



GARELOCHHEAD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

WORKING WITH THE COMMUNITY
FOR THE COMMUNITY

APPROVED Minutes for the Garelochhead Community Council meeting

Held virtually owing to COVID-19 restrictions at 1900hrs on 25th May 2021

Members present:

Watson Robinson	Convenor
Martin Croft	Vice Chair
Margaret Stratton	Treasurer
Hilary Worton	Secretary
Carole Spencer	Member
Gemma Kimmett	Member
David Norton	Member
Fergus Madigan	Member

Attending:

Cllr George Freeman	Ward Councillor
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Public:

Ron Fletcher, Portincaple Residents' Association
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Guests:

None

Apologies:

Craig Ritchie	Member
Cllr Iain Shonny Paterson	Ward Councillor

1.Introductions and welcome

Apologies – as above

Declarations of interest – none

The Convenor (Watson Robinson) opened the meeting and welcomed members. Watson thanked members for their work over the past 12 months and reminded all attendees that the AGM will be held next month and we would encourage anyone interested to join the CC as a new member.



2.Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting (as amended) were accepted, proposed by Martin Croft and Seconded by Fiona Robinson.

Given that the CC meets approximately every 2 months this means that there is a lengthy delay before the Minutes of each meeting are approved. The following revised procedure for distribution, review and approval of Minutes was proposed by Hilary Worton and Seconded by Carole Spencer and approved by members:

1. Secretary emails out the minutes to members approximately 2 weeks after meeting.
2. Members are given a time scale to make amendments.
3. Minutes proposed and seconded there after
4. Minutes released
5. At the next meeting it's recorded when minutes were released, when they were finalised and who proposed and seconded. We then just need to go through the actions.

Actions from last meeting

Agenda item	Who	What	Status /* carried forward/ new actions
Convenor's report - Speeding	Craig Ritchie	Draft a response to Jim Smith asking for the issue to be addressed without further delay.	Sent 25.5.21
	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.	*Outstanding
	Craig Ritchie	Investigate feasibility and costs for collecting dashcam evidence.	*Bring forward to next meeting for discussion
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.	Documentation circulated. *Check current status of site and write to council if necessary
	Craig Ritchie	Investigate listed building planning permission process	Done
MOD	Craig Ritchie	Chase up regular MOD report for GCC meetings	Done
Planning	Secretary	Facebook poll to assess local views on Station Road application	On hold pending additional documentation from applicant
Pet-Trac	Secretary	Put note on Facebook to inform people that we have purchased the scanner	Done



Mobile phone	Carole Spencer	Top up credit and arrange reimbursement from Treasurer	Done. *Advertise number on website/FB etc.
Three Lochs Way	Secretary	Arrange site walk through with John Urquhart once COVID restrictions are sufficiently lifted	*Carry forward
Residents' Associations	All	Contact Watson Robinson and George Freeman if you are interested in representing the GCC in the Garelochhead Residents' Association.	*Carry forward

3. Police Scotland & CMU reports

Police Scotland report: see appendix

4. Councillors' updates

Cllr Freeman reported as follows:

- A814 clearway consultation provides the opportunity for comments on whether or not this should remain temporary or become permanent.
- Several bus stops have been installed in Helensburgh & Lomond recently. Concerns have been raised by residents about the one that has been moved in Garelochhead (opposite The Anchor). All traffic now has to stop when the bus stops since it no longer pulls into the layby. Cllr Freeman believes there is no reason why the shelter could not be at the end of the layby and the rest of the layby used for legal parking.
- The Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) has informed Cllr Freeman of its intent to dispose of some land in Garelochhead. Cllr Freeman will provide more information when this is available.

Cllr Paterson provided the following written report which was received after the close of the meeting as he had technical problems which prevented him from joining the meeting.

- Portincaple barrier
I had meeting with along with members of Kilcreggann cc, and Kevin McIntosh operations manager regarding issues with access Barbour cemetery, on the 11th may at which we also discussed portincaple barrier. Update the barrier is planned for the end of June due to contractor having to attended to other jobs elsewhere. Kevin assured me that he should be back by middle of June and barrier will be in place by end of June. Will keep you updated with further developments.
- Portincaple
You will have had correspondence regarding my support for the community regarding my opposition to the proposed development, I am not under the same restrictions as councillors who are on the planning committee so can be more vocal regarding this matter. I have had conversations with officers regarding this



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matter. We have a further 14 days for the appellant and Argyll & Bute council to respond, then it is over to the reporter who hopefully can make a decision.

