

Gourock Community Council Minutes 18 August 2025

Minutes of the Forum and monthly meeting for Gourock Community Council Monday 18 August 2025 in Gamble Halls, Gourock. Upstairs

Present

Al Harron (AH), Audrey Blincow (AB) Secretary, Geraldine Harron (GH), Andrew King (AK) Vice Chair, Hamish MacLeod (HM), Danny Cassidy (DC), Alison Dickie (AD) Chair, Margaret Moyse (MM)

Cllr Lynne Quinn (LQ), Stuart McMillan MSP (SM), Cllr Sandra Reynolds (SR), Cllr Ian Hellyer (IH), members of the community and reps from Fire Service and local Wardens.

Apologies

GCC Community Cllr Susan Francis Ingram, GCC Community Cllr Giulia Canata, IC Janice Boyd

THE FORUM

- Welcome from Chair AD who invited the raising of any new issues.
- GH noted the recent success of local artist, Alec Galloway on a new stained-glass window recently unveiled at St Ninians.
- Local Resident noted lack of action from either Council or Scottish Power regarding the dangerous stump left after recent replacement lampposts at 6B Ashburn Gates. GCC to follow up. **ACTION**
- Albert Road works - Contractors requested parked cars to be removed temp, works set up but access too limited to continue and it took 3 days to clear, all this costing money and a waste of time. GCC to ask local councillors to find out more. **ACTION**
- Local resident asked why the Picture Hoose was not open as a cinema yet. Advised that license for the small cinema is taking time with Council but is expected soon. AK monitoring.
- Kirn Drive speed bumps and one way system brought up but to be discussed in main meeting.
- Request via social media to request new road markings at dropped kerbed areas to improve accessibility for all. GCC to contact Council. **ACTION**
- Resident enquired if access to the Gamble Hall was affordable and cost efficient to hire etc. GCC to follow up with resident. **ACTION**
- GH brought up aggressiveness on roads, to be discussed in main meeting.
- Issue raised about parking on pavements restricting movement. General discussion re restrictions, exemptions etc. Causing issues re accessibility. AK hoping to have a meeting re parking etc noted areas are Tower Drive, Kempock St etc **ACTION**

Have Your Say Forum closed at 730 pm.

Public Meeting started at 7.30PM

1. Welcome, Introductions, Apologies

AD welcomed and thanked all in attendance. Apologies as above.

2. Minutes

Minutes from June meeting was presented and approved after a few small corrections. Proposed by AH and seconded by GH.

3. Wardens Report

Report was read by local wardens in attendance. GH noted that some cold callers had been intrusive. Mark Ashcroft (warden manager) advised to call wardens if anyone felt intimidated. He also noted that 3 new vans will be in operation soon, one dedicated for Gourock and cameras will have direct link to Police control room. Open discussion re wilful fire raising, again call wardens and Police. Regarding poo patrol, residents can call confidentially if they need to report a neighbour etc but wardens need area, when things occur and by whom if known. Mark available by email at all times. Stencils are available for use in areas where dog fouling is an issue.

4. Caring Gourock and Safer Gourock

AD introduced the discussion on a safer Gourock, one of the top priorities for women and children. Like the previous discussion on caring Gourock, what did that look like and what actions could the community council take forward in response to support all. Invited to break into groups and discuss.

Thoughts that came out and were discussed:

Community Police would be welcomed back in the community. A more visible presence ensures that residents feel more secure and are there should we need them. Ideally have a regular consistent presence so familiarity sets in, and folks know who they have as a support.

Inconsiderate parking is an issue that results in anger and disagreement making this an issue that could be unsafe. We need a very strong action on this issue. People are apathetic to it and as no one gets fined or warned, the issue just continues. Speeding drivers also an issue.

Bins taken out then left on the street, a hazard for pedestrians, especially wheelchair users, visually impaired and our vulnerable residents. Lighting also matters for elderly.

E bikes and motor bikes not legalised and causing fright and fear amongst pedestrians.

More activities and ways to bring different people together, particularly intergenerational activities, to promote a more cohesive community.

Transport in town is limited, no buses and taxis not available often make more vulnerable wary of going to town later in the day and in the evening. Safety on trains home can be an issue???

Pathways, railings, pavements and lighting often not strong enough or damaged so areas off limits for some.

Is a community WhatsApp group an option?

We as a community need to know who feels unsafe and why?

Any change of reinstating the Police Station? Unlikely due to cost constraints.

Some felt that there should be a better understanding of what is acceptable behaviour, and we should all be considerate to others. This could be managed via social media, educational areas etc.

HM noted some recent visitors were confused at the memorial gardens and to show we care, we should have information available to visitors. We care about our history and our past residents.

5. Community Issues Tracker

AD led a brief summary of pertinent items on the Tracker.

