



Minutes of the meeting of the Gatehouse of Fleet Community Council held at 7 pm on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2010 in the Murray Arms Hotel

**Community Councillors Present:** Pat Jacques **PJ** (Provost), Ian McConchie **IM** (Deputy Provost), Allan Lowden (Dean of Guild) **AL**, Gerard Macnamara **GM**, Ron Forster **RF**, Allan Kirkpatrick **AK**, Franca Bruno **FB**, Carol Clark **CC**, Sean Burnie **SB**, Gordon Rowan **GR**, Alison Steel **AS**, Chris Walker **CW**, Allan McCreath **AMcC**, Julie McDonald (Temp. Minute Secretary)

**In Attendance:** Cllr. Jane Maitland **JM**, PC Steele Johnstone **SJ**

**1. Apologies:** Cllr Thomas Jacques **TJ**, Cllr. Patsy Gilroy **PG**, Adam Stephenson **ASt**

**2. Decide on any other business**

Nothing to report.

**3. Public Forum**

No members of the public present.

**4. Police Report**

- Two crimes have been reported. One breach of the peace for a young female threatening to self harm on 30<sup>th</sup> December. The second on 4<sup>th</sup> January when a male approached an ex partner at Auchenlarie which was a breach of his bail conditions.
- A number of anti social behaviour reports have been received regarding the throwing of snowballs and potentially targeting vulnerable members of the public. It should be noted that schools are currently not in attendance and it is hoped these instances will cease once the schools return.
- Four copies of the Quadrant magazine were provided.
- A list of equipment and furnishings was provided from the two closing primary schools and this is being offered to community groups free of charge. CC took the list and copy of the e-mail to give to Dawn McIntyre for follow up.
- PJ confirmed the issue regarding vandalism of the bus stop opposite the car park is still ongoing with the same three youths being involved.
- FB reported a comment made by a customer visiting Gatehouse with regards to the public toilets being in a poor state of repair. AS confirmed a degree of vandalism is evident due to the excessive amount of commercial toilet roll which has been thrown around the park. A discussion was held with regards to locking the toilets overnight, a 24hour facility is available. Also the possibility of 'manning' or a turnstile being installed, although it was thought budget restraints may prevent these options. RF suggested that he and FB undertake a review of the toilets and compile a maintenance list which should be provided to Nick Jackson for consideration.
- IM asked if a local by-law should be considered with regards to 'outside' drinking. Concern was raised for the local hotels/public houses for which such a by-law would restrict their customers. AL believed such a by-law would push the drinkers to use others areas for example the football pitches.

**5. Minutes of the meeting of 08 December 2009**

Proposed by IM and seconded by AL.

**6. Matters arising**

- Community Centre – a meeting to discuss the damage has taken place and it is believed the insurance will cover the repairs but not if the damage is reported as 'wear and tear' related. A larger survey is scheduled for early next week and therefore awaiting that report. If the building is beyond repair a meeting will be called to discuss further, if building not condemned then repairs will continue.
- Girgan bench update – Seats at tennis court and Memory Lane (summer seat) installed. GM also reported new seats in Town Hall Gardens and requested additional seats for Rosevelt and Ann Street. RF to follow up

- ❑ PJ reported of the two seats on Vinniehill, one is in need of repair. Confirmation given that this area is National Trust property and not the responsibility of D&G Council
- ❑ PJ informed the council that AS has looked into the possibility of a mobile cinema and will provide more information at the next meeting.

#### **7. Dumfries and Galloway Report – Cllr Jane Maitland**

- ❑ Still working on the budgets following the public meeting held in Castle Douglas for which a number of Community Council members attended.
- ❑ For additional information regarding the forthcoming consultation meeting to be held on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> January, papers are available on the web via the Corporate Policy Committee link - Agenda/papers - item number 3
- ❑ Green play areas – confirmation given that Gatehouse of Fleet with a population of over 1500 qualifies for a medium size play area according to the Draft Playparks strategy.

#### **8. Provost's Report**

- ❑ Constitution – confirmation received from Community Council members who requested copies of the constitution are now in receipt of them
- ❑ Town Maps - RF reported that updated version of the maps now include both the Glen and Station areas
- ❑ Parking outside Spar – PJ confirmed that a meeting had been held not with too much success and talks will continue.
- ❑ Ice damage – PJ reported the pavement area on Fleet Street, specifically between 'The Ship' and Garden Street has got raised flags due to recent frost damage. Another example in the High Street reported by AMCC. RF to record the main areas of concern and report to Charles Clemie
- ❑ PJ has received an article from Mrs Wolffe with regards to the Common Goods assets and specifically poor record keeping, a number of council members took a copy of the report. CW asked if an assets list is current present and the belief is that it is present but unsure how up to date it is. CW to contact Hazel Kerr and endeavour to obtain the list for the next meeting.
- ❑ JM suggested that at the forthcoming training sessions, to be held on 26<sup>th</sup> January, assets recording could be a topic for conversation. Concern rose that no knowledge of the training dates seems to be apparent.