5a. Convenor's report

- An appeal has been submitted to the DPEA against the refusal of the 'Drovers' Landing' planning application in Portincle. The GCC has sent in a letter restating our opposition and the reasons for it. Details can be found at [Scottish Government - DPEA - Case Details \(scotland.gov.uk\)](https://www.scotland.gov.uk/topics/dpea/cases). There have been some inflammatory comments made about residents by the appellant's agent via the Helensburgh Advertiser Facebook page. Watson Robinson has responded to this and requested an apology.
- We have responded to the Council's consultation on the clearway proposal for the A814. Our response was in line with the views expressed at the last meeting by Cllr Freeman on behalf of residents.
- There is a proposal to reinstate access to the slipway in Garelochhead for shore/water access. It will be important that any cars parked there do not obstruct boat launching and that the slip does not cause problems for neighbouring properties.
- The Clyde Local Liaison Committee (CLLC) meeting is taking place on July 20th at 2.30pm in Rhu. We have been invited to send two representatives. Convenor and Secretary will attend (unless anyone else would like to take one of these places.)

5b. Vice Convenor

- We have been in correspondence with the Council regarding the state of the Cemetery gates and have requested that the Community Council manages the replacement/repair work with the support of the Council. The Council seems willing to give us authorisation for this and we are awaiting their confirmation in the next week or so. We have identified a number of possible funding routes which we will approach once we get the go ahead to start the project, including the Calor Rural Community fund (application already submitted) and the Community Lottery.
ACTION: Martin, Carole and Hilary to work together on this pending Council approval.
- 50 copies of the community novel have been printed and distributed to all authors and others who have assisted with the novel or more generally during the pandemic. It seems as though there may be interest in printing additional copies for sale. The Convenor congratulated all involved for a terrific lockdown initiative. Carole Spencer proposed a suggestion for how this could work which will be discussed at the next GCC meeting and a decision made.
ACTION: Carole to circulate her ideas by email in advance of next meeting.



5c. Secretary

- Helensburgh Advertiser published an article about the 'local heroes' that we had recently written to recognising their hard work in the community.
- We provided a statement to the Advertiser as input for an article about the Portincaple planning appeal.
- We have been contacted by residents at Carrick Castle asking for information about the Portincaple development as they are concerned about the continued expansion of the same applicant's activities over there and the associated disruption to their community. They have submitted letters to this effect to the DPEA urging the Reporter to reject the Portincaple appeal.
- We received information and an invitation to a public meeting to discuss the application for three new fish farms by Dawnfresh around Bute/Cumbrae. This was circulated and shared via our social media. This may have implications for the fish farm application on Loch Long.
- Carole Spencer has kindly agreed to help out with the Calor Rural Community grant application.
- Recently attended a training course about Argyll & Bute Participation Requests. This is a statutory mechanism to help community groups have greater involvement in and influence over decisions and services that affect them. This could be a useful route for us to gain better engagement with the Council over the various traffic issues we have been raising.
ACTION: Hilary to circulate information to members.

5d. Treasurer

- Balance in account £3,872.20
(Less course payment for Hilary (c. £300) to be made before close of accounts for the AGM)
- Margaret confirmed that she will be resigning at next month's AGM. We will therefore need to change the signatories on the account. It was proposed and agreed that the new signatories should be Secretary, Vice Convenor, and the incoming Treasurer.
ACTION: Margaret to organise this change to be made with the bank.

5e. MOD

- Both bases remain fully COVID-compliant. Lateral flow tests are available for anyone who wants one and the bases are continuing to follow working from home guidelines.



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- 'Dark Poseidon' exercise is scheduled for 24th-28th May on the Gare Loch near Mambeg involving lift rafts, parachutes and rib activity.
ACTION: Secretary to place notice about this on our Facebook page.

