



GARGUNNOCK COMMUNITY COUNCIL MINUTES



Date: 3rd June 2024
Time: 1930 hrs
Location: Gargunnoch Community Centre or Google Meet

GCC: David Millar (DM), Christine Phillips (CP), Lovat MacGregor (LM), Tom Johnston (TJ)

Councillors: Rosemary Fraser (RF)

Residents: Maitland and Anne Clark

Apologies: Carolyn Johnstone (CJ), Julie Cole (JC), Mike Buckley (MB)

Minute Taker: Mark Dickson (MD)

Online Meeting: meet.google.com/fum-mxfi-jte

AGM Agenda

1. Apologies (DM)

Mike Buckley (MB)

2. Adoption of previous minutes (DM)

Proposed by CP, seconded by TJ

3. Declarations of interest (DM)

None

4. Election of Office Bearers (DM and Cllr RF)

Chair:	David Millar (proposed by CP, seconded by TJ)
Vice-Chair:	Carolyn Johnston (proposed by DM, seconded by CP)
Secretary:	Christine Phillips (proposed by TJ, seconded by LM)
Treasurer:	Tom Jamieson (proposed by DM, seconded by LM)
Planning/Licensing:	Julie Cole (proposed by CP, seconded by DM)
Roads & Transport:	Lovat MacGregor (proposed by TJ, seconded by CP)
Communications:	Mike Buckley (proposed by CP, seconded by TJ)
Wind Farm Rep:	Mike Buckley (proposed by CP, seconded by TJ)

5. Chair's Annual Report (DM)

Gargunnoch Community Council (GCC) Chair's Report to the AGM on 3rd June 2024

Community Councillors have continued to support the residents of Gargunnoch across a wide variety of activities and issues.

Meetings continue to be every second month at the Community Centre with online joining options for the convenience of residents. These meetings are well attended by our Ward Councillors and residents.

The following is a summary of the main issues and activities of the GCC since the last AGM 26th June 2023.



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1. PLANNING

GCC reviews planning applications for projects within the Community Council area, and where appropriate may meet with developers to understand the project and may provide comments to the planning authority. Planning applications that have raised community interest included:

- Anaerobic Digester Plant at Grahams Dairy: Objections logged from Kippen and Gargunnoch due to a number of concerns.
- Briar Cottage: Objection logged to a proposed development in the grounds.
- Shelloch Wind Farm: Granted planning permission for five wind turbines on the Fintry Hills, to be located just West of the existing Earlsburn and Kingsburn Wind Farms. There will be a Community Benefit Fund that could support projects in the village. GCC recorded our support for the project and continue to engage Vantage ER on its progress.
- Earlston windfarm extension-plenty of dialogue with the developer as some of the blades of the proposed 11 turbines would be visible from the village (at many points) GCC objected to this extension of the existing windfarm and await an update from the Regulators.

2. ROADS

a) Station Road / A811 Junction

We have continued to engage with Stirling Council (SC) about safety at the junction of Station Road and the A811.

There was original agreement in 2022-23 that works would be carried out to provide an improved visibility splay by increasing the x-distance to 2.4m, providing the recommended 215m-distances to the west and east of the Station Road junction and would leave the junction open to two-way traffic.

SC had indicated in 2023 that there was budget to carry out the works but due to resource constraint nothing progressed. GCC escalated this issue within SC citing Police Scotland accident data and the continued risk to public safety. To help expedite a solution, GCC met with Gargunnoch Estate to seek landowner approval to make the agreed changes to improve visibility on both sides of the junction. Following these activities, GCC now have formal agreement from SC that the planning work for the changes will be drawn up in 2024 and the execution of the work carried out in 2025-26.

b) Speeding Within Village

Speeding continues to be a problem in the village by residents and visitors. Numerous attempts have been made with Police Scotland and SC to support the community in addressing these issues. SC historically have indicated they don't believe there is a speeding problem citing historical 7-day average speed data. When asked for this data, they could only produce data sets from 2018 captured on Main Street which indicated 7-day average speed of 17.8 mph. In order to put in place additional measures, the 7-day average needs to be above 24 mph.

