



Minutes of the meeting of the Gatehouse of Fleet Community Council held at 7 pm on Tuesday 8 January 2008 in the Community Centre.

**Community Councillors Present:** Franca Bruno, Shaun Burnie, Ron Forster, Suzette Harris, Mark Laird (Provost), Ian McConchie, Gerard Macnamara (*Dean of Guild*), Adam Stephenson (*Secretary*), Chris Walker (*Depute Provost/Treasurer*)

**In Attendance:** Colin Paterson (Galloway News), 1 member of the public

**Apologies:** Cllr Jane Maitland, Cllr Patsy Gilroy, Alison Steel, Mary Cousins

## 1. Sederunt & Apologies

As above

## 2. Police Report – Community Police Officer

No Police Officer present.

- Community Councillors reported a disturbance at Memory Lane. PC Bradley was not aware of the incident taking place. All agreed importance of taking responsibility and reporting any incidents, rather than assume someone else has reported

## 3. Minutes of the meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2007

- Page 2, Item 4, point 2 – add with regards to Regional Councillors in particular.
- Page 3, Item 6, point 3 – should read *Convention of Stewartry Community Councils* and not *Stewartry Area Committee*.
- Page 3, Item 13, point 8 – add *finding* (in second sentence before *funding*).

Minutes were then proposed by Cllr McConchie and seconded by Cllr Harris.

## 4. Matters Arising

- Amey – letter sent to Amey requesting action/meeting over the Gatehouse of Fleet/Kirkcudbright junction. Signs that have recently been knocked down have been tended to, however no action taken to replace give way signs.
- Abbeyfield are arranging for the seat on Ann Street to be removed.
- Stewartry Area Committee – the application by the Community Council to fund the refurbishment of chairs is on this month's agenda.
- Proposed Housing Development (Woodside Garage) – letter of objection, wrote by the sub-committee formed at the last meeting, was read out. All agreed to send to Planning and Environment Department as read out. Decision will be made at the Stewartry Area Committee (Strategic) Meeting, 20<sup>th</sup> February 2008 commencing at 10 am. Copies of letter of objection from Community Council to be copied to D&G Councillors with a cover letter requesting that they respect and support the views expressed by the Community over this issue at the Committee meeting.
- Agreed to contact Patsy Gilroy, as Convenor for D&G Council, concerning non-attendance of Regional Councillors at Community Council meetings. Copy letter to Derek Crichton and D&G Chief Executive.
- Tourist Information Centre – no progress on obtaining conditions that £10, 000 was issued by D&G Council to maintain a Tourist Information provision over the summer period. This issue has been ongoing since 18<sup>th</sup> August 2007.
- Letters from Simon Fieldhouse, over Port McAdam, provide unacceptable responses. Various correspondence has been passed between R. Forster and D&G Council since 16/07/2007. Agreed to bring this issue up at next Area Committee meeting, which will be held in Gatehouse Primary on 21 January 2008.

- Ambulance 'First Response Service' – further details were read out. The First Response Service is to be offered over and above service already in place and is not a replacement. Ambulance Service to be contacted to attend a future Community Council meeting.
- Loreburn Housing Association – have replied to request for information on make-up of tenants and procedures for criminal checks. They confirm that over 80% of tenants are considered 'local'. This does not necessarily mean that they originate from the area, but have family/support within the town. Applicants are asked to declare any criminal records, however as they are a Social Landlord, they cannot exclude tenants that have criminal convictions.
- Scottish Water – no written reply to letter requesting details on sewage capacity to town. John Nisbett has been telephoned at Scottish Water to provide further details, but was unavailable at the time of calling.
- Health Centre update – no formal report, however work seems to be progressing well.
- Planning Permission for Cross Cottage – report has been returned by Cllr MacNamara to planning, expressing concern with plans to double the size of the current property.
- Work on small wheel at the Mill is still not complete, hopeful for repairs to be completed next week.
- Letter regarding the Coco Bean company to the Mill on the Fleet Board has been submitted.
- Meeting to discuss future Citizen of the Year Awards is still to take place.
- CADISPA report – expected next week. Hold ups down to large scale of project.

## **5. Public Forum**

## **6. Dumfries and Galloway Report**

No councillors present.

Cllr Walker provided report received from Cllr T. Jacques:

- Visit to school has taken place with Cllr Walker and Jacques, to address the issue of road safety and bus parking.
- Confirmed that the Lade system at garage site is owned by the garage. The Lade at the Mill is under lease. Everything between is the responsibility of D&G Council.

## **7. Provost's Report and Correspondence**

- Household waste and integrated water policy tabled.
- Information leaflet from the Crichton Foundation tabled.
- Anti-social behaviour leaflets passed to Community Councillors.
- National Standards for Community Involvement pack available to Community Councillors, currently with Provost.
- Copy of letter from Jim Logan to Planning Department in support of the proposed Woodside Garage Housing Development received.

