

Gatehouse of Fleet Community Council
Minutes of Meeting: 7pm Tuesday 10th April – Community Centre

Present:

Franca Bruno – Provost	PC Bradley
Suzette Harris	Allan Lowden
Alison Steel	Mary Cousins
Gerald MacNamara (Dean of Guild)	Ron Forster
Ian McConchie	Councillor Vaux
Mark Laird – Deputy Provost	Liz Modrate
Chris Walker	Janice Hougham – Secretary
Des McLelland	

Gordon Bain – (Member of the Public & representative of
Ramsay Wood & Brackenwood Neighbourhood Watch Scheme)

Apologies: Craig Steele & Shaun Burnie

1. Sederunt and Apologies: Apologies were given as above.

2. Police Report: PC Bradley raised points on the following issues;

- Auchenlarie Caravan Park and Brighthouse Bay Holiday Park recently had occasions of Anti Social Behaviour. Young people were seen throwing bottles in the grounds of Twynholm Primary School which led to the confiscation of alcohol from under age young people.
- Underage Drinking is still believed to be going on in the Gatehouse area; however, to date the police have only detected one young male who was taken home to his mother.
- It was reported that there had been a number of reports in Castle Douglas and Kirkcudbright of under age drinking during the day. Subsequent enquiries revealed that these persons were over 18 and were legally drinking in public.

PC Bradley explained that during the summer it was common to find persons over 18 drinking in public as there were no by-laws to prevent them from doing so. He also stated that Friday night was the usual time to find underage drinking and it wasn't as prevalent during the rest of the week. He also reminded the Community Council about the proposed visit to the Court and suggested a letter be written to the Sheriff's Clerk, perhaps for the June meeting.

Action: Secretary

3. Minutes of 13th March: No comments were reported on accuracy, therefore the minutes were Proposed by Councillor Alison Steel and Seconded by Councillor Chris Walker.

4. Matters Arising: None

5. Dumfries & Galloway Report – Councillor Vaux: Councillor Vaux confirmed that the Tourist Information Centre has been given a 3 month reprieve following discussions between Visit Scotland and D & G Council and further discussions were due to establish the centres long term future. This was then discussed and the following points were raised

- D & G Council have agreed to put up £10,000 to fund this proposal.
- A suggestion was made to man the office for 5 days a week rather than 7.
- David Steel, Chairman of the GDI will lead Gatehouse and represent the views of the community.

Councillor Vaux raised the question to Delia Holland, Chief Executive of Visit Scotland, as to whether it would be possible for the community of Gatehouse to man the Centre however the response was that it would not be possible due to Health and Safety issues. Provost stated that she was disappointed with Visit Scotland as they made no approach to the Community Council and enquired as to whether Visit Scotland was a private company. Councillor Vaux explained that it was not a private company. It was proposed that a letter be sent to the Chief Executive of Visit Scotland regarding their disappointment at not being consulted.

Action: Secretary

Councillor Walker then proposed a vote of thanks to Councillor Vaux for his involvement with the negotiations of the re-opening of the Tourist Information Centre. He then thanked the members of the public for those who signed the petition as there were 502 signatures and stated how tight the community was in rallying support. A vote of thanks was then given to Councillor Walker for responding so quickly with the petition. The Provost considered it appropriate to have a representation from the Community Council to work alongside the GDI discussions. Both Ron Forster and the Provost were nominated. The Provost wished Councillor Vaux well in his retirement.

6. Provost's Report & Correspondence: The Provost reported that she had received a number of letters from;

Dumfries & Galloway Council – Marches and Parade requirements for organised events

Friends of the Earth – Free Training. The Provost explained that training was being offered on the planning bill. She then asked who would be interested in attending and Councillor Macnamara and Ron Forster nominated themselves. Application form needs to be sent off. **Action: Secretary**

Councillor Cousins left the room

AMEY –The Provost introduced Gordon Bain who represents Ramsay Wood & Brackenwood Neighbourhood Watch Scheme to discuss the A75 Gatehouse bypass. The following points were made;

- Layout of bypass deemed to have too many signs which were misleading.
- No action by the Police because no deaths, yet!
- Replace Cat's eyes.
- Councillor suggested a petition.
- Police say no accidents have occurred there but the meeting disagreed.
- Many issues were discussed about the carriageway and the problems associated with it

Gordon Bain stated that he wanted the pressure to be kept up as he believes that will be the only way to get the layout of the Bypass changed. He thanked the meeting for their time and then left.