SC have now agreed to instal speed monitoring at all three access points to the village to provide comprehensive data to decide on additional measures such as Vehicle Speed Activate Signs.

c) Flooding on Back Road

During heavy rain, there has been continual flooding on the Back Road leading to the A811 from the top of Manse Brae. This occurs at the small bridge just after the entrance to Hillhead



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Farm and was due to a block culvert. SC were notified and they cleared the blockage and will add the culvert to their Culvert Clearing Schedule.

3. **PATHWAYS AND CYCLEWAYS**

The Paths group is a subgroup of The Gargunnoch Community Trust (GCT), and its main purpose is to maintain and where appropriate upgrade the existing Paths network and also to take forward new projects identified by the village community. Projects completed include extensive repairs to the Beeches Path.

Application for funding for the Detailed Design element of the proposed pathway from the Village to Stirling has now been submitted but progress is being halted by SC who are citing the redevelopment of their SusTrans Strategy as the cause.

4. **COMMUNICATIONS**

GCC has regularly submitted articles for The Bugle newsletter and posted information on Village notice board and Facebook providing information for residents and updating the community on our work. Information posters are also placed in the CC and local Gargunnoch Inn. The Village notice board and website has all GCC minutes and information posted. GCC councillors can be contacted in person, by phone or email.

a) **Website**

GCC and GCT are working together to upgrade the existing Gargunnoch Website. This is to create a more engaging and content rich site that promotes our village, the ongoing events and improvement activities, local amenities and provide overall support to the community as a whole.

5. **VILLAGE SHOP**

The Community Benefit Society established in 2023 has successfully raised the required funding from Community Ownership Fund and Scottish Land Fund that will enable the purchase of the shop and essential repair and fit out.

A management committee has been created that will oversee the project and it is comprised of members from GCC, GCT and residents.

A Project Development Officer – Danielle McRorie-Smith has been appointed for 18 months to support the CBS in delivering the project as well as the Community Share Offer.

A dedicated webpage is available on the Gargunnoch website and information will be regularly posted on the noticeboard, Facebook and via the Bugle as appropriate.

6. **CHRISTMAS LIGHTS**

GCC were successful in raising funds to purchase and instal new Christmas Lights for the village.

This included new sockets installed by SC on 8 lamp posts and a series of new lights for the lamp posts and The Square. There was an official turn on in December that was very well attended by the community. A lot of positive feedback was received.

GCC will look to raise further funds in 2024 to expand the lamp post displays and The Square display.

7. **DEFIBRILLATORS**

The ownership of the Telephone Booth and defibrillator next to the Shop have formally been handed over to the Trust.



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8. LOCAL PLACE PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Local Place Plans (LPP) are community driven documents that recently became part of Scottish Planning Legislation meaning local authorities (Stirling City Council) must ensure their broader Local Development Plans take account of local communities' visions and improvement opportunities. Our LPP sets out our vision and improvement activities for the next 10 years - to make our Gargunnoch Community an amazing place to live and visit.

The Gargunnoch Community Council and the Gargunnoch Community Trust are managing the development of Gargunnoch LPP and recently issued the first survey to the community to gather input on likes, dislikes and improvement for the village that we should prioritise in the LPP. The outcomes of this survey have been analysed and shared with the community via the website, Facebook and Noticeboard. The next step is a series of public events to gather further information and priorities to inform the LPP. It is planned to issue Gargunnoch LPP at the end of 2024.

