspects of the accounts indicating that overall, the finances were looking quite healthy compared to the Covid period with nearly £4000 additional income generated helped by the rental of the offices while energy cost had decreased by the increasing contribution by the solar panels and battery. He highlighted key points about the accounts, noting these were management accounts, the formal accounts have yet to be examined.

recent past.

**Appointment of Directors**

GP 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. In addition, Lois Simpson put herself forward and the meeting unanimously agreed that she should be appointed as a new trustee to fill one of the two gaps on the board.

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 Barnet

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.

It was noted that The Trust still required a Chair, there was a vacancy for an administration role covering the community centre and there was still a vacancy on the Windfarm Panel**.**

**AOB**

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.45pm

**Date of next AGM**

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