



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

- 1. Present:** Deputy Provost/Treasurer C. Walker, Dean of Guild G. Macnamara, Councillors: S. Burnie, M. Cousins, R. Forster, A Lowden, I. McConchie and A. Steel. PC I. Bradley, D. Steel (GDI).
- 2. Apologies:** Provost M. Laird, Dumfries & Galloway Councillors Gilroy and Jacques, Dawn Hartley.

3. Public Forum : no members of public present.

4. Police Report – Community Police Officer

House breaking in Twynholm – a person has been apprehended. No other items to report.
(PC Bradley left the meeting)

5. Minutes of the meeting on 10 June 2008

Correction to sederunt – Cllr Cousins was not present at the meeting.

The adoption of the Minutes was proposed by Cllr Lowden and seconded by Cllr Forster.

6. Matters Arising

- Proposal by residents that Catherine St be made one-way to be examined in more depth. Charles Clemie to be invited to future meeting. **Action: Cllr. Cousins**
- Cllr Lowden established that DGHP is responsible for grass cutting in Memory Lane.
- Work on Council chairs not completed.
- Housing Group's press release and leaflet distribution accomplished
- Cllr Lowden had been informed by Derek Crichton's office that the lade has been attended to.
- DGHP has replied giving the figures for Gatehouse residents requiring accommodation as follows:

Property type	No. of applicants	No. of applicants from Gatehouse on waiting list
1 bedroom	54	7
2 bedroom	81	17
3 bedroom	30	8
4 bedroom	5	0
TOTAL	170	32

7. CADISPA Report Update – David Steel GDI

Report presented to the Stewartry Area Committee on 18/6/08 to update Councillors on Gatehouse's needs in affordable housing, business units, tourist information, Comm. Centre, the built environment, the natural environment, etc. Views from all sectors included e.g. young people who highlighted problems like transport. D & G Council and local community Groups are following up recommendations include the CC - Housing Group. GDI is applying to DGHP Community Pride Fund for cost of materials to refurbish Meeting Room in Comm. Centre. Solway Heritage have produced the report on the Cally Walls Survey and hope to restore various dykes e.g. along the B727 road. Sulwath Connections are studying the Stellage Wood with aim of regenerating the ancient woodland. The Mill on the Fleet has new displays, new café, etc and visitor numbers are up 30% on last year.

8. Dumfries and Galloway Report – Councillor Maitland

- CADISPA presentation to Area Committee was well received.
- Economic Regeneration Report - CCs to be consulted about some form of tourist organisation. £20000 (which previously went to Visit Scotland) will go toward this
- Themed meeting on affordable housing to be held on 19 January 2009 in Gatehouse as a direct result of interest expressed by community. The meeting will be shaped by the community.
- Care Charge – relatives and executors who, between 2002 and 2006, were charged for assistance with food preparation for the elderly are invited to claim refunds from D & G Council.
- Garage Planning – though refused, applicant may appeal or submit revised plan. Planners noted applicant must provide correct percentage of affordable housing and use high quality materials appropriate to conservation area. Site has infrastructure costs due to pollution and the lade.

Cllr Burnie expressed disappointment that SEPA had not seriously addressed flood risk and that no maximum number of units was stipulated by the planner. He hoped that the commercial company's cost of purchasing the site (£450000) would not affect planners'/councillors' judgment of the plans.

- D & G Council's Draft Accounts produced but yet to be discussed.
Cllr McConchie asked what the final cost of DG1 was. - £17 million.

9. Provost's Report and Correspondence

- Letter from Gala Committee - disappointed that CC had not assisted with maintaining George McCulloch Memorial Bench. The bench now re-varnished by two of the Gala Committee who refused reimbursement. There seems to have been a misunderstanding over this matter and a letter will be sent to Derek McCallum, Chairman of the Gala. **Action Cllr Walker**
- Letter from Gatehouse of Fleet Festival Group thanking the CC for the grant for the hire of a sound system and engineer for the Midsummer Music event which was a success and brought increased trade to several Gatehouse businesses over the Festival weekend in June.
- Letter from Chris Barratt about retaining original shop fronts: chemist's (recently purchased by Alliance Boots), and Mrs Fergusson's. Conservation Officer says both are statutorily listed buildings and prominent in the conservation area. CC should keep a watching brief so that the frontages are not altered without permission. **Action All Cllrs**
- Letter from Gatehouse Primary School requesting money from Common Good Fund for school exchange with the Dietrich Bonhoeffer School in Gifhorn. Unfortunately, application too late for this year. Treasurer to reply to Mr MacLean. **Action Cllr Walker**
- Letter from Anna Johnson acknowledging the schedule for Japanese Knotweed spraying. **Action All Cllrs**
- Petitions to save local Post Offices to be distributed around Gatehouse. **Action All Cllrs**
- Gatehouse Citizen of the Year voting cards to be distributed. **Action All Cllrs**

10. Planning Applications – Dean Of Guild

- aerial on new house at Fire Station
- change of use from a steading to a house at Home Farm, Barholm.
- derelict plumber's store at 7 Digby St is to be converted to a house
- 2 highly visible satellite dishes and house front changes in the conservation area to be investigated. **Action D & G Cllr Maitland**

11. Project Progress Report – Cllr Ron Forster

- Refurbishment of Meeting Room at Comm Centre.** 2 filing cabinets for Community Council (CC) and GDI use – placed in room. GDI to organise re-painting etc (see 7. above).
- Old School House, Cally Woods (Lake Cottage).** Building belongs to Forestry Commission who have yet to reply to GDI proposal to stabilise the building. It is hoped to place interpretation boards here and at other sites within the Cally Designed Landscape.
- Port McAdam** The Footpaths A/C met cost of spraying. Bracken to be dealt with by GDI.

12. Housing Working Group Report – Cllr Shaun Burnie

3 surgeries with 12 people from Gatehouse seeking affordable housing were held. Some people came from tied accommodation. The feedback suggested surgeries were very useful and publicity had reached people outwith the town. Jamie Dent, after due consultation with the working group, will present a report for CC in August. Options to be discussed include a Community Housing Trust.

13. Treasurer's Report

£2467.03 in Common Good Fund

£4065.47 in Current Account (NB. a large amount of this is already committed)

£1490.28 in Footpath Account.

14. AOCB

- Could the CC campaign to make Gatehouse plastic-bag free?
- Is there any way of banning alcohol from beaches? Youngsters binge drinking and smashing bottles on beach is a serious problem
- Imminent arrival of Digital TV – CC should organise another public meeting. **Action Cllr Walker**
- The Climate Change Challenge Fund – a government fund to enable CCs to look at recycling etc. Would some kind of micro-energy project using the lade system be possible?
- 100 metre monofilament net was found in Sandgreen bay. Possession and use of such nets is illegal and a person has been warned and the net destroyed.
- NSA Walks booklet for Gatehouse. It may be possible to reprint Gatehouse walk booklet shortly.

Meeting ended at 8.46pm **Date of Next Meeting** 12 August 2008, 7pm at the Community Centre