David Millar
Chair
Gargunnoch Community Council

6. Secretary Annual Report (CP)

Secretary Report

Meeting updates

- Meeting continued to be held every 2 months on the First Monday (where possible)
- Format continues to be hybrid – in person or online
- Minutes and agendas shared with Stirling council officer (Stephen Bly)

Communications

Exchanges via Council email account - gargunnochcommunitycouncil@gmail.com

GENERAL

- Complaints about speeding in the village and options for better enforcement
 - GCC will revisit the use of traffic calming signage later in 2024
- Potholes on Leckie Rd raised and forwarded to Stirling Council
- Footpaths: there is deterioration of some footpaths around the village. Resident concern raised, GCC will; aim to work with local groups and escalated to Stirling Council
- Fence at corner of provost park and Main Street was blown down-resident query as to repairs. Fence was repaired by resident
- Village shop: Public and virtual meetings set-up throughout the year to update residents on progress to reinstate the shop. Advertised on noticeboard, Facebook, the Bugle and community website
 - Funding achieved from Scottish Land Fund, Lottery Funds, Gargunnoch Estates Trust, Wind Farm Panel
 - Full renovation and construction begins May 2024
 - Development officer will work on the project for 18 months alongside the Shop committee



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- World cycle championships held in August 2023-fanzone created at the Gargunnoch Inn
- Christmas lights project: crowdfunding page created application to Wind Farm Panel resulted in sufficient funds raised to create a new display at the Square + lamppost lights for the festive season
- Objections to Earlsburn Wind Farm expansion proposals raised by GCC on behalf of residents
- Objections to planning application for new dwelling next to Briar Cottage
- Resuscitation training conducted for residents by Trossachs Search & Rescue
- Set up of Local Place Plan Steering Group
- Gargunnoch to update current online platform and improve communications by updating website
- Request to join other local councils regarding Big conversation
- Village Fast Fibre funding: local resident has gained significant UK funding to have whole of Gargunnoch fibre network updated
- Village fountain: historic Scotland asked to advise GCC on restoration
- Police Scotland – Regular Ward reports

STIRLING CITY COUNCIL

- Christmas Light Supply – lessons from other villages
- Christmas Lights Supply – Stirling Council Policy/ Guidance
- Christmas Lights Supply – use of street lighting power supply
- Potholes in roads raised
- Footpaths deterioration raised
- Safety of exit from Gargunnoch Station Rd to A811 raised and action plan requested for both funding and works timetable
 - Agreement gained from Galbraith's (factor for Gargunnoch estates trust) and Stirling council that works will commence 2025/6
- Community Council Employer's Liability Insurance Documentation
- Local Place Plan – Funding support options
- Local Place Plan – Invite to information/ support webinars
- Various press Releases
- Planning Reports
- Roads Programme Schedules

Promotion of meetings

- Facebook & Posted on Community Notice Board also Gargunnoch Inn
- Articles also in Stirling Observer and Daily Record
- For exceptional meeting e.g. Public meetings, hand poster communications to all households

Publication of approved minutes

- To communityengagement@stirling.gov.uk
- Gargunnoch.org website
- Facebook
- Notice boards



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7. Treasurer Annual Report (TJ)

Statement of Accounts – 2023/2024

1 April 2023 - 31 March 2024

Gargunock Community Council Account – Royal Bank of Scotland 00162462

At the start of the Financial Year the Community Council Bank Account had a balance of £1,017.78 and at the end of the Financial Year the balance was £1,777.48, a net increase of £759.70.

Income

The primary source of income is from Stirling Council amounting to £601.31 in the form of the Administration Grant. There was a donation of £344 and a grant of £7,138.94 from the Windfarm to cover the purchase and installation of Christmas Lighting. There were two refunds: one from our insurance provider of £13.30, and one from the lighting company of £129.00. to recompense for a defective light.

The total income for the year was £8,226.55.

Expenses

The total expenditure of the year amounted to £7,466.85 and is broken down as follows:
Hall Hire £96.08; Minute Taker £160.00; Insurance Premium £24.24;
Christmas Lighting and installation £6293.46; Fee for Google Meet £39.95; New Year
Fire Works £99.97; Refund to Gargunock Community Trust £212.65; Printing of
Community Surveys £540.50

The total expenditure for the year was: £7466.85



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Normal Meeting Agenda

1. Matters arising (DM)

- (a) Council Cuts – ‘The Big Conversation’ (TJ)

NSTR.

- (b) Village Shop (CP)

The main grants have been received and the building works are ongoing. A Gantt chart has been put up on the Village Notice Board providing information on building progression to residents. An additional three weeks have been added onto the completion date as initial works revealed the need for a new roof rather than a refurbishment.

