



Minutes of the meeting of the Gatehouse of Fleet Community Council held at 7 pm on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2010 in the Murray Arms Hotel

**Community Councillors Present:** Pat Jacques **PJ** (Provost), Ian McConchie **IM** (Deputy Provost), Chris Walker **CW** (Treasurer), Franca Bruno **FB**, Ron Forster **RF**, Gerard Macnamara **GM**, Carol Clark **CC**, Duncan McLeod **DM**, Sandy Kirkpatrick **SK**, Adam Stephenson **AS** (Minute Secretary)

**In Attendance:** PC Steele Johnstone **SJ**, James Hutchinson, Cllr Jane Maitland **JM**, Trish Lewis (Galloway News)

**Apologies:** Allan Lowden (Dean of Guild) **AL**, Cllr. Thomas Jacques **TJ**, Cllr. Patsy Gilroy **PG**, Alison Steel **AS**

### **1. Public Forum**

James Hutchinson gave an update on the Gatehouse Carbon Action Project. Home surveys are slightly behind target – 622 are to be completed this year. Interested parties can leave their details and a member of the project will be in touch to arrange a survey.

### **2. Police Report**

Crimes reported in the town since the last meeting:

- 30<sup>th</sup> April – theft from Fleetside Plumbers – copper piping and water cylinders stolen, culprits believed to be from out with the area.
- 24<sup>th</sup> April – minor domestic – no charges.
- Breach of the peace on London – Stranraer bus involving an Irish male being abusive.
- Vandalism to car – no positive lines of enquiry available.
- 7<sup>th</sup> May – flag poles at Cally Golf course removed – individuals involved were from the Dumfries area.
- Number of incidents of anti-social behaviour

SJ advised that public are to remain vigilant of bogus workmen, as there has been an incident in the Newton Stewart area.

Neighbourhood Watch stickers are being placed around the town. SJ advised that some have been removed. CW suggested obtaining window stickers.

PJ advised of recent vandalism outside the Mill. Tables have been smashed, planters and wheel mechanisms have been thrown into the river and sand bags have been burst open. PJ advised that the new tenant of the café in the Mill has offered to work with some of the youth in the town and passed contact details to SJ.

Three deer attacks recently in Cally Woods area, believed to be by dogs not under owner control.

JM advised to continue to report all incidents of antisocial behaviour and contact DGHP where necessary. PJ has recently met with a member of the Loreburn Housing Association Board, who was supportive of issues and will bring them up at the next board meeting. PJ to write to DGHP with concerns.

RF advised that a sapling has been damaged on the path into Garries Park from the Car park.

### **3. Minutes of the meeting of 13 April 2010**

Proposed by RF and seconded by CC.

### **4. Matters arising**

- Scout Common Good Fund Application is still outstanding
- Recycling bins – glass bins will remain, however the remainder will be removed. Text style bin is still on site.
- Fire Improvement Plan – move to next meeting
- Camper van overnight parking – TJ advised that camper vans are not permitted to park overnight in the car park. Camper van has recently been parked in the car park with for sale sign. JM advised that a licence is needed for this.
- Town plan – meeting of sub-group to be held 15<sup>th</sup> April – return to be submitted to council by 4<sup>th</sup> June.

- Bank of Scotland ATM – branch staff have been contacted and have forwarded concerns to HQ. GM to find out who controls the machine and contact the firm directly with concerns.

#### **5. Dumfries and Galloway Report – Jane Maitland**

- Report recently published in Youth Justice advises that the number of persistent offenders is falling in the region. Copy of report passed to PJ.
- Council in process of re-organising noise, anti-social behaviour and dog warden sections under one umbrella to ensure an equal spread of resources across the authority.
- Review of roads has recently taken place and an additional £700,000 has been approved to make improvements. £128,000 will be spent in the Stewartry area.
- Concern was raised by members about the way that pot holes were repaired.
- VisitScotland – concern was raised that visitors have advised that they have tried to obtain information leaflets from VisitScotland on Dumfries and Galloway and these have been unavailable. Issue to be raised with VisitScotland.

#### **6. Provost's Report**

- Contact with James Shaziri at DGHP has been difficult – meeting still to be arranged to discuss the points system and issues with housing. JM suggested contacting Joanne Quigley.
- Still awaiting information from the Lions on Christmas lighting.
- Following resignation of Gordon Rowan, suggestion made to co-opt another member – agreed to look into co-opting a youth member.

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

- Review of themed meetings questionnaire passed round to be completed
- Stronger Communities – achieving community empowerment report
- Stewartry Area Committee papers
- Notification from Solway heritage of involvement in distributing funds from wind farms once planning permission has been granted. JM declared an interest.
- Information on Cairnsmore Biosphere
- Fireworks – newsletter from D&G Fire Service
- Connect NHS Newsletter
- Documentation on Wind Farm near Creetown – FB to review.

#### **8. Treasurer's Report**

- £1,000 awarded to Community Centre from Common Good Fund
- £100 received from DGC for participation in Stewartry Convention of Community Councils.

<b>Current Account:</b>	£1,556.11
<b>Common Good Fund:</b>	£2,623.76
<b>Footpaths Account:</b>	£1,362.09

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

- FB and RF to meet to decide on colour of new bus shelter
- Car park – Council officials to meet with RF to discuss relocation of bins and disguising transformer to improve car park
- Bird Hut – repairs required to felt on roof and path around the outside.
- Garries Wood Management Plan – now available to view in the library – comments welcome.
- Meeting to be held about Knotweed, which is growing rapidly.
- Contact to be made with Charles Clemmie regarding pot holes on Cally Drive.
- Old School – negotiating details to be contained on interpretation board.

#### **10. Any other business**

- DM updated on problem of cars parking at the Mill. Edging stones will be placed along the drive to prevent damage to the grass.

#### **Date of next meeting**

8<sup>th</sup> June 2010 – 7 pm – Community Centre