

# GATEHOUSE OF FLEET COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2005 at 7pm in the Murray Arms Hotel

**PRESENT:** Provost Franca Bruno, Deputy Provost Alison Steel, Councillors Mary Cousins, R Forster, A Lowden, D McClelland, G Macnamara, K McConchie, A McLaren, D McLeod, D Rennie, and C Walker, Dumfries and Galloway Councillor A Vaux, Community Police Officer for Kirkcudbright & Gatehouse I Bradley and Mr & Mrs Harris (members of the public)

**Apologies:** None

## 2. POLICE REPORT PC Bradley, reported that:

- ❖ new, more casual-looking police uniforms have been issued. These are more comfortable especially with the body armour (body armour compulsory for insurance purposes)
- ❖ 3 major crimes in the area recently all by teams of professionals
  - the raid on Kirkcudbright Post Office
  - two burglaries where professional teams targeted houses with valuable antiques in The Stell, Kirkcudbright and Ringford.
- ❖ an escaped pig on A75 was recaptured near the Skyreburn Coffee Bar

## 3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 9 NOVEMBER

The Minutes, with one minor change, were approved. Motion proposed by D McClelland, seconded by R Forster.

## 4. MATTERS ARISING

- a) **Missing Inspection Covers** - G Macnamara has a list and will give it to the Provost. **Action: G Macnamara**
- b) **Flower Tubs** – nothing to report.
- c) **Pond** – no official consultation about the weed with the ecologist as yet. It is hoped that a similar accident with cygnets can be prevented in future
- d) **Library Trust** - D & G Council are not happy with the arrangements (see Minutes 9/11/05 -7d) and the matter will now go to the Charity Commissioners. The Provost will keep us informed. **Action: Provost**
- e) **Community Council Minutes** –These are now on the Town Notice-board, in the Ewart and Gatehouse Libraries, on the Gatehouse of Fleet website and copies are also emailed to PC Bradley and Joanne Colquhoun of D & G Council. **Action: A Steel**
- f) **Garden waste** – The Provost is awaiting a reply from Derek Crichton. Mrs Harris, in her letter, did not suggest a skip but a fenced off area for garden waste. M Laird suggested that D & G Council could either provide a green waste site or bins for green waste. Councillor Vaux said a green waste collection point in either Gatehouse or Castle Douglas would feed the Eco Deco plant in Dumfries.
- g) **Secretary's Post** – The post has been advertised but no applications have been received. D Rennie suggested that as the Community Centre Hall Committee, the Board of the Mill on the Fleet and the Community Council and the GDI are all looking for secretarial or other help it might be possible for all the organisations to 'club' together and pay a reasonable salary for someone to do the work. **Action: D Rennie**
- h) **Community Council Training** was cancelled for lack of support.

## 5. DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY REPORT.

- a) **Heather Management** – SNH has removed one of three flocks at Drummore to preserve the heather and local farmers have complained to D & G Council and a letter has been sent to Ross Finnie, Minister for Environment and Rural Development. K McConchie said the new policy defied years of tradition in heather management where controlled heather burning was carried out every seven years. SNH had been requested to appear before D & G Council.
- b) **John Russell** – has sent a letter with his latest development ideas for Gatehouse.
- c) **Boundary Commission changes** The three D & G Councillors will be responsible for the whole area from Kirkcudbright to Kirkmabreck (Creetown) with effect from 2007. There is some concern that smaller communities may suffer as Councillors might favour the areas with more votes.
- d) **Memory Lane Planning Application** – The D & G Councillor has received several letters on the subject.
- e) **Andrew Crosbie Bequest** (£783 63p) to maintain the Town clock will be transferred by D & G Council to Gatehouse of Fleet Common Good Fund. It was suggested that some of the money be used for a memorial plaque to Andrew Crosbie.
- f) **Council Tax** – After some discussion Councillor Vaux pointed out the D & G has one of the lowest levels of Council tax in Scotland. M Laird suggested there were still several areas where cuts could be made e.g. children could walk the 100 metres to the swimming pool from Castledykes Primary School instead of being bussed. As these types of question crop up regularly D Rennie suggested making Local Government finance a quarterly item on the Agenda.

