

Gargunnock Community Council

Minutes of the AGM held on June 4th 2013

Present: Douglas Coupethwaite, Geoff Peart, Edmond Mansion, John Craigen, Maitland Clark, Ian Young; Steve and Marilyn Willett; Councillor Ian Muirhead.

1. Apologies

Helen Rowell, Gay Burt; Jane Bain; Barbara Drummond

2. Minutes

The minutes of the last AGM were adopted as a correct record. Proposed by Edmond Mansion, Seconded by Maitland Clark

3. Chairman's Report

See Annex 1 below.

4. Secretary's Report

The Secretary gave a verbal report in which he commented on the low turnout for the AGM and the difficulties in generating community interest in Community Council business unless there was a major issue of concern to the village. He indicated his intention not to seek re-election in October after 13 years, commented that the Community Council had achieved positive results on issues of importance to the village and hoped there would be an infusion of new people and ideas into the Community Council following the elections.

5. Statement of Accounts

The Treasurer submitted the Annual Statement of Accounts which indicated that the Community Council Account stood at £1712 at the end of the financial year, £1060 more than at the beginning. The Treasurer indicated that any office bearers who had incurred expenditure on Community Council business could submit expenses claims to him.

Action: The accounts were unanimously adopted by the meeting and it was agreed to appoint Iain Leith as the external auditor.

6. Election of Office Bearers

All of the existing office bearers of the Community Council indicated their willingness to continue to serve and, consequently, were confirmed in their present posts until the Community Council elections in October 2013.

Action: Existing office bearers confirmed in their posts until the Community Council elections in October 2013

7. Other Competent Business

No other matters were raised

Annex 1

Chairman's Report 2012 – 13

We've held 9 meetings this session and last September we were exercised about dog fouling. The signalisation organised by the dog warden (remember the wanted posters sprayed on the pavements) caused a hostile reaction from some residents, proving that you can only please some of the people some of the time.

Our Community Policeman told us that nothing much happens here but we did ask him to react to complaints about speeding, particularly in Drummond place.

In October we discussed items for future meetings and organised for Recycling officers from Stirling Council to attend the next meeting to advise on the changes taking place

to the kerbside recycling arrangements, however at the November meeting the officers didn't show up, confused about the date apparently.

We were still trying to get something done about the water leak in McNeill Crescent and had moved the focus on to the Council as Scottish water had disclaimed any responsibility.

In December we learned that our evening bus service had been re-routed, only after the changes had been made. Geoff extracted an assurance from the Transport Dept that they would keep us informed in future.

January saw the postponed visit from the recycling people, but unfortunately the local interest had faded and the attendance was poor. In the course of a discussion we did take the opportunity to stress that people reacted better to helpful advice rather than being sent threatening letters concerning the contents of their bins.

There were complaints about parking at the Square which our Community Policeman was to investigate.

Water continued to flow in McNeil Crescent.

In February we learned about the new Policing plans that would come into effect with the introduction of Police Scotland these would be organised by ward and would mean we would be dealing with a different Community Officer.

We discussed the Council's Broadband strategy and Edmond agreed to represent our interests as appropriate.

We tried to raise interest in Local people, Local paths grants but got no response to advertising for someone to take this forward.

Finally the Water problem in McNeill Crescent was solved and it turned out to be a drain failure.

Talking about safer routes to school Lovat McGregor produced a risk assessment for the inadequate arrangements at the Station Road entrance and was going to liaise with Roads head of service, Brian Roberts to arrange for him to see the problem for himself.

March saw us so fed up with the lack of response to Roads maintenance complaints that we considered petitioning Stirling Council.

Edmond was further involved in the Broadband strategy and was looking at joining forces with other Community Councils to add weight to the argument.

Coun Muirhead appraised us of the £9 m. savings the Council sought from their budgets.

Last month we had a presentation on doorstep crime from Rosemary McLelland of Trading Standards.

The potential loss of one Teacher from the school was discussed and we agreed to support the Parent Council in their efforts to prevent this most unwelcome change.

We met the new Community Policeman, Andy Faulds, only to discover about a week later that he was now being deployed elsewhere to be replaced by Ray Murphy that we haven't seen or heard from yet. And that is the story so far.....

I'm very grateful to Geoff for the sterling work he puts in as Secretary, to Edmond for his efforts and the rest of you for your input.

As you know Community Councillors term of office ends in October this year and I've decided that I will not stand for re-election. I'll ask Geoff if he wishes to say anything on this subject. I think it is time that we sought some new members and new ideas. So I hope that between now and then we can identify who might be willing to "step up to the plate" as it were and will take the opportunity to publicise the matter in the next Bugle.