



# GARELOCHHEAD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

WORKING WITH THE COMMUNITY  
FOR THE COMMUNITY

Minutes for the Garelochhead Community Council meeting

Held virtually owing to COVID-19 restrictions at 1900hrs on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Members present:

|                 |                      |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| Watson Robinson | Convenor             |
| Martin Croft    | Vice Chair, CC       |
| Andrea Wise     | (Outgoing) Secretary |
| Carole Spencer  | Member               |
| David Norton    | Member               |
| Hilary Worton   | Member               |
| Laura Cameron   | Member               |
| Craig Ritchie   | Member               |
| Fergus Madigan  | Member               |
|                 |                      |
|                 |                      |

Attending:

|               |     |
|---------------|-----|
| Maurice Corry | MSP |
|---------------|-----|

Public:

|               |
|---------------|
| Ron Fletcher  |
| Hilary Worton |

Apologies:

|                |            |
|----------------|------------|
| Gemma Kimmett  | Member     |
| George Freeman | Councillor |
| Iain Paterson  | Councillor |
| Barbara Morgan | Councillor |

## 1. Introductions and welcome

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Apologies – as above

Declarations of interest – none



Watson opened the meeting and congratulated the new Community Council members who were elected unopposed last month. Watson thanked all for attending and Andrea Wise for organising the virtual meeting.

## **2. Minutes of previous meeting**

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Proposed: Andrea Wise / Seconded: David Norton

## **3. Police Scotland & CMU reports**

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Police report: see appendix

No report provided by MOD/CMU.

## **4. Councillors' updates**

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(Received in the evening after the GCC meeting from Councillor Paterson)

Please be advised that the Garelochhead, Kilcreggan and Rosneath Shopfront Improvement Fund will be launched tomorrow. Please see the Fund details via the following link:

<https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/town-centre-shopfront-improvement-grant>

Councillor Freeman was not present at the meeting, however sent an email confirming that he was continuing to press for support from Police Scotland regarding the request for the raw traffic speeding data as per previous minutes.

## **5. Committee By-Elections 2020**

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Hilary Worton, Fergus Madigan, Craig Ritchie and Carole Spencer have all been elected to the Garelochhead Community Council unopposed.



### 6a. Convenor's report

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- Asked that members consider if they are interested in taking on any specific areas of responsibility within GCC. Is anyone able to take over the GCC mobile phone helpline?
- A wreath for Remembrance Sunday was laid at the Church. Thanks to Councillors Freeman and Morgan for their support.
- Email sent to Council Planning officer stating our disappointment at the decision to hold a virtual public hearing and no site visit relating to the Portincaple Drovers' Landing planning application. This has been passed to Patricia O'Neil who is responsible for procedural matters. No response has been received.
- Xmas tree for Garelochhead has been organised via the Base and will be delivered on Nov 25<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to Stuart Dobson, Babcock and Mark Fitzsimmons from Faslane.
- It has been agreed that the Three Lochs Way will be re-routed via Glen Fruin and Garelochhead which should have a positive impact on local businesses. Further discussions are ongoing to re-route the path away from the road and a meeting is proposed with John Urqhart to discuss.
- Email received regarding Clyde Liaison Committee. Postponed until March.
- Reminder to please consider the Faslane transport consultation, seeking to find out any specific problems in the area which are directly caused by transport demand at the base. (Consultation document already circulated by email to GCC members.)

### 6b. Vice Convenor

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- It has finally been confirmed that the derelict building at the cemetery can be demolished. We are just awaiting a date.
- We are still not able to locate the cemetery gates. If they cannot be found can we get funds to replace them via the Commonwealth War Graves Commission?
  - Maurice Corry, MSP, stated that he is waiting to hear back from the War Graves Commission. Has also again asked the council to try to locate the original gates and will chase this up.

**ACTION:** Martin Croft & Maurice Corry to liaise over this and report back at next meeting.

### 6c. Secretary

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Convenor expressed sincere thanks to Andrea Wise, who is stepping down from the GCC, leaving a vacancy for the role of Secretary. Hilary Worton was proposed by Carole Spencer and seconded by Craig Ritchie and thus appointed.

**ACTION:** Hilary to liaise with Andrea to get access to Secretary email login etc



### 6d. Treasurer's report

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No change since last report. Balance in account remains £3,992.57.

