

Gourock Community Council Minutes 21st April 2025

Minutes of the Gourock Community Council meeting Monday 21st April 2025 in Gamble Halls, Gourock.

Present

Margaret Moyes (MM) Treasurer, Al Harron (AH), Audrey Blincow (AB) Secretary, Geraldine Harron (GH), Andrew King acting as Chair (AK) Vice Chair, Hamish McLeod (HM), Danny Cassidy (DC)

Cllr Sandra Reynolds (SR), Cllr Lynne Quinn (LQ)

Apologies

GCCllr Susan Francis Ingram, GCCllr Alison Dickie, GCCllr Giulia Canata, MSP Stuart MacMillan, Janice Boyd

Have your say Forum 7.pm

Andrew informed the floor that he was acting Chair as Chair Alison Dickie was unwell and sent her apologies. Andrew wished AD well on behalf of the GCC.

1 – Local resident and GCCllr DC updated the forum with regard to Shore St crossing. Decided to chat together to get action from IC **ACTION DC**

2 – Local resident noted that the area and steps leading to Annie on Kempock Street needed attention and high pressure jet action. Also the Gap steps. Another resident noted that several benches on the Esplanade needed attention and repainted. It was also noted that other areas were looking good and thanked relevant parties. **ACTION AK**

3 – Resident noted that the repairs along the front are still ongoing. Cllr LQ updated the forum and update will be received at next Regeneration Forum. AK to ask LQ to add these issues to regen agenda. Noted that the platform near RGYC may need attention. **ACTION AK**

4 –short discussion ensued re empty Shore St land and resident suggested some artwork on the fence once built. Possibly a school project? **ACTION AB**

5- Resident noted paint on road near derelict Queens hotel along with a half lamppost. AK suggested that resident call IC and raise awareness of possible safety concern re paint containing lead.

6- Craigmuschat recycling centre discussed briefly. No long term decision yet. LQ to follow up.

ACTION LQ

Have your say Forum closed at 730 pm.

Public Meeting started at 7.30PM

1. Welcome, Introductions, Apologies

AK welcomed all and thanked for attendance on Easter Bank Holiday. All Councillors introduced themselves and apologies accepted from AD, SI, GC, Janice Boyd.

2. Minutes

Minutes from March meeting were presented and approved. Proposed by GH and seconded by HM.

3. Wardens Report

Wardens were not in attendance, but AK noted that report would be forthcoming. This has now been presented and there has been 7 noted incidents, 2 Neighbourhood noise, 3 public nuisance, 1 environment damage/vandalism, and 1 vehicle related incidence.

4. Giants Burn Windfarm

AK noted that GCC had shared information with regards to the Windfarm proposed to be built on Cowal Hills via social media previously. AK introduced members of the Save Cowal' Hills community group who had come from Dunoon. Duncan Goldthorpe explained the project and noted that 7 turbines, 200 m wingspan were proposed to be built in the hills at Cowal and their group was requesting support from all concerned and also requested GCC host a single issue meeting focussing on the impact the windfarm would have on Gourock and supporting their objections. The group distributed mocked up images, professionally produced, showing how the turbines would look from Gourock. They also distributed flyers. He noted the massive objections raised by 100's of residents when Statkraft held recent consultation meetings. Concern also raised about setting a precedence if plans approved. Many concerns raised and it as noted that the community group will be producing a standard letter that individuals can use to send to MSP Stuart McMillan. General discussion took place and Duncan and colleagues thanked the GCC for their invitation to share their concerns. AK confirmed that GCC would discuss the options carefully and feed back as soon as possible.

5. Dark Skies

Local resident Thomas Gavin introduced the concept of Dark Skies and how light can affect many aspects of our life and that of our wildlife. He noted it is Dark Skies week and presented ideas to the public on how individual can reduce light pollution and lessen the issues that occur when too bright or too many lights are utilised within the community and environment. Several questions were raised and flyers with appropriate information were handed out. Chair AK thanked Thomas for his interesting presentation and information has subsequently been shared on our social media.

6. Land Sales

Chair AK explained about discussion surrounding possible land sales within Gourock that could raise concerns within the community. The land at the Pier Head has been considered for sale for many years and recently it has been noted that IC have started looking for any expressions of interest with regards to this plot. Should there be any interest then IC will begin a more serious marketing campaign, valuation Several questions from the floor were raised and Cllr LQ explained

that previously IC considered selling to provide space for a local hotel but this was some year back and since these initial discussions many options for accommodation have been formed ie air b n b, caravan park extension, campsite options etc. therefore the question remains do we need an hotel? LQ noted that the sale of the land would have to pass through many committees before approval could be sought. This space is a valuable open space well utilised and concern would be that Gourock loses this. Andrew suggested better communications with all relevant groups would ensure all parties were aware of the changing situation. **ACTION AK and GC** to discuss with Regeneration committee.

Brief mention made of land on Cloch Road up for sale. Do we need to respond to IC?

7. Community Issues Tracker

River Clyde Homes – Chair AK updated the floor re response from River Clyde Homes. HM does not agree with their comments and suggested they were not telling the truth. LQ and SR have a meeting with River Clyde Homes in the near future and will report back. **ACTION AB** to forward information as we have it now in advance of the meeting

Queens Hotel – AB gave up date from planning dept noting the issue over car parking spaces that is getting worse. Agreed that we shall wait and see how things progress. Planning team have noted the urgency of the case. s Owner also been in touch requesting progress

Cloch Court and Albert Road – discussions still taking place re what residents want and what IC want. A meeting should take place. **ACTION LQ and SR to assist coordination?**

Ferry Issues – AH received email regarding proposed cancelled services but only minutes before meeting so ongoing. GH asked whether MSP would consider a consultation. SR thought unlikely. **AH to report in due course.**

Scrapyard – No official update but owner unofficially advised that they will not be evicted this year.

Buses – SR noted that a round table discussion will be taking place in the near future with McGills, SPT and other stake holders. SR requested that any money saved from cancellations of any route be kept in Gourock. Alternative options offered on how to get to hospital appt etc. Information to be uploaded to Social Medi. **SR to report back.**

Kirn Drive – Results from consultation will be discussed at regeneration committee in May, LQ will share at next meeting. **ACTION LQ**

Tree Trimming – IC confirm tree survey completed and any necessary work been done. LQ to follow up re trees at Kirn Drive **ACTION LQ**

Memorial Garden – Hamish concerned about lack of any progression with regards to the maintenance of the benches. Regeneration committee agree to push for update **ACTION LQ**

8. Have Your Say Forum decisions

Notes as above.

9. Financial Report

Margaret Moyes, treasurer reported on bank balances and funding applications. All agreed that statements were all in order.

10. Community Engagement

Moorfoot Primary Feedback – AD and AH visited Moorfoot Primary School this month to share information on what GCC do and how they can support our younger community. AH shared results of what the pupils want.

11. AOB

Gourock Garden Party, stall applications open and meeting held with relevant interested parties.

BB march noted for May.

V E Celebrations noted for May.

Meeting closed at 908 pm

The next meeting shall be on May 19th 2025