5f. Planning

- Amendments have been made to planning application 20/01822/PPP, Site for the erection of dwellinghouse and public realm enhancements, Land East Of Taliesin West Garelochhead
- No news regarding the Station Road planning application; still awaiting wildlife surveys. We had been intending to do a Facebook poll to gauge local feeling, however this is on hold pending completion of the application. The land is allocated for housing in the current Local Development Plan (and within the settlement boundary in the proposed LDP2) and three previous applications on the site have been approved, at least one of which was an identical application.
- We have written to the Council's access officer regarding access to the shore at the south end of Portincaple for fishing and access to the rocks and the Bonny Shore. The new landowner has closed off the access with a gate and local feelings are running high since this access has been used for generations however nearby residents have raised concerns over litter and vandalism associated with day visitors over the years. An accompanied site visit has been requested.
- Dunivard Road junction parking continues to be problematic. Inconsiderate parking is a long-standing issue in this area and it can be dangerous for road users and pedestrians. Martin suggested that we could include this problem in a potential 'participation request' to the Council.

5g. Grants/funding and Pet Trac

- Calor Rural Community grant application has been submitted to cover the costs of the Cemetery Gates repair. We need to complete the application with video content. Also exploring Community Lottery funding. Carole also confirmed that she has some contacts with submariners charities who we will approach if we get the go-ahead from the Council to take on the repair work.
- Pet Trac scanner has not been needed as yet. There have been reports on social media of some episodes in Helesburgh where it might have been useful.
ACTION: Carole to monitor and offer help in the broader area where appropriate.



council official visited on 7th April to view the area where the knotweed has been spread during council grass cutting. They will return and re-treat later in the season.

5h. Church update

- WW1 memorial bench has sadly been damaged by vandals. This has been reported to the police and repairs are in hand.
- The gradual relaxation of COVID restrictions means that things are now opening up a bit more for services
- Church of Scotland has been supporting and has helped develop a much more manageable plan of repair work to help stop the deterioration of the Church. Volunteers will be needed in due course!

5i. Web site/social media

- All social medial channels are being kept up to date. The recent Medical Centre vaccination update was particularly well-received.

ACTION: Fiona to investigate how to link Facebook and Instagram

Residents' Association Updates

GRA

- Nothing to report

PRA

- Have sent representation to DPEA regarding the Drovers' Landing planning decision appeal. Submissions have also been sent by the Protect Portincaple Save Loch Long campaign group and the arboriculturist they have engaged.
- The PRA also provided a statement to the Helensburgh Advertiser for their article about the Drovers' Landing appeal.
- The two road fault reports that had been submitted regarding potholes have been repaired, but have been poorly done.
200310-000161 road adjacent to Creaggan
200310-000191 road at turning area.



AOB

- Convenor reminded members that we need to start planning for this year's Xmas tree.
ACTION: Secretary to add to agenda for next meeting.

Date of next meeting

AGM will be held (virtually) on 15th June 2021 at 7pm, followed by the public meeting at 7.30pm.

ACTIONS FOR FOLLOW UP AT NEXT MEETING

Carried forward from prior meeting(s)

Agenda item	Who	What
Convenor's report (March)	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. (Agenda item for next meeting)
Vice-Convenor's report (March) – cemetery gates	Secretary	Secretary to check current status of site and write to council if necessary regarding our concerns over disabled access.
Mobile phone	Carole Spencer	Liaise with Fiona/Hilary to advertise number on website/FB etc.
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.

New actions

Agenda item	Who	What
Vice convenor's report – Cemetery Gates	Martin, Carole, Hilary	Martin, Carole and Hilary to approach organisations for assistance with funding pending Council approval for us to take on the project.
Vice convenor's report – community novel	Carole	Circulate ideas to GCC members for how the sale of the novel could work.
Secretary's report	Hilary	Circulate info on Participation Requests to GCC members
Treasurer's report	Margaret	Organise change of account signatories
MOD	Hilary	Place notice on FB about 'Dark Poseidon' exercise
Pet Trac	Carole	Offer the use of device in the wider area in needed.
Social media	Fiona	Investigate linking Facebook and Instagram accounts



Appendix

1. Police Scotland report



Garelochhead CC
Police Report 24.05.docx

[End of Minutes]