



Minutes of the meeting of the Gatehouse of Fleet Community Council held at 7:40 pm on Tuesday 13 May 2008 in the Community Centre.

Present: Provost M. Laird, Dean of Guild G. Macnamara, Councillors: S. Burnie, M. Cousins, R. Forster, D. McClelland, I. McConchie and A. Steel
PC I. Bradley, S. Gillespie (*Galloway News*).

Apologies: Deputy Provost/Treasurer C. Walker and Councillor, A. Lowden

2. Public Forum : no members of public present.

3. Police Report – Community Police Officer

No information has been forthcoming on issue of motorcycles in Garries Park. Councillors raised problem of 2 or 3 motorcyclists who speed through the town and race round the bypass at extreme speeds. The press could help by highlighting the anti-social aspects of this behaviour. Brad will liaise with the Traffic Department in Kirkcudbright and the Safety Camera officers.

Action: PC Bradley

(PC Bradley left the meeting)

4. Minutes of the meeting on 15 April 2007

The adoption of the Minutes was proposed by Cllr Steel and seconded by Cllr McConchie.

5. Matters Arising

(2) A new planning application for the Laggan Outdoor Pursuits centre has been submitted.

(7a) Dawn Hartley had expressed an interest in being Secretary. She should be invited to attend the next meeting.

Action: Cllr.

Steel

(7c.) The 'Support Arrangements for Community Councils' information has been circulated. The deadline for comments has been extended to the 31 May 2008.

Action: All Cllrs

(8) Following discussion of the Provost's report of 15.4.2008 it was decided, at the AGM, to retain the status quo i.e. that the Council may have up to 14 councillors. As there is already two co-opted councillor (from a permitted total of three) the maximum number of councillors until the 2009 election will be 13. At present one more councillors can be co-opted. Anyone interested in joining the Council should approach any community councillor or telephone the Provost or Deputy Provost. Both the Provost and Deputy Provost's phone numbers will be put on the notice board for this purpose. Candidates' names must be submitted one week before the Council meeting at which their application will be considered. It was agreed to review the situation in six months.

(10) Based on the Land Reform Act (2003), rights of way are asserted rather than established in Scotland. Generally, traditional rights of way continue as long as they are used responsibly. Gates may be put across rights of way for purposes of keeping stock so long as the gate is not locked. The Bests have planted a hedge alongside but are not obstructing the traditional right of way.

6. Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA)

The D & G Council Liaison Officer confirms that every Community Council must register with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO), pay an annual fee of £35, and inform the ICO of the types of information held and how it is used. The DPA is civil law but processing information without notification is a criminal offence. Stewartry Area Management have confirmed that this is an eligible expense from the administration grant. The ICO have offered local awareness raising sessions if we require them and these can be arranged through Stewartry Area Management.

Action: Provost

7. Dumfries and Galloway Report : no Dumfries & Galloway Councillors present.

8. Provost's Report and Correspondence

- a) Letter from the Deirdre Carlisle thanking the CC for the award for *The Kiosk* and detailing how they aim to take the project forward in a way that is sustainable and beneficial to the community.
- b) Letters from both Alex Fergusson MSP and Alasdair Morgan MSP in response to CC letters about the future of the TIC and expressing the hope that the new arrangements will be successful.
- c) Letter from Derek Crichton in response to CC letter of 9 March stating
 - (i) Their letter of 24 January was sent to all Gatehouse Councillors on the database. They confirm they had not received contact details for Councillors Burnie and Steele.
 - (ii) Their concern was to ensure that the CC was "aware of the need for all meetings to be called following a recognised procedure". "It has been recognised that the proposed meeting on 22 January did not meet the procedure for calling a meeting."
 - (iii) It is accepted that "in rare and essential cases" meetings may be held in private but it is still necessary to follow the recognised procedure for calling such a meeting.
 - (iv) Carol Henshall is participating in the national review of CCs on behalf of D & G and she has been asked to consider including detailed procedures for meetings and private meetings in the revised Scheme for Establishment, Code of Conduct and Standing Orders.
- d) Letter from Scottish Ambulance Service. The trial re-structuring of ambulance resources in the Gatehouse/Kirkcudbright area has been implemented permanently.
- e) Letter from Charles Clemie about Stewartry Roads Surface Dressing – no work is planned in our area 2008-9.
- f) Letter from Safer Scotland (Scottish Government). The new Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 gives the public the right to comment on licensing applications through Local Licensing Forums.
- g) Letter from D & G Council Communications Unit, about Freedom Of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 detailing response times and noting that fees may be charged for information provided.
- h) Letter from Forestry Commission about Cally Woods and specifically addressing our concerns about blocked culverts and burns, the height and signage of the timber stacks and the chipping and removal of debris.

