

Gourock Community Council Minutes 15 September 2025

Minutes of the Forum and monthly meeting of Gourock Community Council Monday 15 September 2025 in Gamble Halls, Gourock.

Present

Al Harron (AH), Audrey Blincow (AB) Secretary, Geraldine Harron (GH), Andrew King (AK) Vice Chair/acting Chair, Hamish MacLeod (HM), Danny Cassidy (DC), Margaret Moyse (MM), Susan Francis (SF)

Stuart McMillan MSP (SM), Cllr Ian Hellyer (IH), Alan Holliday, Office Manager for MP Martin McCluskey, Council rep Janice Boyd and members of the community.

Apologies

Cllr Sandra Reynolds, Cllr Lyne Quinn, GCC Chair Alison Dickie, GCC Community Cllr Giulia Canata

The Forum: Welcome from acting Chair, AK, and opened the floor.

- Many folks mentioned that they had received notice that the proposed speed bumps on Kirn drive would now not go ahead at this time. The one way system will be trialled and monitored carefully going forward.
- Local resident noted that some of the half barrels that make up the edible trail are damaged and got weeds. CC agreed to check with the Shed to offer maintenance. **AB action**
- General discussion took place about many local roadworks taking place and the disruption they cause. It was noted that often barriers are put up and roads are closed but nothing actually happens as per Hillside Road and Albert Road. Follow up with Cllr Lynne Quinn as she offered to assist in August. **AB Action**
- Resident discussed the implications regarding the decrease for most of the area on the roads to 20mph, with many instances of dramatic speed increases after clearing 20mph zone – ie Kempock Street onto Albert Road. AK working with Police re speeding etc and shall keep the community informed. A work in progress. **AK action**
- GH advised that a humanitarian group gather to show solidarity with the population suffering in Gaza. She noted that this shows the kindness and care that the Gourock community offers to others in trying times. It was also noted that thoughts are still with the hostages being held by Hamas and would hope their ordeal shall be over soon.
She said, "inspiration from a humanitarian viewpoint in gratitude, noticing efforts in funds and awareness through creativity from Palestine, also gatherings at The Gap each Saturday for a two minute silence at 2.00 pm with opportunities to donate to Medical Aid for Palestine, treating injured children. Compassion was shared for hostages and civilians, feeling that at least in Gourock there is an opportunity to help, however small".
- A resident who had asked for the telephone box in Gourock to be cleaned was updated by AK that he confirmed that workers had visited the site but had completed repairs mistakenly thinking that was the issue. The promised to return to clean the unit out asap.
- It was noted there was a death at a local caravan park and funding is being found to place a defib in the area in the hope of helping anyone that may need cardiac help in the future.
- AH asked that we remember the extraordinary life of Molly Cuddihy who passed away at just 23 after fighting an aggressive form of cancer since she was 15. She was a Gourock girl who was only 15 when she was first diagnosed. Despite her illness she was an inspirational young lady who raised hundreds of thousands of pounds through her many charity works. She raised funds to build a room especially for children at the Schiehallion Unit at the Royal Hospital for Children in Glasgow where she was treated and both worked and volunteered with many charities supporting young people with cancer. During her hospital stays she continued to study and gained straight A's in her exams. She won Inverclydes Young Citizen of the Year in 2022 and met many celebrities during her years of fund raising. She will be sadly missed by many members of the community, her many

friends and family and all who will remember her with fondness and love. During her short life we should all recall the massive impact she made through her work and support of others.

The Forum closed at 1930

Gourock Community Council Public Meeting Sep 15 2025 1930

1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

Andrew King, acting Chair, welcomed all to the meeting and wished Alison Dickie, Chair, a speedy recovery. Apologies were noted as above.

2. Minutes

Minutes were presented and agreed. Proposed by SF and Seconded by GH

3. Wardens Report

AK advised that there were no wardens present and no report had been forwarded. AK will ensure that their Report is provided for inclusion in the Minutes of this Meeting.

4. Focus Issue: Gourock's Elected Members

MSP Stuart McMillan offered an insight into his working world and shared what he is presently involved in. Noted that each week is generally busy with constituents, before Covid managing around 120-130 per week which has risen post Covid to around 250+ individual cases per week. He commended his staff for the hard work that they put in. Drop ins used to be welcome but advisable to make appointments in advance due to a few unsavoury incidents. The odd drop in would not normally be turned away.

Cases cover a wide range of issues including health, educational, housing which make up the majority. Parliament is working on several Bills and at present the Victims Bill which is in the final stages of the Parliamentary process.

He chairs the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee but the majority of the time he is very busy, out and about meeting constituents sometimes at their homes or at business dealing with issues there. He is naturally hard working and professes to find it difficult to sit back and do nothing. Stuart is a regular visitor to our meetings and is always on hand to assist when called upon.

Cllr Ian Hellyer, Councillor for Ward 5, introduced himself having only been elected in the past ten months. He is also a regular attendee at our monthly meetings where he assists when possible with the many issues the community face. He also attends the Cardwell Bay and Greenock West meetings. He is on many committees but as a retired member of the Police community, he has a particular interest in issues regarding the Fire and Police Scrutiny Panel. He handles a lot of local case works and commits to always answer any query that comes his way either with his existing knowledge or to pass on to the relevant source of support. He attends school events and has worked with the high schools and shared time with them in the Council Chambers.