#### **9. Provost's Correspondence**

- ❑ Proposed extension to Fleet Star Pavilion – confirmation that a meeting had taken place. The suggestion is that current 'open veranda area' on the front is closed in for two purposes i) to create more internal space ii) reduce the potential for vandalism.
- ❑ PJ confirmed an e-mail had been received to enquire if the Community Council would be in support of Fleet Star taking back the maintenance/control of the football areas. Concern was raised with regards the potential financial burden this could place on the football club and the suggestion was made by SB that a couple of Fleet Star members be invited to a future Community Council meeting to discuss further. PJ to invite.
- ❑ Benefit Theft – poster is now in place on the left hand side of the notice board
- ❑ Waste Management Ecodeco Waste Treatment Facilities – AS agreed to take the CD rom has been provided for viewing.
- ❑ Auchenlarie Christmas Newsletter – criticises the Community Council for the objection to the parks request to add 50 new pitches, claiming that the Council is turning away in excess of £1m to local firms. PJ has spoken to the Bank of Fleet, The Mill, The Ship, Fleet Gallery and the Murray Arms who all seem unable to agree with the amount stated.
- ❑ Community Learning and development annual report - AS agreed to take
- ❑ Galloway News e-mail regarding shortage of lairs at Anwoth – IM had previously been in talks with the council regarding this issue resulting in a re-inspection of the area and to open negotiations with regards to purchasing additional land. The revisit discovered the potential for extra space which would suffice for 9-10 years, based on the current annual rate. The negotiation into the purchase of additional

land failed to come to agreement. On a similar issue Girthon cemetery is being considered for extension and provision for parking at some future date.

- ❑ E-mail from John McInally re Cally Walls project – PJ asked if any member can recall the e-mail or telephone message left by John McInally in Feb 2009. Question raised by Mr McInally was with regards to the funding used for the Cally Walls project as opposed to the Anwoth cemetery. No recollection from council members and concern with regards to the contact number used as no-one is in knowledge of a central phone number for the Community Council. PJ to respond back to Mr McInally.
- ❑ Invitation to the Environment Fair Community Day 19/03/10 – FB to consider
- ❑ AS provided a copy of Scottish Natural Heritage, SSSI document on Cairnsmore of Fleet, PJ took for consideration
- ❑ Acknowledgement response from Jill Russell reported

NB. PJ left the meeting, IM continued with the agenda.

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

None to report.

Lists of planning applications can be viewed online at:

<http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=4579>

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

- ❑ CW provided summary, Current account £963.14, Common Goods account £2622.88 and Footpaths account £1361.63. Total £4947.65
- ❑ Only movement in the accounts is a debit to the current account of £240 relating to the Community Centre hire.
- ❑ Request made by CW to RF for signature on 3 cheques relating to payment of Santa, Children's Present and Murray Arms for Mulled Wine.

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

- ❑ D&G council have installed new seats at the tennis courts and Memory Lane (summer seat)
- ❑ National Trust for Scotland will shortly install stock-proof fencing around Vinniehill. Stock will be introduced onto the hill in late summer.
- ❑ Letters sent to Council confirming agreement to the revised location of the bus stop at the western end of the town.
- ❑ Brown tourist sign – there has been confusion between Amey and the Council as to which party supplied the sign. Amey advise the sign should be delivered next week.
- ❑ Snowdrop interpretation board completion delayed as the printing machine has broken down.
- ❑ Cally Designed Landscape committee met in December. Items discussed included Cally Walls, and the old school structure.
- ❑ Collapsed wall at Burgher Park – to be rebuilt shortly.
- ❑ Due to communication issues and the amount of work undertaken by RF on behalf of the Community Council discussion re the purchasing of Microsoft word for RF. Proposed AS, seconded IM.
- ❑ CW reported that the 'citizen of the year award' was a very close run between David Steel and RF. CW will provide RF with a copy of his nominations and would like to acknowledge the work undertaken by RF.
- ❑ New version of the map is now on display at the Murray Arms Hotel. The one at the Kiosk/Car park area was removed by the Council for modification. One of the supports has been knocked over.

## **13. Any other business**

- ❑ CW passed on thanks to SB for the organising and running of the recent Curling day, which was a complete success and enjoyed by many.
- ❑ Energy – SB confirmed that interviews have now taken place with 13 persons appointed. Three full-time positions, one of which will be in Gatehouse of Fleet and that person will be invited to a future Community Council meeting. Training is scheduled however the community centre may not be able to be used and therefore an alternative location needs to be found.

- ❑ CC passed on thanks to CW for the recent 'you tube' video which is highly recommended for viewing, named 'Gatehouse Bonspiel 2010'.
- ❑ Kirkcudbright action group – IM provided an update of activities including a meeting with Shona Robison, Minister for Health and the preparation of a presentation which will be given to Nicola Sturgeon in a planned meeting in Edinburgh, for which a number are attending. IM requested acknowledgements to PJ for the amount of work she has done in preparing the final presentation and to FB for her work during the meetings.

8.28pm meeting closed.

**Date of next meeting**

9<sup>th</sup> February 2010 – 7 pm

DRAFT