10. Planning Applications – Dean Of Guild

- 21 Birtwhistle St – small extension to the rear of house
 - 15 Catherine St – extension to house, erection of garage and fence
 - Taly-Y-Fan, Laurieston Rd – extension to house and erection of 2 decked areas
 - Littleton Farm – extensions to agricultural buildings, erection of slurry store, 2 silage pits
 - Felling licence application at Boreland of Girthon
- All extensions in keeping with present structures

11. Project Progress Report – Cllr Ron Forster

- a) **Car parking.** Charles Clemie suggests request for provision of more spaces should be linked to a specific event (e.g. Gala?). The car parking survey involves counting the spaces over one random week. Cllr Burnie expressed his opposition to increased car parking in the town.
- b) **Local Housing Waiting Lists.** There are 17 local people on the Loreburn Waiting List but DGHP has still not provide the information requested.
- c) **A75 Road Signs.** When requested to rationalise the road signs and extend the double white lines at the junction with the A755/B727, Amey said they were dependant on Transport Scotland. A letter from Transport Scotland of 6/5/2008 says that Amey should have confirmed that the proposed works will be implemented shortly.
- d) **A75 Proposed footway westwards from B796.** Amey are to carry out a survey to see if a footpath, from below Cardoness Castle along the old road to Anwoth, on the north side of the A75 can be made into a safe walk with the erection of a safety barrier and appropriate signage.
- e) **Old School House, Cally Woods (Lake Cottage).** The GDI Designed Landscape plan recommends preserving the remains of the building. The Forestry Commission want to reduce the walls to a level of 3ft as a 'health and safety' measure but Cllr Forster feels it would not take a stonemason long to make the building safe. Councillors present voted unanimously to support moves to restore the building to a safe state.
- f) **Flooding of the former Crosbie's Garage Site.** Using the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, it was finally revealed that D & G Fire and Rescue Service had been called out once since 1980 - on 2/10/1981 to pump away flood water.

- g) **Culverting of water courses.** Letter from SEPA says that, in general, they are opposed to culverting water courses. They may remove their opposition in cases of 'socio-economic necessity' i.e. for affordable housing projects. Cllr Burnie said that he had just heard from SEPA that they had sent a hydrologist who has decided there is no flood risk at the Garage Site so they have removed their objection.
- h) **Council Chairs.** Livingstones have not yet collected these.
- i) **Grey Squirrels.** Now a very real threat to local squirrels especially in Castramon Woods. Members of the public should be encouraged to report any sightings tel. 01557 814207

Action : All Cllrs

12. Housing Working Group Report – Cllr Shaun Burnie

The Group will give a fuller report in July.

Affordable Housing

They have tried to identify suitable sites for affordable housing and are working on 1 or 2 options

They are

- holding several meetings over the next weeks
- planning, with the help of Jamie Dent, Small Communities' Housing Trust, to host housing surgeries on 4, 12 and 19 of June to establish local needs.
- issuing a press release about the surgeries in the week of 26 May. They will also produce a leaflet and would appreciate help with its distribution on Monday 2 June.

Action : All Cllrs

The Garage Site

Planning permission is being discussed at the Stewartry Area Committee on **Wednesday 21 May at 10am in the Council Offices, Kirkcudbright**. Even though Pat Hanna, of D & G Planning and Building Control, recommends that the application be refused, Gatehouse Councillors are encouraged to lobby D & G Councillors to consider more appropriate alternatives for the site e.g. restoring the pond, low density sheltered housing for the elderly, etc.

Action : All Cllrs

13. AOCB

1. Garries Park – Football Pitch Fleet Star use and maintain the pitch over the winter season but there is concern about who should maintain the grounds now that Twynholm Football Club use the pitch in the off season as well. Fleet Star have a concern that the pitch may be over-used and the grass will not have time to recover before the next season. D & G Council manage Garries Park and the money for the Common Good Fund comes from the letting of the pitch. D & G Councillors could be contacted about the matter.

Action Dean of Guild

(Cllr McConchie left the meeting)

2. Provision of Railings / Gentle gradient steps on slope from High St to Spar. The relatively steep gradient here can become slippery and some older people have fallen. CC should look into the possibility of a rail or steps.

Action Cllr Burnie

3. The George McCulloch Memorial Seat in Ann St is in poor condition. CC needs to establish who is responsible for the upkeep of the seat.

Action Cllr Burnie

The meeting ended at 9.20pm

Date of Next Meetings

10 June 2008, 7pm at the Community Centre

08 July 2008, 7pm at the Community Centre

12 August, 7pm at the Community Centre