

Gargunnoch Community Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on February 5th 2013

Present: Geoff Peart; Douglas Coupethwaite; Maitland Clark;; Cllr Graham Lambie; Helen Rowell [until 8.00pm]; Richard Morris; Lovat McGregor

1. Apologies

Barbara Drummond; Edmond Mansion; Gay Burt; Margaret McKechnie

2. Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed and adopted . Proposer: John Craigen: Seconder: Maitland Clark

3. Community Police Officer's Report

Richard Morris was in attendance and gave a verbal report. There had been a number of garage break-ins in the area and RM indicated that it was possible for the Police to undertake a free survey of premises security, subject to manageable numbers. There was also an update on the police reforms. The new Forth Valley Division of the Scottish Police Service would be organised on an electoral ward basis which meant that from April 1st RM would not be our community police officer. Gargunnoch would be part of the SW Rural Area based in Balfron, although 999 calls [and probably 111 calls] would continue to be directed to Stirling for a faster response.

Action: Noted.

4. Rural Broadband Strategy

Stirling Council had called a meeting to discuss this issue on 12th January which was attended by Edmond Mansion on behalf of the Community Council. Subsequently, the Broadband presentation had also been sent to the Community Council. This indicated that there were 431 residential lines and 13 business lines in Gargunnoch and that a broadband speed of 8Mbps was achievable in the village. The aim was to increase speeds to between 40-80 Mbps. In discussion, doubts were expressed that 8Mbps were achievable in the village and Lovatt McGregor indicated that the poor download speeds created difficulties for the Village Shop. It was believed that the Gargunnoch exchange was capable of faster speeds and since it was unclear at present what action the Council was proposing to take, it was agreed to write to BT direct to stress the need for an upgrade in facilities.

Action: Secretary to write to BT to seek information on the timetable for upgrading broadband speeds in the village.

5. Local Paths Grants

The Community Council had been alerted to the availability of Local People Local Paths [LPLP] grants to improve the local paths infrastructure. Up to £1500 would be available but applications had to be in by February 25th. Sections of the Beeches Walk were identified as in need of upgrading and it was agreed to see if anyone in the village would be prepared to project manage the application and environmental works.

Action: HR to draft advert for the village noticeboard and liaise with the Secretary who would contact the Council re available support and likelihood of future grant opportunities.

6. Stirling Pitches Strategy

The community Council had been sent a questionnaire by Kit Campbell Associates [KCA] who had been appointed by Stirling Council to develop a Pitches Strategy for the area. It was agreed to send contact information, highlight the problem with grass-cutting and raise the issue of the need for other sports facilities for young people within the village.

Action: Secretary to write to KCA completing the relevant sections of the questionnaire.

7. Secretary's Report

The Secretary indicated that a large number of items had been received in addition to those that had already been forwarded to Community Councillors:

- [1] Rural South West Forum Agenda
- [2] Review of Polling Districts and Places
- [3] Scottish Water Consultation
- [4] Letter of introduction from new list MSP – Jayne Baxter
- [5] Clean up Scotland campaign flyer from Keep Scotland Beautiful
- [6] Invitation to nominate someone for UK honours
- [7] Stirling Community Health Partnership: Public Partnership Forum Agenda
- [8] Consultation on redesigning the community justice system

Action: Noted

8. Treasurer's Report

EM reported that the CC account stood at £1709 of which £306 consists of the balance of funds raised for the village defibrillator, following the payment of £400. MC reported that the defibrillator had now been received and he was liaising with Jackie Stevenson regarding the date of the village meeting which would be scheduled for after the opening of the Community Centre.

Action: MC to liaise with Jackie Stevenson regarding setting up a village meeting to discuss the defibrillator

9. Planning and Licensing Report

Two new planning applications had been received since the last meeting. [1] various works at Old Leckie Farm which raised no issues for the Community Council [2] a revised application for a dwelling house in garden ground SW of Woodside. The Community Council had supported the original application and it was agreed to indicate support for the revision also which raised no new issues.

Action: Secretary to indicate Community Council support for the revised Woodside application

10. Any Other Business

[i] McNeill Crescent Water Leak

It was noted that this had now been dealt with by Scottish Water

[ii] School Access Risk Assessment

Lovat McGregor indicated that he had carried out a risk assessment of the pedestrian access to the Primary School and this revealed a dangerous situation of pedestrian and vehicular conflict on Station Road. There was a clear need for a safe pedestrian access at this point. It was indicated that the Community Council had endeavoured to get the Council to make improvements at this point on several occasions without success. However, it was agreed to contact the Head of Service Brian Roberts and invite him to see the situation for himself.

Action: LM to liaise with Community Council re invitation to Brian Roberts

[iii] Councillor's Report

It was noted that no appointment had been made to the vacant headship of the Primary School.

Action: Noted

11. Date of Next Meeting

March 19th, 2013

GP 06.02.2013