

Draft Minutes of Meeting of Gatehouse of Fleet Community Council held on 11th August 2009 7pm Community Centre

Present: Pat Jacques (Provost), Franca Bruno, Ian McConchie (Deputy Provost), Ron Forster, Alison Steel, Allan Lowden (Dean of Guild), Gerard Macnamara, Carol Clark, Alan McCreath, Mark Laird, PC Steele Johnston

In Attendance: Chris Walker

Apologies: Adam Stephenson, Jane Maitland, Patsy Gilroy, Mary Cousins, Shaun Burnie, Thomas Jacques.

As A. Stephenson was away F. Bruno agreed to take the Minutes.

2. The motion to co-opt Chris Walker to be deferred to next meeting as his Electoral Roll number is required. Will continue to act as Treasurer in the meantime.

3. AOCB

(i) A. Steel concerned about the condition of some of the paths in the Cally Woods.

ACTION A. Steel

(ii) Mr. and Mrs. James Grieve, 29 Fleetside, will be celebrating their Platinum Wedding Anniversary (70 years) on 7th September. What a fantastic achievement! The Provost to make arrangements to present them with a bouquet of flowers.

(iii) Rats are continuing to be a problem near the pond possibly coming from the area of the former garage. M. Laird to contact the Pest Control Officer and ask him to liaise with Mrs Wolffe.

(iv) A. McCreath intimated disappointment about work being carried out on the footpath at the 'Cape' road and that it could have been continued a bit further along.

(v) PC Johnston referred to the basketball stand in Garries Park and the goalposts without a net – young people would perhaps use them more if they were fit for purpose. The Provost has spoken to Gary White at Carbon Footprint about improving facilities for young people in the town and the GDI, who are happy to work with the CC if required.

4. Public Forum

There were no members of the public present.

5. Police Report

Not much to report.

- (i) There was a slight breach of the peace during Gala Week. Has been put down to too much alcohol
- (ii) House on Ardwall Island has been subject to vandalism. Enquiry going on.
- (iii) Asking for vigilance in the town regarding the ATM machine. One at Moffat was broken into earlier this week.
- (iv) There is a company called SAS selling fire alarms at extortionate interest rates. To be made aware of. There is to be a media release in the Galloway News this week.

PC Johnston left the meeting.

6. Adoption of Minutes of meeting held on 14th July 2009.

Proposed: A. Lowden

Seconded: R. Forster

7. Matters Arising

(i) The Provost impressed upon her fellow Councillors the need to let her know about the successes to date of Community Council business as she feels the community are not aware of what the Community Council do.

Action: All Councillors

(ii) Ian McConchie reported on the activities of the Kirkcudbright Hospital Action Group to date. A recent meeting with John Burns Chief Executive of D&G NHS went as well as could be expected. There is to be a letter in the Galloway News this week outlying what took place at the meeting and keeping the public informed. The matter is still with Professor Clark of the Independent Scrutiny Panel but it hopes to go to public consultation in the Autumn – possibly October. A public meeting is hoped to be held in Kirkcudbright Town Hall when this happens. A strong Chairman is required to reside.

(iii) The Provost met with CMS regarding the setting up of a website for the Community Council. It was considered that the costs would be too high. It was decided that because the Community Council has no funds, not to go with CMS

8. Dumfries and Galloway Report

There were no Councillors present.

9. Provost Report and Correspondence

(i) The Provost, along with fellow Councillors, attended the public meeting of the Community Centre on 21st July. Gary White, Carbon Centre, made a presentation regarding the fabric of the building and laid out plans for improving the insulation and heating of the building. More insulation was going to be put in the roof as well as solar panels. Secondary glazing was going to be put on all the windows and a new heating system, using air source heat pumps were going to be installed. At a total cost of under £40,000, almost all of this will be covered by grant monies.

(ii) Review received of Themed Evening Meetings in the previous year in the Stewartry by the Stewartry Area Committee

(iii) Energy Assistance Package. The organisation are keen to inform the local Community regarding the availability of resources. A special public meeting to be held in November.

Action: The Provost

(v) Minutes of Meeting of the Stewartry Area Committee dated 15th July

(vi) Final Draft of the Core Path Plan. There is an ongoing open Public Consultation from 13th July – 2nd October. There is a plan in the library and forms should anyone want to comment. R. Forster will collate comments.

Action: R.Forster

10. Planning Applications

(i) Ardwall Estate – 11k Overhead lines to be installed

(ii) Auchenlarie Holiday Park – The Sub-Committee had met and recommended objection to the proposal on the following grounds:-

a) Was becoming a ribbon development

b) The application was for the caravans to be sited on rising ground which is clearly more visible from the road

c) As the site is situated on a sharp bend the immediacy of this development was considered to be a possible interference to the traffic flow on the A75.

