



AGREED Minutes for the Garelochhead Community Council AGM

Held virtually owing to COVID-19 restrictions at 1900hrs on 15th June 2021

1.Introductions and welcome

a. Present

Watson Robinson	Convenor
Martin Croft	Vice Chair
Hilary Worton	Secretary
Carole Spencer	Member
Fergus Madigan	Member
Fiona Robinson	Member

Attending:

Cllr George Freeman	Ward Councillor
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Public:

Chris Smith

Guests:

None

b. Apologies:

Margaret Stratton	Treasurer
David Norton	Member
Craig Ritchie	Member
Cllr Iain Shonny Paterson	Ward Councillor

c. Declarations of interest – none

d. The Convenor (Watson Robinson) opened the meeting and welcomed members and guests.



2. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the last AGM (June 2019) were accepted, proposed by Fiona Robinson and seconded by Martin Croft. (NB. As agreed with Argyll & Bute Community Council liaison officers, there was no AGM in 2020 owing to COVID-19 restrictions.)

3. Convenor's report

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, this is my first convenors report since June 2019. The last couple of years as a community councillor have been challenging to say the least. However, we have remained both proactive and forward thinking throughout this terrible and trying time.

It has been with great sadness that we have had to say goodbye to Mrs Mary Grey who passed away last year. Mary was both an extremely intelligent individual and integral part of our team. She was passionate about her community, and it was this passion that helped push our community council to find new ways to meet and move forward – out with the traditional ways. Mary pushed me hard to insist that we held meetings, which we did. This must have made us one of the first to hold our meetings virtually once the council agreed that this was authorised. Our very own councillor Freeman played a huge part in this, constantly asking the question and driving forward the benefits which eventually provided us, and indeed other CC in his ward, the authorisation to proceed. In my view, it was due to these factors that only two programmed meetings were missed and for that I am extremely grateful to both people.

So, what achievements can we report? Well, a good lot! We provided face coverings for local people free of charge, put together food boxes and delivered these to vulnerable residents, set up a helpline to allow these residents to call if they needed help etc, bought and registered a pet track scanner for lost and injured animals and continued persistently to push for better road management in the village. Also in this period, we underwent byelections which allowed us to introduce new members and in doing so bolster our community Council. However, as we gain members, we also tend to lose members. Within this reporting time frame, we lost an outstanding secretary in Mrs Andrea Wise and indeed tonight we lose our longest serving member of 22 years: Mrs Margaret Stratton. Both gave up their time to serve their community and will be greatly missed but of course we wish them well. Moving forward we now have: Fergus Madigan, Craig Ritchie, Carol Spencer and Hilary Worton. These community counsellors have fitted in well and are already making huge impacts. Hilary has taken on the secretary role with Fergus running planning, Craig has been dealing with road infrastructure and MOD related issues, and Carol will hopefully become our new treasurer tonight – dealing with all financial aspects, a role I'm sure she will excel in. Before I sign off with the achievements, I feel we need to say a big thanks to Martin Croft and his novel authors for "Garelochdown the Doomed Village". The imagination that was put into that piece of work was fantastic. The novel of course was dedicated to Mary and I think she would have loved the final outcome. Once again, thanks to all who helped to put that together over lockdown.



GARELOCHHEAD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

WORKING WITH THE COMMUNITY
FOR THE COMMUNITY

Moving forward, we have lots to do: Craig is taking up the challenge of roads in our community council area; Martin Croft is working hard to improve the cemetery at Faslane; Fergus has planning apps to deal with; Fiona Robinson is keeping us online both with the website and social media; Gemma Kimmit as always has the environmental issues nailed; and Dave Norton and Mandy keep us updated with all things church. Then there's Hilary, well Hilary just does everything and for that, and indeed all your efforts, I am very proud and grateful.

To finish up, I would like to mention the hard work all of our elected councillors put in - they have worked tirelessly through this pandemic. I would also like to thank Police Scotland, Ministry of Defence Police and our retain Firefighters, not forgetting our local shop keepers, transport providers and Post office staff. But the biggest thanks of all I feel needs to go to the staff at our Medical Centre and the Pharmacy. They have moved mountains to keep our community well and get us all vaccinated – no easy task, just hard work and good planning.

Thank you.

4. Secretary's report

Thanks to all members for welcoming me to the team. I'm looking forward to our first face to face meeting and having the opportunity to meet everyone properly!

As Watson has already mentioned, the GCC has been busy, despite COVID restrictions. Focus areas as Secretary have been:

- Liaising with the Council over the traffic/speeding issues in Garelochhead has been very frustrating. It's over 6 months now since Roads Officer Donna Lawson attended a GCC meeting and we have made no progress. We will continue to push this issue and appreciate the support of local councillors on this matter.
- We are making progress on the issue of the poor appearance of the Cemetery at Faslane. The derelict building has been demolished and an agreement reached with the Council for us to take on responsibility for the repairs to the entrance gates. As Watson mentioned, Martin Croft is taking the lead on this with Carole Spencer looking for grants or alternative funding. I'm supporting both in whatever ways they need.
- During 2020/21 we have upgraded our website and a big thank you is due to Fraser Muir and Alan Pinder for their kind assistance with this. It's now more straightforward to manage and Fiona Robinson doing a great job of keeping it updated with new content. We're also keeping our Facebook page and Instagram up to date and linking to the Garelochhead Community Facebook page wherever relevant to drive greater social media engagement.
- We have been liaising with the Helensburgh & District Access Trust over the re-routing of the Three Lochs Way so that walkers come through Garelochhead on the route. Once COVID restrictions permit we are planning a walk through of some proposals for further route changes which should offer greater safety and less time on tarmac for walkers.



- Finally, the issue that has taken the most time and effort over the past 12 months has been the Portincaple Drovers' Landing planning application. Along with Fergus Madigan, Watson Robinson and Portincaple resident Chris Smith the Community Council played a very active role in the virtual public hearing that was held in January, leading to the successful refusal of the application by the Planning Committee, against the Council's planning officer recommendation. The applicant has appealed the decision and another monumental effort went in to preparing our submission to the Scottish Ministers' Reporter last month. A big thank you to Chris Smith for her tremendous work assisting the GCC on this matter.

5. Treasurer's submission of balance sheet and annual report

Cllr Freeman presented the accounts in Mrs Stratton's absence and confirmed that he had audited them and found them to be accurate and complete.



Breakdown of
accounts 2019-21.pdf



Garelochhead
Community Council A

6. Election of officer bearers and co-opting of new members

Officer bearers were elected as follows. There were no new members co-opted.

Office	Who elected	Nominated by	Seconded by
Convenor	Watson Robinson	Martin Croft	Carole Spencer
Vice Convenor	Martin Croft	Hilary Worton	Carole Spencer
Secretary	Hilary Worton	Carole Spencer	Fiona Robinson
Treasurer	Carole Spencer	Watson Robinson	Hilary Worton

7. Meeting schedule for 2021/21

August 17th, 2021
September 7th, 2021
November 16th, 2021
January 18th, 2022
March 15th, 2022
May 17th, 2022
June 21st, 2022 (AGM followed by public meeting)