Wind Farm – local resident enquired, are we supporting the Save Cowal Hills Action Group? AD - Yes we are. Are we objecting as individuals or as a CC? AD - GCC shall be objecting as a community council as a whole following a single issue meeting and formal meeting to do so but individuals can object independently to this. AK shared the action group links to assist objection submission. This system allows objectors to produce an email directly. You also have the option to print and mail it via hard copy. GCC shall be drafting their own objection before the deadline of 1 Sep 2025. It was discussed that objections and comments should be shared with all elected Councillors as well as MSP, etc

AD ACTION

Kirn Drive – It was acknowledged that the Council ran a good consultation on the one way system that was well addressed but the discussion of speed bumps proposed to be laid on Kirn drive was a surprise and not welcome. Problems regarding speed bumps include damage to vehicles, slower response times for emergency vehicles, bus timetables affected, cost of installation then possible removal. Resident and local fire fighter suggested that at no time has the Fire Service been asked for their input regarding the one way system and concern regarding response times is an issue. With cutbacks in the fire service, we could be relying on extra resources from Greenock and Port Glasgow and visa versa and every second can count in an emergency. GCC will email our concerns re bumps and note that a lack of discussion with Fire Station was raised by a firefighters at the meeting.

AB ACTION

Cloch Court – Are we happy with the ‘guidelines’, NO. Further requests for space to allow a safe and visual awareness of the entrance/exit from Cloch Court Parking without the need to remove 6 spaces. It should also be noted that the cycle path is not on the pavement at this location and all cyclists must cycle on the main road. Without clarity of space then cyclists may not know there is an exit and any vehicles coming out of the exit may hit passing cyclists. More discussions needed with council

AD ACTION

Shore St – Fencing has been erected. Planning application being further discussed in November.

6. Community Engagement

AD reviewed current community engagement. GCC want to get involved with more schools to ensure their voice is heard on issues and will explore the concept of a young people’s vote with schools in a letter being issued. We shall intend to visit different organisations, have a street surgery and a table at the farmers market.

AK and Giulia Canata have put in a ton of work on the website. Our address at this time is <https://www.gogourock.org/gourockcc>

and all minutes, agendas and pertinent information will be loaded there. Feedback very welcome. AD thanked them for their extensive work.

AK noted that he has been trying to make meetings hybrid but struggling with broadband. Work in progress. All meetings going forward though shall be recorded and be available online on the website.

The importance of Gourock residents contributing to the discussions rather than just watching the proceedings was raised and GCC will explore how to make hybrid more possible.

AD to include a query re occasional school venues in wider schools letters being actioned.

Cloch Road – It was noted that the multi-agency Round Table with residents was currently being organised to explore solutions on Cloch Road traffic congestion and parking issues.

7. Forum Decisions

Noted above

8. Financial report

MM noted that the Garden Party account was very low. General account modest. Funding application in for next years garden party. AD highlighted the need for funding to be strategically delivered against local priorities and a table of the top issues raised in engagement so far will be drawn up to inform funding applications.

AB requested that we work with The Shed to extend the edible trail with a joint funding application. Agreed with council. Proposed by AB, seconded by AH.

AB requested funding to support a disposal system for hooks and broken lines by the fishermen at the pier as it is a litter hot spot. AB shared the idea taken from another location of using an old drain pipe to store hooks etc then occasionally get it emptied safely. Local resident agreed to help in making the items. Giulia happy to produce posters etc, funding agreed from main account. Proposed by AB, seconded by GH.

AB/GC ACTION

9. AOB

Cllr Ian Hellyer offered a detailed report from Inverclyde Council with regards to the ongoing repairs to the railings along the 'front'. This was much appreciated. Further discussion took place and it was agreed that this project has been ongoing for an unacceptable length of time and despite the Councils reassurances that things are being done, it is now at least a year since work started. Urgent pressure needed to be made to get these railings fit for purpose.

AB/Cllr Hellyer ACTION

AK noted that he, DC and HM attended the AGM of the Association of Inverclyde Community Councils (AICC), which is an umbrella group including all local Community Councils. He, along with GH shall attend meetings being held quarterly.

From this meeting, he announced:

- 2 new community councils are being proposed - Greenock Central and Cowdenknowes - please share this information with anyone who may be interested in being considered as elected members.
- Loss or reduced service proposals for Inverclyde Fire Service are being proposed. Public Meetings have been arranged to discuss:
 - Greenock – 27th August, 6-8pm – St Margarets Church, Greenock
 - Port Glasgow – 28th August, 6-8pm – New Parish Church Hall, Port Glasgow

AB noted that the Council requests the date of Friday 21 November for the Christmas tree lighting event and this was agreed.

HM advised that a wreath was laid at the Cenotaph to remember the fallen at the Battle of Achi Baba.

10. Date of next meeting – 15 September 2025