7. Secretary's Report: The full Secretary's report is available and is summarised as follows:

Land at Woodside Garage – The Planning Department have said they will advise the Community Council of any decision.

Affordable Housing – Letters received from Alex Fergusson and Alasdair Morgan who both express support for the lack of affordable housing in Gatehouse and agree it is a matter that needs to be tackled with great urgency. Ronnie Irving has passed on the letter dated 15th Mar 07 to the Principal Planning Officer but no reply as yet.

Crichton Campus – Letter received from the Principal of the University of Glasgow stating that he appreciates the disappointment that the Community Council feel but hopes that the SFC's commitment to a continuing higher education presence in the region provides some reassurance for the future.

Health Centre – Principal Solicitor for D & G Council confirmed that he is aware the land is subject to a right of pre-emption. Julie White General Manager Stewartry Health Partnership states that the tendering process is underway and documentation was issued the week ending 16 Mar 07.

Small Country - Big Plans Booklet – Accepts that Dumfries and Galloway and Shetland are excluded but believes that the shot embraced the geographical identity of Scotland!

Break-in at Fleet side Workshops – Letter from the Procurator Fiscal states that sentencing is entirely a matter for the court and it would be inappropriate for the department to comment

Mill on the Fleet, Neighbourhood Scheme, Casino in Stranraer, Secret Sign & Road Markings – Action's have been carried out but no replies as yet.

Community Council Constitutions – D & G Council have not received Constitution.

A copy of the Minutes for Stewartry Area Committee March 07 – is available to anyone on request.

8. Planning Applications: Dean of Guild – Plans have been received for;

- 25 Catherine Street – Door & Windows
- 8 Fleet Street – Extension

9. Mill on the Fleet Update: Councillor Harris presented her report and explained that her visits to the Mill have not been so frequent due to recuperation from an operation, however she did state that the new Manager and Assistant were now employed and working hard. Chairman, Ken Smyth was busy organising an exhibition and the Andy Goldsworthy Exhibition was now in place. Other points raised about the Mill were as follows;

- A further discussion took place about the old Council Chairs as to whether the chairs can be stored at the Mill but Councillor Forster is currently looking into the cost of refurbishing them.
- Both Councillor Vaux and Councillor Steel stated they believed that the Provost had a conflict of interest over the Mill and asked that the Provost leave the room. The Provost cited a letter that she had received from Derek Crichton, Stewartry Area Manager which explained that it was down to the individual to decide for themselves as to whether or not they a conflict of interest. The Provost made the decision to remain in the room.
- It was pointed out that the Mill wall was looking un-safe, as if it were falling apart; Councillor Harris said she would take this observation back to the Mill. **Action: Councillor Harris**

Councillor Laird entered the room

10. Treasurer's Report: Current Account - £1,445.14, Common Good Fund - £2,206.71; Footpaths Account - £1,471.56, Balance - £5123.41. Common Good Fund - Applications for Consideration;

Gatehouse Pre School Group: Application for £300.00 – approved, Proposed Provost and Seconded Councillor Steel.

Gatehouse Senior Citizens Fund: Application for £240.00 – approved, Proposed Councillor Laird and Seconded Councillor Macnamara

11. Ron Forster's Report: Ron reported on the following:

Children's Play Area– Ron has decided to wait and see how the fencing off, of the Children's Play Area at Creetown transpires there before taking any further action.

Cally Woods – Ron to chase up The Forestry Commission because they had said they would send a representative to speak to the Community Council about the excessive thinning of the trees.

Action: Councillor Forster

12. A.O.C.B

Bird Boxes were deemed to be sited very low as stated by Councillor Steel.

Codfather's Plaice has now successfully resolved the problem of the generator by purchasing special batteries which will keep the noise to a minimum.

Gatehouse of Fleet Sign - Concerns were expressed.

Next Month's Meeting will also be the AGM and the elections. The Provost reminded the meeting that she is standing down at the AGM. Councillor Laird has declared his willingness to stand as Provost. The Provost then proceeded to wish Ian McConchie & Chris Walker both well on the forthcoming Councillor elections and a unanimous vote was given to this proposal. A vote of thanks was given to the Chair.

The meeting closed at 9.20 pm

Future meetings will be at 7 pm and held on a Tuesday at the Community Centre, unless otherwise stated;

8th May **AGM**,
12th June,
10th July
14th August