## 6. PROVOST'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE

**Progress on the new surgery** – Estates Director for Primary Care Trust, James McCambley has sent an email to say that health centre and its land will now belong to the NHS and not to a private company. The Design Team will be transferred to the new project. M Laird welcomed the news although R Forster expressed some reservations about the possible delay the changes may cause.

**Third Periodic Review of Community Councils** This needs to be studied in more depth **Action : R Forster**

**Switching on of Christmas Lights** The bill for refreshments £50-60 will be paid by the Community Council Common Good Fund this year. Tom Burnie generously donated the mince pies. It was suggested a charge of 50p or £1 be made for the mulled wine in future.

**Attendance at a set number of CC Convention meetings** is compulsory for our Council grant. **Action : M Laird**

**Festive Lights** D & G Council should be asked to store the Christmas lights since they already put them up. Until now The Lions have stored them. **Action : R Forster**

**“Householder” Planning Applications** The Provost had received a letter, from Ronnie Irving, in connection with a query about developments at Newton Farm Cottage saying that we were not entitled to receive “*householder applications*”. The meaning of the letter was not obvious and clarification will be sought. **Action: Provost**

**A Scottish Executive Discussion Paper** “What can we do to help Community Councils fulfil their role?” has been received and requires some study and comment. **Action : R Forster**

**Mill on the Fleet Lights** – These should now be going ahead as the Provost has signed the necessary papers.

**SHOUT** (Save Haugh of Urr Transactions) A letter from D & G Council (about changes to rural post offices and the effects on communities) had been received. It was agreed this was a matter for the Convention rather than individual Community Councils but it was agreed to send a letter of support to Peter Carpenter. **Action: Provost**

## 7. PLANNING APPLICATIONS - DEAN OF GUILD REPORT:

**Castramont Road** – outline planning for seven houses - area is zoned for housing. *Some concern about the width of the road*

**Cushat Wood** - one house – *Concern expressed about the ancient avenue of beech trees and the Designed Landscape.\**

**The Ship Inn** – removal of a chimney – *no concern expressed*

**25 Catherine St** – new roof with slates to replace asbestos - *no concern expressed*

**Forestry Office, Cally Drive** - conversion from office to holiday accommodation - *no concern expressed*

**Visitor Centre at Cairnsmore of Fleet** – extension - *no concern expressed*

**Charity Shop, Gatehouse** – extension to rear - *no concern expressed*

\*R Forster is waiting for information from Anna Johnson on the status of the Designed Landscape.

## 8. MILL ON THE FLEET UPDATE – COUNCILLOR RENNIE.

Councillor Rennie suggested that Mel Shaw seek assistance with the Business Plan from specialists on D & G Council. A second joint meeting of the Community Council and the Board should take place next year.

## 9. TREASURER'S REPORT - COUNCILLOR RENNIE

### Common Good Fund

*The Community Council should make the public aware that we have money to spend on community projects for Gatehouse residents. Project leaders should write, in the first instance, to Councillor Rennie.*

The Gatehouse Beaver Colony has now received its cheque.

### Community Centre

Discussions continue about the need for a new centre. Whether or not the Community Centre Committee is technically a sub-committee of the Community Council needs to be established. **Action: D Rennie**

## 11. AOCB

a) Uneven paving slabs along Fleet Street. It was noted that these are now being repaired.

b) The Provost suggested we have a presentation from Charles Clemmie (Roads Manager) and will contact him. **Action: Provost**

c) R Forster has drawn a plan for additional flower beds for the town, near Cardoness Castle and by the car park.

d) Overflow car park. Charles Clemmie had looked at the present car park and the site behind the toilets where an overflow car park might be built. There are no funds available at present. He suggested connecting a particular event with the lack of parking e.g. Gala Week. Gala Week, however, is too short a time to justify the expenditure. It was felt that the influx of visitors over the whole summer justifies a new car park. A Lowden suggested a regular farmers' market on the site of the present car park.

**The meeting ended at 9.47pm**