

Gourock Community Council

Minutes from Have Your Say Forum 1900, Monday 18 May 2026, Gamble Halls

Present : Alison Dickie, (AD), Audrey Blincow (AB), Hamish MacLeod (HM), Giulia Canata (GC), Danny Cassidy (DC), Geraldine Harron (AH), Andrew King (AK)

Apologies: Cllr Sandra Reynolds, Stuart McMillan MSP, GCC Councillors: Susan Francis, Al Harron, Margaret Moyse

No issues raised bar noting the regrowth of weeds at Gamble Halls and the old Albert Hotel. **DECISION:** GCC shall email the Council for action. **ACTION AB**

Also, the recycling bins near Ashburn Gardens had not appeared as promised by the Councils. **DECISION:** GC to follow up with Council. **ACTION GC**

The Forum closed at 730 pm

Gourock Community Council Public Meeting Minutes 18 May 2026

1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

Welcome from the Chair, introductions from CCllrs and apologies.

2. Minutes

Minutes from the public meeting held on 16th March 2026 proposed by AK and seconded by GH.

3. Wardens Report

No Wardens were available to attend the meeting. AK to follow up on why we are not receiving the reports and shall update asap. **ACTION AK**

4. River Clyde Homes

River Clyde Homes attended at GCC's request and to provide background on their decision to increase heating, rent and caretaking charges and the impact that this has had on RCH residents struggling with the cost of living.

Stevie McLachlan, Customer Services Director; Elaine Cannon, Head of Housing Services; Michael Lynch, Senior Financial Wellbeing Officer; and Tope Falade, Energy and Sustainability Manager were all in attendance.

RCH outlined the level of communication with the residents association and the installation of a new heating system. They acknowledged that the recent increases were regular as opposed to keeping them at the same level as in previous years and whilst they still favourably compare with other providers, recognised the impact this had on residents.

They indicated that communication could be improved, and specifically referenced residents finding out about the recent increases via the Greenock Telegraph - despite texts going out in the preceding days.

In terms of solutions, this included educating residents to manage their heating systems effectively, more in-house income maximisation support to help residents

access benefits, and the ongoing and excellent work of the caretaker in the building of relations between the tenants and RCH.

A number of RCH tenants were present (two of them were CCllrs who declared a conflict of interest and did not contribute) and raised that they had a different perspective on the level of communication. They believed that there was no direct communication but would welcome officers attending the residents' association. The issue of hidden poverty and residents sitting just under the eligibility requirements for benefits was also raised.

The Chair thanked RCH for taking the time to attend.

DECISION: GCC agreed to formally write to RCH to ask that senior officers initiate attendance at residents' association meetings to improve the level of communication and to better identify the financial support required. **ACTION: AD**

5. Cost of Living Forum

GCC welcomed several guests to discuss the ongoing cost of living crisis. The Chair explained that this is part of our Caring, Safer and Accessible Gourock strategy. Adam, Inverclyde Food Bank; Colin Morrison, Gourock Boy's Brigade; and Angela Slaven, Warm Hands of Friendship Group all presented. Written contributions were received from churches, CVS Inverclyde and schools.

Inverclyde Foodbank: There has been a reduction in donations, resulting in the buying in of food and an impact on the Foodbank's finances. Education is required around the stigma of food poverty and the support that's available.

Boy's Brigade: Where required, boys and their families are supported to manage the cost of fees, uniforms, badges and trips. Several fundraisers are held, including at the Garden Party.

Warm Hands of Friendship: Poverty and social isolation is best addressed by providing food and company all year round. The removal of the Midton bus service has resulted in many residents being no longer able to attend the Coppermine and other gatherings. Again, stigma around poverty needs eradicated and more volunteers are needed to ensure sustainable support.

Discussion followed on these issues and around how GCC could best support. This included the suggestion of drawing up a community wish list to secure the resources of council contractors. It also included ensuring a community fridge and a shared message about how this is relevant to everyone eg the planet. Wider issues on our tracker were also considered relevant, such as the McGill's bus work and more free and affordable play spaces for children.

DECISION: GCC to draw up an action plan which includes, education on poverty to address stigma, promotion of support that's available, a call for volunteers; encourage foodbank donations; a community wish list, community fridge letter, and free play spaces. **ACTION: AD**

6. Community Issues and Tracker

There was a quick run through limited due to time constraints. This included,

confirming the date for a meeting with McGills and info about Millport buses attending Inverkip CC about potential routes); inviting Dunoon CC to June's meeting for an update on ferries; results of Kirn Drive now available; dementia training by the Council's regeneration team; and fly tipping becoming an issue at the Queen's Hotel. All being progressed as per the tracker on our website. **ALL**

7. Gourock Community Council

Christine Allen and Robert Kilpatrick were co-opted on as community councillors. Proposed by AD and seconded by HM.

8. Garden Party

AB updated all with regard to garden party which is going well. 15 stalls booked and license application in with the council. Amazing artwork being produced by GC to be shared amongst the community via social media, web pages and hard copies in shops etc. Cllr Susan Francis, GC and AB working on bake and make and Gourock's got talent competitions. AK and DC to post around town.

9. Have your Say Forum Decisions

Nothing to note.

10. Financial Report

MM not available but all good

11. AOB

GC informed Police of suspicious packages in Kempock St. Police monitoring. Funds agreed for signage. Proposed by AB seconded by GH.
GC shared news of results of recent litter picks

Meeting closed at 2103 and next meeting shall be June 15th 2026