

**Gargunnoch Community Trust (DRAFT)**  
**AGM 2014**  
**8 May 2014**

**Present**

Mike Pizey, Stuart Ogg, Jane Bain, Jackie Campbell, Elizabeth Mansion, Edmond Mansion, Douglas Coupethwaite (Chair), Lovat MacGregor, Gilly Bruce, Steve Willet, Marilynn Willet, Geoff Peart,

**Apologies**

Douglas Johnston, Anne Dando, Iain Gulland

Ian Gulland, Convenor welcomed everyone to the AGM

**Minutes of Previous AGM 19 June 2012**

Douglas Coupethwaite asked for a proposer and seconder of the previous AGM minutes. They were proposed by Gilly Bruce and seconded by Mike Pizey.

**Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising from the previous AGM minutes.

**Convenor's Report**

Douglas Coupethwaite outlined the Chair's report. He thanked everyone who had contributed to the successful redevelopment of the Community Centre, including all Gargunnoch residents. He noted that the AGM could only be held once the 2012/13 accounts had been finally signed off.

Douglas explained that most aspects of the redevelopment project had been covered at the official opening in March 2013 and since then there had been an increase in use.

In 2011/12 the Centre had been used for 1,598 hours and generated revenue of £8,587. By comparison, in 2013/14 the Centre was used for 1,865 hours and generated an income of £10,369. These represented a 17% increase in time and 21% increase in revenue.

In addition, before the installation of the biomass boiler, energy consumption amounted to £2,160 for oil and £870 for electricity. After installation the costs of wood pellets cost £823 and electricity £2,053, although the latter included the additional costs of electricity for heating the Drop in centre with convector heaters, which were particularly expensive, while the redevelopment took place. Overall it is estimated that the Centre has used 20% less energy and there was a cost saving of £1,300.

It was noted that there had been a number of minor additional works which had to be completed. These included the acoustic panels, curtains and blinds, additional storage and shelving, stage lighting and an outdoor spring clean..

Looking ahead, priority projects for the Community Centre have been identified as:

- a porch, although that would require additional fund raising

- an extension of the heating system to the Drop in centre to reduce the electricity costs. It is anticipated, that once the latter was installed there would be a pay-back period of 3 years, although again this would require additional fund raising
- a wi-fi controller for the heating system is required as this would help manage the system and ultimately reduce costs
- a garden upgrade which will be taken forward by the Community Pay Back programme, including an extension to the patio area and installation of paths.

Douglas emphasised the significant contribution being made by Bite and Blether and wanted to highlight the success of the Bugle which had now reached its 32<sup>nd</sup> issue and it is understood that it is widely read, including growing international links. He thanked all those who had been involved in delivering these successful initiatives.

Douglas finished his report by indicating that the Trust was now looking ahead to taking on other projects while ensuring those at the Community Centre were completed.

## **Future Projects Report**

### ***Village survey***

Edmond outlined the findings from the village survey which was completed last year. There had been 40 responses. From these, the projects identified were, in order of priority:

1. cycle route to Stirling
2. gateway improvements to the village
3. upgrade to the village square
4. cycle path link to the national cycle routes
5. updated walkers map
6. community woodland
7. community orchard
8. community archive

Other project ideas which were proposed in response to the survey were:

- footpath to the Bield Farm
- dealing with the overhanging trees
- signage for footpaths
- lights on path to Community centre
- allotments
- a sign for the Square
- traffic calming
- Ladies walk improvements

It was noted these would help define future work for the Trust and its working groups.

### ***Windfarm proposals***

Geoff explained the background to the establishment of the Community Benefit Group for the extension to the Earlsburn Windfarm, which had been set up with representatives from the 6 communities which will be affected, to differing degrees.

He indicated that he and Douglas Coupethwaite had been nominated to represent Gargunock by the Community Council to attend the meetings of the Group. He explained that the first meeting of the Group had focused on the scale of the Community Benefit Fund. At this meeting concerns were raised by Gargunock and

Fintry, so the Wind farm developers were invited to review the levels of Community Benefit being offered.

Geoff also explained that two other issues had been highlighted. The first related to the administration of the fund. The first round of the Fund, which had been set up involved a smaller number of communities - Denny, Cambusbarron and Carron Valley. This had been handed over to Charity Foundation Scotland to administer. The arrangements have meant that each eligible community group has had to apply to this organisation, for the release of funding, with applications being submitted twice a year. They also 'top-sliced' the fund to cover their administration costs.

Differences in views, about how the new Fund should be administered, had been expressed by the different communities. Gargunnoch, Kippen and Cambusbarron all agreed that the current arrangements were cumbersome. As a consequence of these differences, the method of disbursing the funds has still to be agreed.

