



GARELOCHHEAD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

WORKING WITH THE COMMUNITY
FOR THE COMMUNITY

FINALADOPTED Minutes for the Garelochhead Community Council meeting

Held virtually owing to COVID-19 restrictions at 1900hrs on 16th March 2021

Members present:

Watson Robinson	Convenor
Martin Croft	Vice Chair
Carole Spencer	Member
David Norton	Member
Hilary Worton	Member
Craig Ritchie	Member
Fiona Robinson	Member

Attending:

Cllr George Freeman	Ward Councillor
---------------------	-----------------

Public:

None

Guests:

None	
------	--

Apologies:

Margaret Stratton	Treasurer
Fergus Madigan	Member
Cllr Iain Shonny Paterson	Ward Councillor
Ron Fletcher	Portincaple Residents' Association



1. Introductions and welcome

Apologies – as above

Declarations of interest – none

Watson opened the meeting and welcomed members.

2. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting (as amended) were accepted, proposed by Martin Croft and Seconded by Craig Ritchie

3. Police Scotland & CMU reports

Police Scotland report: see appendix

4. Councillors' updates

Cllr Freeman reported as follows:

- While HMS Queen Elizabeth is at Glen Mallan there is a temporary clearway restriction in place on the A814 from Whistlefield to Arrochar which prevents anyone from parking or waiting on that section of the A814. The MOD had originally requested that the A814 be closed during periods when munitions were being loaded at Glen Mallan. The Area Committee had refused this request but on the recommendations of Council officers, had agreed that temporary clearway restrictions be put in place at such times. The current temporary clearway order is in place until the end of March or until such time as operations at Glen Mallan are completed if earlier. The clearway road signs that have been erected appear permanent however and Cllr Freeman stressed that he will continue to oppose any attempt to make this permanent.

5a. Convenor's report

- We have received a response from Jim Smith (A&B Roads) to our letter regarding our concerns about speeding in Garelochhead, however unfortunately this does not adequately address the points we raised in our letter. Cllr Freeman has also written in support of our concerns. Police Scotland speed data does indicate that there is an issue. We need to ascertain if the council accepts that there is a speeding issue and if so, will lack of resource prevent them taking action? Craig



GARELOCHHEAD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

WORKING WITH THE COMMUNITY
FOR THE COMMUNITY

Ritchie proposed that we get dashcam evidence of speeding. Cllr Freeman also commented that concerns have been raised by one or two people over the past couple of years about car parking in the village and suggestions had been made that double yellow lines should be on both sides of the road to prevent all parking in the village. This had been discussed a number of years ago but there was little support for such a change and local businesses did not support such a move. Police Scotland had also stated that parking on the main road in the village helped to slow cars down and if there was no parking, this could increase speeding in the village.

ACTION: Craig Ritchie to draft a response to Jim Smith asking for the issue to be addressed without further delay.

ACTION: Secretary to contact Police Scotland (Roddy McNeil) to put us in touch with the appropriate road traffic officer to invite them to attend our next meeting.

ACTION: Craig Ritchie to investigate feasibility and costs for collecting dashcam evidence.

- The public hearing for the Portincaple planning application (20/00094/PP) went ahead on 26th January and the application was refused by the PPSL committee. Community Councillor Gemma Kimmett and others submitted an official complaint since during the hearing a Council Officer was apparently heard swearing at a member of the Community Council who was speaking at the time. The council have investigated and determined that the Council Officer was in fact swearing at someone else who she was speaking to on her other line without muting herself.
- We have been contacted by Scottish Fire & Rescue Service with a reminder that they are able to offer a lot of valuable information, in particular different safety messages dependant on the time of year (e.g. water safety, fireworks/bonfire safety, grass/wildfire safety) or specific advice at time of events or local initiatives/issues. They also offer Home Fire Safety Visits for residential homes (again this is restricted at this moment), but are able to visit the most vulnerable if and when required. These provide residents with safety information in the home and free smoke/heat detection is installed where appropriate. While working together with external partners (Police, charities, care providers, etc) they are to share access to various online training events/seminars/workshops, face to face training (when pandemic permits) that would be useful for Community Councils, youth groups, charities or individuals within the community.