### 6e. MOD update & speeding (Craig Ritchie)

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- Have received details of Dockyard Port from QHM.
- Have written to Police Scotland & Council regarding the ongoing problem with speeding in Garelochhead but we appear to be at a deadlock with no acknowledgement that there is indeed a problem. The Council Roads Committee will meet in December and C Ritchie has asked to attend in order to press our point. Jackie Baillie and George Freeman have both expressed support. Further discussion ensued on the subject of speeding and options for restrictions/monitoring.  
**ACTION:** All - send any suggestions to Craig for him to raise at the Roads Committee meeting
- Faslane base are continuing efforts to maintain safe conditions at the base to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The numbers testing positive are increasing but are under constant review and working from home is encouraged where possible.

### 6f. Planning

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No update available

### 6g. Environment, Pet Track, Xmas Lights

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- Have heard nothing more regarding the problem with Japanese knotweed. Council did not spray the right area, despite Carole Spencer having sent details of where it is located. It is still growing and the council are continuing to cut it back, thereby worsening the problem and spreading it.  
**ACTION:** Carole to liaise with Hilary Worton (Secretary) to draft letter to Tom Murphy (amenities) at the council reminding them of their legal obligations relating to invasive non-native species.
- Pet Track scanner. Everything is in order and we now just need to fill in the forms and get a cheque raised to cover the cost.  
**ACTION:** Carole to liaise with Margaret Stratton (Treasurer)
- Note that there is a dangerous dog in Garelochhead which has attacked several other dogs recently. Dog Warden needs to deal with the problem.



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- Someone has put some rocks down along a very muddy section of the 3 Lochs Way leading up from the cycle path. Are there any grants available to help fund the required improvements?  
**ACTION:** Carole to investigate and report back at next meeting

## 6h. Church update

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Services are working well incorporating appropriate social distancing.

Discussion regarding Xmas tree lighting. Not possible for lights to be on during daylight hours as they are linked to the street lighting.

## 6i, 6j. No reports available.

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## 6l. Social media & Community Planning Partnership (CPP)

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The GCC Facebook page has 166 likes/follows with 50-80 people seeing every post. Post with greatest engagement was the invitation to participate in the Rest & Be Thankful consultation, with over 1,000 views. Have recently posted the Police Scotland survey and the agenda for this meeting. Twitter has the same content but fewer followers.

Have had no interest in the offer to see the plans for recent planning applications.

Garelochhead Residents Facebook page is pretty active. Suggest that we engage more frequently with that page in order to raise awareness of the GCC page and activities. For example can we post a poll to ask how concerned people are about speeding in Garelochhead? That data could be used to support our work with Police Scotland and the Roads department. Fergus M suggested a Xmas competition via FB and offered a hamper as a prize.

**ACTION:** Laura to consider these suggestions for action.

Will post consultation about bus services on our FB page.

CPP met recently. The Boundary commission proposed changes mostly affect Helensburgh and there is no impact for Garelochhead.

## Garelochhead Residents' Association

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No update available



### **Portincaple Residents' Association (Ron Fletcher, Chair, PRA)**

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- Disappointed about the Council Planning Committee decision not to hold a site visit for the Drovers' Landing housing development application, and to go ahead with a virtual public hearing.
  - Successful brainstorming session held recently with MSPs/MPs and/or their representatives. Good turn out and positive discussions. As a result, Brendan O'Hara, MP, has obtained official confirmation from MOD that they do not have plans to take on any of the housing on the site. (Jackie Baille y, MSP, has also received similar confirmation.) The Scottish Greens have offered support with lobbying once we have a date for the hearing.
  - Community filming took place on 4<sup>th</sup> November showing everyday life in Portincaple, including loch swimming, dog walkers and a traffic jam on Feuins Road. It is intended that the film will be used to support the opposition to the planning application. There may be another filming session at a later date.
  - Food waste calendar has been corrected
  - The planned realignment of the Junction of Feuins Road with A814 is apparently not now going ahead. Instead there will be new safety barriers installed. Ron Fletcher has written to the Council Roads department to ask if the junction realignment work is postponed or cancelled altogether.
  - Ron Fletcher has submitted a response to the public consultation regarding the Rest & Be Thankful with a preference for Option 1.
  - Ron Fletcher also raised the following questions for Councillors:
    - How far along with the IT upgrade is the Planning Department, with regard to the virtual public hearing for Drovers' Landing?
    - The road outside Ron's house on Feuins Road needs to be repaired
    - The leaves need to be swept outside Ron's house as the water is not draining into the burn properly
- NB. Watson advised Ron to report these issues via the Council website.