The second key issue to be resolved is the actual allocation of funding between the various communities. As 8 out of the 9 new turbines will be within the Gargunnoch village boundary, it has been proposed that the allocation of funding should reflect that fact. However, again there were differences in views expressed by the various communities although it was noted that, should there still be difficulties in agreeing a way forward after a further meeting, independent legal experts will be called in to arbitrate.

Irrespective, of the issues still to be resolved, it is anticipated that the income through the Community Benefit scheme should start to become available towards the end of 2015.

### ***Cycle path Project***

Stuart explained that the Carse of Stirling Project had also identified this project as a key priority. Gavin Fleming had spoken to the farmer and landowner; neither was comfortable with having the cycle route established across their land. Further work is to be undertaken to gather evidence of support for the project.

### ***WW1 Archive project***

Jackie explained the background to this joint project between the Trust and the primary School and a grant application had been made which would help support IT equipment for the school. It will involve interviews with local residents and the collection of archive material.

### **Company Secretary's Report**

The Company Secretary report was provided by Jane. She noted that the Annual Report and Audited accounts had been submitted to Companies House and OSCR and all paperwork regarding Directors had been updated.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Mike set out the Treasurer's Annual Report and Financial Statement for year ending 30 June 2014.

He noted that the Trustees had approved the accounts on 20 March 2014 and they had been independently examined by Anne Knox FCIE. They received an

unqualified report from the Examiner and had been submitted to OSCR, Companies House and HMRC.

Mike summarised the key points from the accounts as follows:

Cash at bank 30 June 2012 was £42,346

Receipts during the year amounted to £447,684 and included:

- Forth Valley Leader £185,882
- Scottish Government £89,778
- Keep Scotland Beautiful £79,352
- Gargunnoch Estate Trust £60,000
- Awards For All £8,890
- Stirling Council £7,500
- Creative Scotland £4,145
- Development Trust Association £1,000
- Community Centre Income £6,028
- Bugle Income £467

Expenditure during the year amounted to £472,558\* including:

- Community Centre Refurbishment £417,610\*
- Professional Fees £25,504
- Depreciation (Community Centre) £14,362
- Community Centre Operating Costs £11,958
- Interest on Loans £2,177
- Bugle Costs £726

Surplus / Deficit for year £391,106\*

\* Expenditure on the Community Centre refurbishment is classed as investment in the asset rather than funds leaving the Trust. Expenditure, excluding refurbishment costs was £56,578, which gives a surplus of £391,106.

Cash at bank 30 June 2013 £42,681

Asset Value (Community Centre) at 30 June 2013 £648,248

Current balance at 8 May 2014 £21,438.52

### ***Appointment of Independent Examiner for 2013/14***

Mike recommended that Anne Knox FCIE is appointed Independent Examiner for the coming year's accounts. This was approved.

It was noted that during the year Mike had stepped down as Treasurer during 2013/14 and Gilly Bruce had taken on the role with transition arrangements having been put in place to ensure a smooth hand over.

### **Election of Trustees**

Douglas explained that, in accordance with the Articles of Association all directors would stand down but would be eligible to be re-appointed. He also noted that although Ian Gulland had notified his intention to stand down as Convenor he was happy to continue as a Director.

It was proposed that Douglas Coupethwaite becomes Chair of the Trust and this was universally endorsed by those in attendance at the AGM.

It was agreed that Gilly Bruce would be the Treasurer, Jane Bain would be the Company Secretary and that Stuart Ogg would act as the Administrative secretary.

It was noted that all other Directors were happy to be reappointed.

Douglas recorded the Trust's thanks and gratitude to Iain for his time as the Convenor which had seen significant developments, especially at the Community Centre.

### **Memorandum and Articles of Association**

In accordance with procedures, a number of changes were suggested to the existing Memorandum and Articles of Association. These included:

- A new para 3 (e) which would mean the Trust company consulting key village interest groups and particularly the Community Council. This was to reflect the fact that a number of interest groups, which were currently specified in the memorandum no longer existed, so this change would allow some flexibility depending on which groups existed at any particular time
- Various changes to the membership rules were suggested to simplify them.

These changes were discussed and agreed. A version of the changes will be submitted to OSCR and Companies House and a copy retained to show the tracked changes.

### **AOB**

Jackie noted that action was being taken to install a wi-fi booster and this would be acquired by the Trust for the Community Centre.

At the close of the meeting it was agreed that the Trust had a strong team, it had made good progress and there was now a range of new ideas to focus on and opportunities for others to get involved in new working groups to take projects forward.

There were no other items of business the meeting closed at 9.35pm.

### **Date of next meeting**

To be confirmed