A share prospectus is in the final stages of development to allow residents to buy into the enterprise. Two public meetings will be held in July (one at the Community Centre, one online) providing more information to residents on the share options. A tenant brochure and lease are also being drawn up.

The Community Council expressed thanks to all those involved in this effort.

- (c) Roads (LM / CF)

Police Scotland have taken no action with regards to speeding in the village (cars have been recorded travelling at 30-50mph at the entrances to the village).

ACTION: DM to raise the issue of the lack of any action taken with Cllr RF

Station Road update – works are scheduled to begin on improving the Station Road junction in 2025/26. Thanks were expressed by the Community Council to LM and CF for following up on this issue.

- (d) Planning (JC)

Shellock Windfarm are looking to do further public engagements in the near future.

- (e) Village Fountain (CJ)

Maitland Clark has been working with CJ to investigate this issue. Meeting held with Stirling Council provided three options:

Phase 1: Manual tidy up, repointing etc. Local stone mason quoted around £1,000 for this work. Separate quote required for garden landscaping.

Phase 2: Get the fountain working. Planning would be required. Would require a qualified stone mason, sample analysis of stone and like for like replacement for any refurbishment. It should be possible to get it plumbed in and working. The area where the fountain sits could not be found on the land registry.



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Community Council unanimously agreed to take on Phase 1 of this work while investigating the viability, costs and requirements for Phase 2. Permission given for Maitland to apply to Gargunnoch Trust for funds to get the masonry work undertaken for Phase 1.

(f) Christmas Lights (DM)

Plan to expand the street light displays and get another six sockets fitted on Manse Brae, Station Road and Main Street. Leckie Road isn't currently possible owing to the lack of sockets on the poles. DM looking into costs for this before fundraising for the effort.

(g) Local Place Plan (DM)

Activities ongoing. Public engagements likely to be held in the Community Centre during the last weekend in June. This presents an opportunity for residents to further express their views and engage in the future plans (short and long term) for the village.

(h) Website & Communications (MB/ DM)

A plan and structure for the new website have been made and are currently being developed with the Trust. The draft design will be shared with the Community Councillors before launch.

2. External report

- (a) Police report (DM)
NSTR

3. Finance reports (DB)

Latest provided in the AGM Finance report.

4. Residents' forum

5. AOB:

- 80th Anniversary of D-Day. Flag will remain flying until the 24th June.
- Request made by the local flagmaster, Douglas Couperthwaite, to purchase two new Gargunnoch flags and a new Ukrainian one. Estimate costs of around £90 in total for this. Community Council agreed to fund this (CP, LM)
ACTION: TJ to liaise with Douglas Couperthwaite
- A request was made by TJ to Cllr RF for Stirling Council to look at clearing roadside vegetation, general grass cutting and clearance of drains around the village as they're in a poor state and their condition may be contributing to flooding in the village. TJ also requested for Stirling Council to fix the potholes on Leckie Road as the road remains in terrible condition and presents a danger to cyclists.
ACTION: Cllr RF to raise the issues with Stirling Council

Next meeting: Monday 5th August 2024



**GARGUNNOCK COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES**



Membership of GCC in full

Position	Name	Contact Details	
Chair	David Millar (DM)	07553 016754 dwjmillar@gmail.com	
Vice-Chair	Carolyn Johnstone (CJ)	johnstoncarolyn1@gmail.com	
Secretary	Christine Phillips (CP)	07919 917792 cphillips16@gmail.com	
Treasurer	Tom Jamieson (TJ)	07732696517 tfj1@btinternet.com	
Social Media/ Comms Wind Farm Panel Rep	Mike Buckley (MB)	07967 830144 mb_j@btinternet.com	
Planning & Licensing Cycle Path Lead	Julie Cole (JC)	07773 391747 juliecole67@googlemail.com	
Roads & Transport	Lovat MacGregor (LMG)	07971 513 144 lovatmacgregor@gmail.com	



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