5b. Vice Convenor

- We have submitted a £5,000 grant application (Calor rural community fund) to cover the costs to replace the cemetery gates and improve the entrance/parking area. A&B Council have informed us that this will require a Listed Building Planning Permission application. Cllr Freeman confirmed that we will also need to obtain permission from the land owner (Argyll & Bute Council Estates department) and has put us in touch with the appropriate contact person. We need to understand what the council is planning to do to make good the area around the demolished building since currently it is impossible for disabled persons to easily access areas of the cemetery. There must



have been details in the planning application. Watson Robinson also pointed out that the pillar on the left of the entrance has been replaced the wrong way around and so will also need to be repaired/repositioned.

ACTION: Secretary to investigate planning application documentation for demolition of the building and draft letter to council regarding our concerns over disabled access.

ACTION: Craig Ritchie to investigate listed building planning permission process

5c. Secretary

- We have written another letter of commendation to Whistlefield resident, Pat Robinson, for her sterling efforts in litter picking in the area. We have also contacted the Helensburgh Advertiser who have confirmed they will be publishing an article about this, as well as our recent letters to Tam & Sandra Ward and Alistair McIntyre for their community efforts. The article should be published this week or next.
 - We received a request from elderly residents at the top of Feorlin Way to investigate having a new postbox installed since it is difficult for them to get to the existing postbox, especially in icy conditions. We applied for this however unfortunately the request was turned down since there is already a postbox within half a mile.
 - At the request of a resident, we have been in touch with the Council asking when the junction realignment/barrier works at Portincaple are going to be done. This work was included in the 2019/20 capital roads budget but was delayed owing to COVID and has been pushed back to 2020/21.
 - We started exploring the opportunity to take advantage of the grant for the installation of cycle repair stands, however regrettably the deadline was too short since the work needed to be completed by the end of April.
 - We have written to Mark Lodge of the Council Planning department requesting a meeting regarding the implications of the recent planning decision in Portincaple (20/00094/PP) for LDP2 and NPF4. The request has been turned down owing to time constraints and other priorities at the moment. Fergus Madigan is leading on this matter.
-



5d. Treasurer

In bank	£4,475.57
Less payments out	£(343.37)
Leaving	£4,132.20

Details

1. Watson Robinson for box files (£19.95)
2. Avid Plc via Carole for pet tracker (£309.60)
3. Helensburgh & Lomond foodbank at Rosneath (in lieu of payment for domain name to Alan Pinder) (£13.82)

(£343.37)

5e. MOD

- There is lots of interest in the arrival of HMS Queen Elizabeth at Finnart.
- Local exercises are taking place over the next few nights and there may be some noise disturbance.
- We have not had an official report recently from MDP so Craig Ritchie will chase this up
ACTION: Craig to chase up regular MDP report

5f. Planning

- Current status on the Station Road planning application is that the council is still waiting for further information from the applicant which they have requested. This application is very similar to a previous application which was granted. Cllr Freeman stated that he has copies of most of the literature relating to the previous planning application and most of this is available on the Council website. Martin Croft pointed out that although the previous application was approved, the village has changed quite a lot since then in terms of local community facilities and so this new application should be given full consideration reflecting the new circumstances. Cllr Freeman reminded everyone that, as with all planning applications, the application would be considered based on the Local Development Plan and local planning policies. In order to gather local views regarding we will post a poll on Facebook before deciding whether we want to lodge a comment as a statutory consultee.
ACTION: Secretary to work with Laura Cameron (social media officer) and Fergus Madigan (planning officer) to post a poll on Facebook to raise awareness and assess local views.



5g. Environment & Pet Trac

- Pet Trac scanner has now arrived. We will notify the community of this via Facebook and our website.
ACTION: Secretary to post information on Facebook. Fiona Robinson to post on website.
- A council official has arranged to visit on 7th April to view the area where the knotweed has been spread during council grass cutting.
- Carole Spencer confirmed that she now has the Community Council mobile phone however it has no credit.
ACTION: Carole to purchase credit and contact Treasurer to arrange reimbursement

5h. Church update

- The Church will be reopening on March 28th with pre-lockdown COVID-19 precautions back in place.
- The required repair works are currently on hold.