The recommendation of the Sub-Committee was adopted

Action: Dean of Guild

I. McConchie expressed a conflict of interest and abstained from the discussion.

11. Treasurer's Report

Current Account - £1372.58

CGFund Account - £1022.05

Footpath Account - £1433.90

Retrospective Common Good Fund Applications

- (i) Gatehouse Senior Citizens – It was agreed to award them £300 towards their annual outing for the cost of the coach.
- (ii) Scout Hall Refurbishment Project – It was agreed that before this application could be looked at, it was important to first see the estimates for the work to be carried out. Application held over.
- (iii) Gatehouse Community Centre Management Committee – Application for purchase of tables withdrawn.

The Treasurer reported that £2500.00 were expected from D&G Council soon for the Common Good Funds.

He asked the Councillors to bear in mind the Christmas switching on of the lights event this year and whether the CC wanted to go ahead with the Citizen of the Year Award.

Past Provost, Mark Laird to receive his £100 honorarium

What to remunerate A. Stephenson for taking the Minutes at the meetings as follows:-

Propose I. McConchie £30.00

Seconded A. McCreath

1st Amendment M. Laird £20.00

Seconded F. Bruno

2nd Amendment A. Lowden £25.00

Seconded G. Macnamara

The proposal was carried by 5 votes to 3. There were 2 abstentions.

The Treasurer was asked to approach D&G Council to assist in funding a Secretary post which would undertake all the secretarial duties including taking the minutes and all the correspondence involved. The Provost intimated however, that she wished to undertake her own correspondence.

12. Ron Forsters' Report

- (i) Brown tourist sign on the A75. Replacement panel ordered 3 weeks ago.
- (ii) Double white lines on A75. Programmed for September
- (iii) Boots sign illuminated after hours. D&G Council have referred the matter to Boots.
- (iv) Housing Group. Jamie Dent to meet the landowners shortly
- (v) Carbon Centre. Full report at next meeting. Grant application for the Community Centre insulation in hand. Renewable energy proposals going well.
- (vi) Community Centre railings. D&G Council legal department investigating ownership.
- (vii) U615 'Cape' road – new path surfacing almost complete.
- (viii) Bus Stops and shelters – the drawings were handed around at the meeting for comment. There was much discussion and particular discontent about the proposed positioning of the Bus Stop going east. It was felt that it would greatly reduce the number of parking places available in such a busy stretch of the town. That it was a great visual impediment for the neighbours. And finally, there were possible safety issues regarding the wall behind. There was a long drop down behind it should anybody sit on it and fall off! There was a near miss years ago when a seat was placed in the same position and for this reason it was removed. Litter dropping in the gardens also could be an issue. However, more information was required and it was agreed to write a letter to John Howell inviting him to a public meeting on a date to be agreed, to address these points.

Action: R. Forster to write letter

- (ix) GDI Schemes – Cally Boundaries – Ha ha at Cally Palace Hotel almost cleared
New Robbers' gate fitted
Funding for purchase of the Kiosk taking place with D&G Council
Horse route repairs and publicity the Snowdrop Festival are being progressed with the Forestry Commission.

13. National Scenic Area

A. Steel reported that there had been a meeting of the NSA Committee last month. There is an unusual situation currently in place in that the Marine and Coastal litter Plan, which is to reduce waste, is being offset by the D&G waste disposal plan, which is also to reduce it's waste and the same person has been nominated to carry out both functions. It appears an impossible task! The coastal litter is being taken to the D&G waste depot only to be told it won't take it! The Marine and Coastal Plan proposed is that landowners be charged commercial rates for disposal of litter on their land or coastline and similarly rubbish collected by volunteer letter picking will not be accepted at disposal sites but will be charged at commercial rates. Cllr Thomas Jacques has promised to look into this dilemma.

14. AOCB

Community Council Elections are to be held on 8th October 2009. All nomination papers to be returned to the Returning Officer Graham Wright, The Smithy, Victoria Street no later than 5pm Wednesday 2nd September 2009. Nomination papers can also be picked up from him but not for the next 10 days as he is on holiday. Papers can be picked up from the Provost, Pat Jacques in the meantime. Her Tel. No. is:- 01557 814425. The Community is being encouraged to take part. If you have something to say, now is the time to make your voice heard and play an active role in your community!

A vote of appreciation was given to the Gala Committee for their splendid Gala Week yet again this year. It is considered to be one of the most successful in the region.

Appreciation also to the Riding of the Marches Committee. **88 horses took part!**

The meeting ended at 9.35pm

Date of Next Meeting:- 8th September 2009 7pm – Community Centre