He was prominent in setting up the drop in information centre at the Gourock library for men who suffered from prostate cancer. This was ongoing for 4-6 weeks and he hopes to continue this in the near future.

He is also a big supporter of community policing and is involved with the discussions ongoing regarding the future of the Greenock Police Station. He is very concerned that we will possibly lose the station and most importantly access to a custody cell. Should we lose that, the closest one to Gourock is either Govan or Clydebank which would mean that anyone needed to be taken into custody would need to be by one police vehicle and 2 police officers leaving Gourock in a very vulnerable position. Safety will be a massive issue.

Ian is also encouraging the speed limit reduction and assisting with the ongoing railing saga along our coastline. He is constantly in communication with the Council, MP's and hosts street surgeries usually every 2 weeks.

DC asked re drainage at John St, AK will follow up as he has dealt with it in the past. GH asked about the nature of fires within the community. Ian advised he has a report that he will share in due course. The consultation regarding the future of the local fire service closed on 16 Sep. It was emphasised that people's safety should always come first.

Alan Holliday, Office Manager for MP Martin McCluskey, attended on Martin's behalf and offered his apologies. It was noted that Martin had been recently promoted to Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State in the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero. Martin has to be in London for the majority of the week but hosts regular surgeries about the community, often in Gourrock library. He has determined response times depending on the issue at hand. Personal issues his office hopes to respond within 3 days, issues regarding consultations etc which require more in-depth work they hope to get response time down to 14 days. He is involved in many issues including the challenges in Gaza, welfare reform, the assisted dying act, winter fuel allowances amongst others. He recently hosted a summit with the subject being defence and renewables in an attempt to connect industry experts and employers within these fields to future employees. By working together our local schools can hopefully direct high school students to have the correct skill sets and be capable of fulfilling the job requirements needed in the future. He is available to take on case work but by appointment only or through surgeries held locally.

GH thanked all Councillors for their regular attendance and Chair AK offered their thanks for presentations at the meeting and continued support of GCC.

5. **Focus Issue: Community Issues Tracker**

Albert Road – Cloch Court access issues. Ongoing and frustrating with no resolution. Repainting of lines are scheduled to be done. GCC to discuss with MSP SM how to move forward and to reconfirm that our top priority is for safety and access.

AB/AD Action

Queens Hotel – Application for a building warrant has been confirmed by owner (with parking issue now clarified) who is hoping building works shall start early next year.

Cloch Road Petition – After a successful petition to have all stake holders at a round table, this meeting was held recently. Awaiting fuller minutes to update.

Ensuring a Sustainable Ferry Service – AH

Supporting Transport for All McGills Buss route 504 – MSP SM noted that Cllr Sandra Reynolds and himself had a meeting with SPT which was an honest appraisal of the situation. SPT have limited powers over private operators but suggested that the more people the better use the My Bus service the better. SM and SR shall be distributing flyers and letters with regards to this service to encourage wider use. This shall be occurring over the next few weeks. GCC agreed to post on social media and the website to share as much as possible.

Childrens Rights – Chair AD sent some words to share with regards to one of our local Scottish Youth Parliament reps. There is concern that Inverclyde Council is showing a lack of support to a member of the Scottish Youth Parliament. GCC feel strongly that Children's rights need to be heard and taken seriously therefore it is noted that GCC is concerned and we shall be following up on this situation with a view to offer support. An update shall be forthcoming in due course.

6. **Community Engagement**

Parking remains an issue with many folks parking inconsiderately and often on pavements not suitable to take the weight of cars etc. Drivers need to take more responsibility and be considerate of others. AK with his working with the Police and Traffic Wardens is hoping to have a discussion to look for resolution. Updates in due course.

7. **Forum Decisions**

All noted above.

8. Financial Report and Finance

Treasurer MM reported that the main account holds 3,017 GBP and the Garden Party account holds 49 GBP. Funding application in and hoping to hear soon regards any funds awarded.

9. AOB

AB shared the Transformative Action for Resilient Coastal Communities paper. This is a call for interested parties to take part in building greater reliance in the Clyde coastal communities. AK shall share more information on the website and on social media. More information can be found at <https://www.ukcoastalresilience.org/project/transformative-research-actions-for-resilient-coastal-communities-tracc>

AB also shared that funding is now available for Changing Places. The Scottish Government has announced that there is 10 million funding available for Changing Places toilet facilities in Scotland. The aim of the fund is to increase the number of Changing Places Toilets in Scotland and so meet the human right standards of disabled people who cannot use a standard accessible toilets. MSP SM is keen to support any application for this funding so it is necessary for us to act on this soon.

10. Date of Next Meeting

Date of next meeting agreed to be Monday 20 October 2025. This meeting will include the annual AGM for the Gourrock Community Council.

AK thanked everyone for their attendance and the public meeting closed at 2100.