## **8. Secretary's Report**

- Letter received from Area Management – Community Council awareness raising event on Stewartry Area Committee Grant funding will take place on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2008 in Castle Douglas Town Hall at 6pm. Agendas passed to interested parties.
- E-mail from Mark Thomson (Roads Dept) regarding traffic issues surrounding the school. Issues have been made worse by the building work. Site visit has been undertaken by the council. Developer will minimise traffic coming in and out of the site at key times. This is only a temporary issue and will be resolved once the Health Centre is complete.
- Letter from Nick Jackson (Principal Environment Officer Stewartry) regarding dog fouling at Fleet Street. Public to call 0800 0280504 and the council will attempt to clean up any reported mess as soon as possible. Fixed penalties can be issued by one authorised officer, if they personally witness the offence. If the offence is witnessed by anyone else, then there must be two witnesses and both must be willing to make statements to an officer in order for formal action to be taken.
- Letter from Loreburn Housing Association requesting the Community Council returns a questionnaire on their Allocation Policy. Cllr Bruno took the correspondence to complete and return.
- Letter received from Infrastructure and Transportation (DGC) regarding Waste Information Roadshows (presentation on DGC Waste Management Strategy). Various dates throughout the region, however nearest road show to Gatehouse of Fleet will take place in Kirkcudbright Town Hall on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2008 starting at 7 pm.

- Invitation from Mill on the Fleet Board regarding AGM. Will take place in Murray Arms on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2008 starting at 7 pm.
- Bus user consultation will take place on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2008 at 9.30 am in the Chambers, Castle Douglas Town Hall.

#### **9. Planning Applications – Dean of Guild**

- Two houses at Clachan – site plan has been requested.
- Carrick – no plans received.

#### **10. Mill on the Fleet Update**

- Letter sent by Provost to the Mill Board will be replied to shortly in writing.
- Mill is the favoured candidate for the Tourist Information Centre. Business plan has been created for 2008.
- Plans for new exhibitions are in process.
- The accounts that will be made available for the AGM will be 2005/06 financial year.

#### **11. Treasurer's Report**

- Common Good Fund balance - £1,681.10. Stewartry Area Committee will consider the Community Councils own application for funding for the re upholstery of the chairs. Awaiting approval of next years grant.
- Footpath Account balance - £1,484.96. Decision needs to be made on how to distribute this money. The Walks Map has been suggested by GDI for part funding.
- Current Account balance - £1,069.68. £500 of this money earmarked for the re upholstery of Chairs. Citizen of the Year and turning on the lights cost £560 from the Murray Arms. £500 was collected from tickets, £300 has been paid in and £200 in cash used to pay Jazz Band. Event cost Community Council £260. Still expenses to be paid out to Liz Modrate for Santa presents. Awaiting confirmation of £500 admin grant from DGC.
- Total in banks - £4,235.74.
- Recommend £200 payment to Secretary. All agreed.
- Application – Buncaroo. Looking for £500 for dance/drama equipment. Agreed to request further details from Buncaroo and a copy of their Constitution and will review application once this information has been received.
- Application – Gatehouse Primary PTA looking for £750 towards swimming lessons for P1-2, excursions, playground equipment. All agreed to request that a separate application be sent for swimming lessons, as excursions/playground equipment will be used during school time and should be funded by DGC. Will review as soon as new application is received.

#### **12. Ron Forster's Report**

Nothing new to report.

#### **13. AOCB**

##### **Press release circulated over TIC being relocated to the Mill.**

- Councillor Bruno reported that at the last GDI meeting Deirdre Carlisle gave a presentation on plan for GOFA in TIC. 3/12/2007 meeting, GOFA in TIC is presented as a GDI proposal.
- Cllr Walker noted he was unaware that GOFA (chaired by Ken Smyth) was in the running for the TIC.
- Suggested that GOFA should be housed in the Mill and the TIC retained in the car park.
- Cllr Harris was excluded from a meeting regarding the TIC on 14/12/2007.
- Provost received a telephone call from D. Steel stating that he has no decision making role in the TIC decision.
- Cllr Modrate reminded the meeting that Cllr Walker collected 500 signatures in a matter of hours from the community, supporting the retention of the TIC in the car park.
- Cllr McConchie advised that ex-councillor Gilby invited D. Steel to take on the TIC issue privately. GDI and VisitScotland have shown disregard for the Community Council and Gatehouse of Fleet.
- Cllr Walker – a GDI meeting was used to invite Delia Holland to discuss the TIC issue previously. After the meeting, regrettably, the GDI took the chair for the TIC project.
- Cllr Bruno – clear remit was issued to the GDI for the TIC project. It was important that the Chair remained impartial and it is clear that a line has been crossed.
- Cllr Harris suggested a strong letter of objection to be sent to VisitScotland.

- Cllr Modrate – appalled that the GDI have supported a proposal that took the TIC out of the car park, when local opinion was to retain in current location. Gatehouse of Fleet is under the spotlight.
- Provost – if there was an offer to retain in car park, why has this been rejected? C.C. (as the only elected body) has not been advised/informed on the TIC at any stage by DGC or VisitScotland.
- Cllr McConchie – recently things seem to have become murky over the TIC issue and decision making process.
- Cllr Bruno – D. Steel, as Chair of GDI, had the opportunity to update Community Council at December meeting, but did not. Conflict of interest for members of GDI/GOFA/Mill on the Fleet. Press release from VisitScotland was not sent directly to Community Council.
- Decided to form sub-group to send letters to VisitScotland/DGC/GDI - A. Stephenson/Cllr Bruno/Cllr Modrate/Cllr McConchie. Crisis meeting to be held with VisitScotland/DGC within the next 2 weeks before a final decision over TIC is made (copy letters to DGC Councillors/Chief Executive DGC & VisitScotland/MP Russell Brown/MSP Alex Fergusson). Separate meeting to be requested with GDI.

**Date of Next Meeting**

7 pm, 12 February 2008, Community Centre