

Gargunnock Community Council

Minutes of Meeting held on 5th October 2015

Present: Alison MacLachlan : Maitland Clark : Bob Burman : Mike McGirr : Lovat McGregor : Edmond Mansion : Cllr Alister Berrill : Douglas Coupethwaite : Neil McRae : Margaret Young : Karen Anderson

Apologies: Bryan Crawford : Dr Ian Young

1. Minutes: Minutes of meeting held on 14th September were distributed.
2. Matters Arising: The minutes were not adopted as Neil and Margaret had just been handed a copy and they requested time to read them. Margaret also said that Ian Young (who was not present at the meeting) on behalf of the GVDIA wanted persusal of the minutes with the opportunity to make comment.

Amendments to minutes – The area referred to as “south” of the Glebe should be “north”.

The mention of the “owner” of the piece of land is amended to read “trustees”.

Agreed to provide a list of Community Councillors and GVDIA Trustees for publication in the next issue of the Bugle.

The GVDIA to convene a public meeting re their constitution and minutes from previous meetings to be made available.

Following enquiries re the Community Councillor’s Handbook it has been confirmed that this publication is no longer available.

It was noted that the minutes of the CC meeting of 8th June were not yet on the Stirling Council website. It was explained that, due to a software problem there was a backload but this would be attended to asap.

Neil stated that, in his view, the survey conducted in the village could have been better planned and executed. He enquired if Stirling Council had guidelines on how this should be done but it would appear that this is not the case.

He also wondered if the piece of land adjacent to the Community Centre could be re-visited for possible housing purposes. It was explained that this had been previously

rejected by the village and, in addition, had now been included in the latest conservation area.

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3. Community Police Officer's Report: Written report received. Policing on the A811 has traced one person using a mobile phone, and a defective light.

An insecure vehicle was entered and money stolen on 21-22 September at Watson house. On 24th September police were informed of Hare Coursing in fields near Gargunnoch but the persons involved were gone by the time police arrived. Police have rolled out nationally a scheme whereby members of the public can ask if their new partner has a history of domestic abuse. Information is on line at the Police Scotland website <http://www.scotland.police.uk/righttoask> and on social media.

Neil McRae asked if there were any figures available to prove the efficacy of the police speed cameras periodically located on the A811 nearby Piperland. He will contact Neil McSporran regarding this.

A reminder that the community police team for Gargunnoch are: Constables Mark Harvey, Ray Murphy, Scott Craigie, Ryan McGill, and Derek Byrne. Community police sergeant is Adrian Robertson who is based at Callander.

4. Treasurer's Report : Balance on hand £1003.
5. Planning: Nothing to report
6. Affordable Housing: The GVDIA have now given instructions to their solicitors to have the land transferred to the Gargunnoch Trust. There will be no incidental costs in this regard.

Although the Community Council have no active interest in the transfer, it was agreed to keep the item on the agenda as there is now a great deal of interest about it in the village and, by doing this, it maintains the spirit of total transparency and open-ness.

7. Safer Routes to School

Lovat reported that, after 2 years of work by the CC, Stirling Council had finally come up with a plan. This includes a safe crossing in Station Road, opposite the Main school gate, and in Leckie Road at the end of Bennett's Way, and also introducing a 20mph speed limit throughout the whole village. However, the plan includes the proposal that all the road markings at the Square entrances be removed. The suggestion was that, by doing this, motorists would be more inclined to slow down and take more care.

A copy of the plan had been put on the notice board and villagers invited to make comment.

Following feedback on this, the safe crossings aspect of the plan was accepted and the proposed 20mph limit were agreed by the meeting, but serious concerns were raised regarding the removal of the road markings. Various "near thing" experiences were mentioned supporting these concerns and Lovat agreed to take these concerns back to Stirling Council for re-consideration.

Thanks were proposed to Lovat for his hard work and lobbying of Stirling Council over the last 2 years.

8. Manse Brae Road Closure

Notice given by Stirling Council that the road out of the village from the top of Manse Brae to the junction with the A811 will be closed from approx. 26/10 until 2/11 for resurfacing.

9. Dog Fouling

A representative from Stirling Council's Public Health team visited the key areas of dog fouling in the village. A new sign has been erected at The Beeches and also the field adjacent to the Community Centre.

10. Code of Conduct Issue

Following the last CC meeting, an email was received from Margaret Young saying she felt that the Community Councillor's Code of Conduct had been compromised by one Councillor. In view of the seriousness of this, the matter was referred to our Stirling Council Representative Cllr Lambie, who was present at that meeting. He in turn consulted with the CC Support Officer and together their view was that there is no case

to answer. Margaret accepted this on the basis that the “selflessness” issue be kept in mind at all future meetings.

11. Community Grant Fund and Community Pride Fund

A reminder that up to £1500 grant may be available from each of these funds, and suggestions were sought as to what could be done with such funds.

There was a request from Caroline Lowther (god-daughter of John Bennett) to replace his bench which, she says, was removed and never replaced. Douglas, on behalf of the Trust, said that the two benches at the fountain area could be refurbished and a new plate provided to commemorate John. The Trust would attend to this. Play equipment at the Community Centre was also suggested and the Trust would also take ownership of this idea.

Refurbishment of the whole of the fountain area was suggested but a difficulty could be that the fountain itself is a historic monument under Historic Scotland. The Trust will also look at taking this forward.

Date of next meeting: 2nd November 2015