5i. Social media and Community Planning Partnership

Not present

Residents' Association Updates

GRA

- The Convenor reminded Members that it had previously been agreed that the Community Council would always have representation on the Garelochhead RA and so we are now looking for someone to replace Mary. He urged members to consider volunteering for this and asked anyone interested to let him and/or Cllr Freeman know.

ACTION: contact Watson Robinson and George Freeman if you are interested in representing the GCC in the Garelochhead Residents' Association.



PRA

- Application 20/00094/PP for Drovers Landing development refused by PPSLC, however, there is no indication at present of the next move by the developer. Both the PRA and GCC wrote to Mark Lodge seeking clarification of possible courses of action, but the reply came back that the consultation period had ended last January (2020). The planners were currently carrying out their evaluation of the responses, with a view to preparing a report with recommendations by the end of March, which would probably be discussed by the full council at their meeting on 15th April. Following on from this the documents would be submitted to the Scottish Reporters for consideration. The applicant has 3 months from the formal notice of 29th January to decide whether to lodge an appeal. The PRA notice that para. 2 of the Notes to Applicant attached to the formal notice, suggests that one option available is to serve a “purchase notice” on the Council to buy the owners interest in the land, because it has been rendered incapable of beneficial use for the carrying out of any development which would be permitted. Without any evidence, the PRA think that the likely course of action will be for the developer to sit on the land until LDP2 is adopted, when we know that it is the intention at present for there to be no 5 house limit in Villages and minor settlements. This would allow a much larger application to be made.
- Two road fault reports were submitted regarding potholes.
200310-000161 road adjacent to Creaggan
200310-000191 road at turning area.
Both have been acknowledged with completion targets of 23rd March and 15th April respectively. Just received email stating that 000161 has been completed today. Will need to check.
- Email sent to Donna Lawson requesting details of traffic safety barrier works at A814/Feuins Road junction. (£20K included in budget for 21/22 works, as per Lochside Press report).

Actions from last meeting

3 Lochs Way (TLW)

- Martin Croft has spoken to the farmer who owns the land in question where the proposed new route would cross however he does not appear to be interested. Martin also questioned whether it might be better to prioritise improving the path from the top of the cycle path that enables walkers to rejoin the TLW and add new signage. It was decided that we would park this matter until we are able to meet in person and walk the path options along with John Urquhart.
ACTION: Secretary to organise this once COVID restrictions are lifted.



GARELOCHHEAD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

WORKING WITH THE COMMUNITY
FOR THE COMMUNITY

AOB

- Martin Croft stated that he has found someone who has agreed to finish the community novel for us!

Date of next meeting

Next meeting will be held (virtually - tbc) on 18th May 2021.

ACTIONS FOR FOLLOW UP AT NEXT MEETING

Agenda item	Who	What
Convenor's report - Speeding	Craig Ritchie	Draft a response to Jim Smith asking for the issue to be addressed without further delay.
	Secretary	Contact Police Scotland (Roddy McNeil) to put us in touch with the appropriate road traffic officer to invite them to attend our next meeting.
	Craig Ritchie	Investigate feasibility and costs for collecting dashcam evidence.
Vice-Convenor's report – cemetery gates	Secretary	Secretary to investigate planning application documentation for demolition of the building and draft letter to council regarding our concerns over disabled access.
	Craig Ritchie	Investigate listed building planning permission process
MOD	Craig Ritchie	Chase up regular MOD report for GCC meetings
Planning	Secretary	Facebook poll to assess local views on Station Road application
Pet-Trac	Secretary	Put note on Facebook to inform people that we have purchased the scanner
Mobile phone	Carole Spencer	Top up credit and arrange reimbursement from Treasurer
Three Lochs Way	Secretary	Arrange site walk through with John Urquhart once COVID restrictions are sufficiently lifted
Residents' Associations	All	Contact Watson Robinson and George Freeman if you are interested in representing the GCC in the Garelochhead Residents' Association.



GARELOCHHEAD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

WORKING WITH THE COMMUNITY
FOR THE COMMUNITY

Appendix



Garelochhead Police
Report 09.03.docx

1. Police Scotland report

[End of Minutes]