

DRAFT UNADOPTED MINUTES

**Gartmore Community Council Meeting
November 30th 2011
8p.m. Village Hall**

Present: Mrs. J. Fleming (Chair), Mr. I. Dinwoodie (Vice-Chair), Mr. W. Glasse-Davies (Secretary), Mr. C. Sheldon (Treasurer), Ms. J. Billett (Planning Representative), Ms. A. Jackson, Mr. G. McGarvey.

Apologies: Ms. R. Clements, Mr. W. Nesbit (National Park)

Non-voting. Councillor F. Wood, PC Liam Ward, Mr. I. Roe, Mr. L. Fleming, Mrs. J. Bowie, Ms. H. Campbell, Mr. B. Rix, Ms. T. Storr, Mr. N. Tomlinson, Mrs. A. Tomlinson, Mr. J. MacDonald, Mrs. P. MacDonald, Ms. J. Wright, Mrs. N. Pitts, Mr. P. Speirs, Ms. J. Hogg, Ms. M. Milton, Mr. C. Jones. Mrs. C. Jones

- 1. Minutes of the September 28th meeting. These were accepted (proposer CS, seconder ID).**
- 2. Matters arising: JF informed the meeting that Banks Group will be making a presentation to the whole village on December 15th. JF reiterated that the Community Council were planning to carry out a community survey concerning the wind farm development on the Drymen Road (Ard Gaoth) once all essential information becomes available. The format of this survey has not been decided yet.**
- 3. Police report. PC Ward presented the Police Report for October and November 2011.**
 - a. There were no incidents in October, but in November there were 3 instances of low-level vandalism, occurring late at night on weekends. The vandalism was targeted at the same vehicle in each instance, and the perpetrator(s) are likely to be local. Residents were asked to remain alert concerning this matter.**
 - b. Complaints have been received from the bus drivers concerning car parking on both sides too near the corner at the top of the village. This would be a major concern if emergency vehicle access were to be impeded. CS noted that this seems to have been an undesirable side effect of the Community Council's recommendation that those parking in that area should change to parking on the football pitch side for the winter. The Community Council will have to reconsider this recommendation urgently. G. McG. suggested that a note from PC Ward concerning this car parking issue should be put into the Gartmore News.**
- 4. Planning matters. JB and JF reported that a full application for a house at Easter Gartfarran farm has been made. The Community Council objected to the outline planning application but this was approved anyway. Therefore there is no point in the Community Council lodging an objection to this application.**

5. **National Park Plan.** ID reviewed the recently published National Park Plan. Since the consultation period has been over for some time, this was only for the information of those attending the meeting.
6. **Winter Plan.** JB presented the Community Council Winter Plan. This was approved, and will be published in the pre-Christmas Gartmore News. JB will put a laminated copy in the Village Shop.
7. **Reports on other meetings attended**
 - a. G. McG reported that at the last meeting of the Trossachs area network the main topics were housing and winter planning. Gartmore is well advanced in the latter compared to other communities. G.McG questioned the appropriateness of a representative of the Community Council attending TAN meetings, as they deal with matters more relevant to Gartmore Community Trust.
 - b. CS reported o a Community Partnership meeting. The main topics discussed were: land ownership and the right to buy, the National Park plan and paths in the National Park.
8. **Community Council notice board.** CS reported that the Notice Board subcommittee recommendation for the site of a new Notice Board was between the bus stop and the phone box at the front of the Village Square. When asked, square resident Ms. H. Campbell stated that she had no objection to this plan. In clarification of the proposed use of the Notice Board, CS stated that it was planned to have a two-section Board, with one section reserved for the Community Council, the other for the Community Trust. If it became clear that there would be enough space, use by other village organisations might be allowed. The Community Council notice board would not be available for general notices and would be accessed by key holders only.
9. **Public transport proposals.** CS reported that Stirling Council have announced a new tendering process for rural bus service provision after current contracts expire on 31st March 2012. There is supposed to have been an "extensive consultation" but there has in fact been none whatsoever with Gartmore Community Council or residents. There is concern that the Aberfoyle to Balfron service may be withdrawn, which would make bus access to Glasgow from Gartmore completely dependent upon the Aberfoyle Coaches service, which being unsubsidised may close if it fails to make a profit.
10. **Broadband.** CS noted that broadband provision in Gartmore is slow and unreliable, because it is delivered by normal phone line from the Aberfoyle exchange. The ideal solution would be a fibre-optic cable into Gartmore. Councillor Wood suggested that CS take up the matter, on behalf of the Community Council, with the MSP Bruce Crawford, who has been active in the cause of improving broadband provision for Balquhidder.

11. Community Council Website. CS reported that the village website, including a section devoted to the Community Council, has been upgraded and that he now has the ability to add material on behalf of the Community Council. The Community Council pays the domain name subscription for this site. Members of the community were encouraged to visit this website regularly for information.

12 Community Trust report. Mrs. N. Pitts was present and reported on behalf of the Community Trust. The Gartmore Action Plan is developing well and completion is expected in January 2012. 21 tenders from architects to execute the plans for the refurbishment (stage 1) of the Village Hall were received and a short list of 4 selected. Interviews will be on Monday next. Actual refurbishment work is planned to start at the end of June 2012.

There was also discussion of the decision by the Community Council to request that the Community Trust take over from the Community Council the responsibility of considering the recent offer from Banks Group Community Fund of potential significant funding (£50,000, not linked to the wind farm development) for a village project. The Community Council is the village organisation that represents the community in planning matters and therefore does not wish to be involved. Mrs. N. Pitts stated that a formal notification of this had not been received from the Community Council, just an email from CS. On behalf of the Community Council, JF reiterated that this was indeed a Community Council decision, that a formal letter would be sent to the Community Trust forthwith, and that it was hoped that the Community Trust Board would consider this matter at its next meeting. Mrs. N. Pitts stated that the matter was provisionally on the Agenda for the Community Trust meeting and would be confirmed when a formal letter was received.

There was some discussion of the appropriateness of engaging with any offer from Banks, with some of the attendees, including Mr. B. Rix and Ms J. Wright, expressing strong views against. G. McG and W. G-D pointed out that, while there might be some public relations gain for Banks Group, there was no direct link to the wind farm planning application and funding of any of several community projects was a worthwhile goal.

13. Treasurer's report. CS reported that the Community Council bank account stood at £891.93.

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- a. It was agreed to make a donation of £50 to the Gartmore News
- b. JF brought the useful "My Stirling" website to the attention of attendees.
- c. W G-D reported that there was once again a problem with the new cycle path on the old Gartmore-Buchlyvie railway line. Specifically, on the section between Gartmore Station and the river, a local farmer has put up an additional barrier, has created an extensive piggery with poor fencing and has put up notices warning the public

of dangerous animals on the path. Attempts to get a response from Mr. K. Auld of Stirling Council have not generated a reply. Councillor Wood agreed to follow up this matter and ascertain the current situation.

15. Dates of next meeting and other meetings in 2012.

- a. The next meeting of the Community Council will be on Wednesday January 25th 2012 at 8 p.m. in the Village Hall.**
- b. Dates for Community Council meetings throughout 2012 are as follows:**

- i. January 25th**
- ii. March 28th**
- iii. May 30th**
- iv. June 20th preceded by the AGM**
- v. September 26th**
- vi. November 28th**

All these dates are a Wednesday. Meetings up to and including June 20th will be held at 8 p.m. in the Village Hall. Since the Village Hall refurbishment will be underway thereafter, the venue for the September and November meetings will be confirmed later.