### **Questions from members of public and outstanding emails**

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None

### **AOB**

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- **Comments from Maurice Corry:**
  - Confirmed his support for the GCC efforts to tackle speeding in Garelochhead and the request to attend the Council Roads Committee meeting.



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- Covid-19 tiers remain in place until next review on 11<sup>th</sup> December, with new laws in place from 20<sup>th</sup> November restricting travel between tiers.
  - Expecting government announcement on Vaccine programme shortly.
  - Flu vaccine backlog should be resolved by end November.
  - Centre 81 is managing to stay viable despite not being currently open owing to Covid-19 restrictions. Space is available on site and there are discussions ongoing about potentially making this available for local people who need to work from home but are not able to do so.
  - Morrisons Supermarket in Helensburgh will be opening in early December, which should reduce the need for people to travel to Dumbarton for grocery shopping.
  - Have been in discussions with Transport Scotland regarding road signage on A82 about the RABT diversion. Need to ensure it's clear and easy to understand and doesn't risk local businesses missing out on passing trade if they are not familiar with the Old Military Road detour.
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- GCC member Mandy Crossland is out of hospital and in good spirits. We wish her all the best for a speedy recovery.
  - Discussion about ongoing parking/traffic problems in Garelochhead by pharmacy/Du nivard Road.  
**ACTION:** All present to consider options for discussion at next meeting.
  - Alistair McIntyre has been doing a tremendous job on the beach and needs some recognition  
**ACTION:** Secretary to liaise with Martin Croft prepare and send a letter of thanks  
**ACTION:** Martin to speak to Maurice Corry, MSP, to investigate more official recognition options.
  - Looking for volunteers to write a couple of paragraphs of the Garlochhead novel. Fergus M and Hilary W offered to help.  
**ACTION:** Martin to recirculate to GCC members.

## Date of next meeting

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Next meeting will be held (virtually) on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2021.



### ACTIONS FOR FOLLOW UP AT NEXT MEETING

| Agenda item                             | Who                            | What  |
|---|--------------------------------|---|
| Cemetery gates                          | Martin Croft & Maurice Corry   | Liaise and chase up council/Commonwealth War Commission regarding either locating the original gates or funding of replacement gates    |
| Secretary's report                      | Hilary Worton                  | Get access to Secretary email account from outgoing Secretary   |
| Speeding                                | All                            | Send any suggestions to Craig for him to raise at the Roads Committee meeting   |
| Environment – Japanese Knotweed         | Carole Spencer & Hilary Worton | Send letter to Tom Murphy (amenities) at the council reminding them of their legal obligations relating to invasive non-native species. |
| Environment – 3 Lochs Way               | Carole Spencer                 | Investigate possible grants for required improvements   |
| Pet tracker                             | Carole Spencer                 | Get a cheque from Treasurer to pay for tracker  |
| Social media                            | Laura Cameron                  | Consider suggestions to increase Facebook engagement  |
| AOB – traffic in Garelochhead           | All                            | Consider options for discussion at next meeting   |
| AOB – recognition for Alistair McIntyre | Hilary Worton & Martin Croft   | Prepare and send letter of thanks from GCC  |
| AOB – recognition for Alistair McIntyre | Martin Croft                   | Investigate more formal options to recognise his efforts  |
| AOB – Garelochhead novel                | Martin Croft                   | Recirculate draft to GCC members  |

### ACTIONS BROUGHT FORWARD FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

| Meeting date | Agenda item              | Who            | What   |
|--------------|--------------------------|----------------|--|
| 18.8.20      | Speeding in Garelochhead | Cllr Paterson  | Look into what was required when speed cameras were introduced in Crianlarich. |
| 18.8.20      | Environment – knotweed   | Cllr Paterson  | Follow up with Tom Murphy at A&B Council                                       |
| 19.11.20     | Environment              | Carole Spencer | Purchase pet scanner   |
|              |                          |                |  |

### Appendix

1. Police Scotland report





# GARELOCHHEAD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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Garelochhead Police  
Report 3 November 2

[End of Minutes]