



Minutes of the meeting of the Gatehouse of Fleet Community Council held at 7 pm on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2007 in the Murray Arms Hotel

**Community Councillors Present:** Franca Bruno, Shaun Burnie, Mary Cousins, Ron Forster, Suzette Harris, Mark Laird (Provost), Des McClelland, Ian McConchie, Gerard Macnamara (*Dean of Guild*), Adam Stephenson (*Secretary*), Chris Walker (*Depute Provost/Treasurer*)

**In Attendance:** Cllr Thomas Jacques, David Steel (GDI), Constable Ian Bradley, 5 members of the public

**Apologies:** Cllr Jane Maitland, Cllr Patsy Gilroy, Alison Steel, Allan Lowden, Liz Modrate, Craig Steele

**1. Sederunt & Apologies**

As above

**2. Police Report – Community Police Officer**

- Focus for the regions Police Force will be raising awareness to prevent drink driving over the festive period.
- Anti-shop lifting patrols will be in operation.
- Anti social behaviour patrols – with focus on underage drinking.
- Question from Community Council (R Forster) – entrance to the town from A75 – issue with give way sign raised in previous meeting has still not been resolved. Clear evidence of tyre marks in gravel. Engineering carried out on the junction has not been successful. A. Stephenson to contact Amey to raise concern and invite a representative to attend a meeting in the future.
- Miles Duffy – Mr Duffy raised concern to the Community Council, on behalf of some of the parents of Gatehouse of Fleet Primary School, over the pupils crossing Drumore Road. Cars and school buses are parking at the school gate, pupils have to cross in between cars and visibility is very poor on this small section of road. The Head Teacher has been contacted and asked to enter a message about road safety into the school newsletter – this is yet to be done. Parents also requested that the Head Teacher have buses pull into the school driveway, however according to Head Teacher the buses are not causing a problem and will not make any changes. Council refuse to pay for a lay-by for the buses to pull into. Cllr Burnie informed the meeting that in the past buses used Garden Street. Mr Duffy believes there to be strong support from parents over this issue. Cllr Walker suggested that an official School Crossing Patrol could be put in place. Speed limit of 20 mph should be put into place. Provost requested that Cllr Jacques and PC Bradley raise this issue with School Services and Roads. Also recommended that officials should visit the school in the morning when this problem is occurring.

**3. Minutes of the meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2007**

- Add Franca Bruno, Alison Steel, Constable Bradley, Brian Jones and Sue Best as present. In future public attendees will not be named in Attendance section, but will be counted in i.e. 2 members of the public present. If a member of the public wishes to raise a point at the meeting, it was agreed, that they must state their name before raising their point for their name to be added to the minutes.
- Section 3 point 3 – issue over new path at Disdow was over an agreement of access to land and not ownership.

Proposed by Cllr Walker and seconded by Cllr MacNamara

**4. Matters Arising**

- Abbeyfield seat on Ann Street – Cllr Harris informed the meeting that Abbeyfield have deemed repairing the bench too expensive. Abbeyfield will be responsible for the removal of the bench as it is unsafe.
- Cllr McConchie raised an issue with people leaving the room who have a conflict of interest over an agenda item. Suggested that the individual remains but is not permitted to participate. This was agreed.
- Cllr Walker reported that in order to allow the Community Council to apply for funding from itself, the Stewartry Area Committee must approve the application.

## 5. Response from Public Meeting

- Cllr Bruno, as Chair of the Public Meeting, gave a brief report about the meeting and outcomes. There was a good turnout from the public, over 50 in attendance. Developers were nervous about the reaction they may receive from public. No one present at the meeting was interested in purchasing one of the units. Meeting provided further details of the toxicity of the land. Developers admitted that the site is not financially viable for a smaller development due to the large costs associated with the contaminated land. Developers intend to cap the toxic material and not remove all – community concerned about leakage/seepage over time. Meeting ended with public providing ideas for what they would like to see on the site, allowing a positive end.
- **Brian Jones (public)** – Mrs Murray-Usher gifted the waterways to the council along with the Mill. Currently Mr Jones is looking into legal ownership of the waterways. Possibly building on land that is not owned by SouthVale. Question over ownership of lade system
- **David Cameron (public)** – general feeling at the meeting was against the development. Flooding – what happens in the event of a flash flood? Scottish Water have been contacted and they have no objection to the development as long as it did not increase flow of water. No plans have been submitted to them. Scottish Water would have to be in agreement for the plans to be approved. Scottish Water will not adopt drainage system and water course. Dumfries and Galloway Council will have to decide if they wish to adopt the system and if not responsibility will fall on the owner of the property. SEPA have not made up their response to the proposed development. No landscaping plan at meeting – should have been there if one had been designed.
- Cllr Bruno commented that there were a number of contradictions between the public and developers comments.
- **David Steel** – commented on excellent chairmanship of the meeting. Raised the point that the tone of the meeting is not clear in the minutes – on occasions there was some hostility from the public over points made by the developer.
- Cllr Forster raised point that when a previous application for 17 houses was submitted, that not all bodies were happy. Unsure why previously rejected but now seems to be going forward. Previous plans had demanding conditions attached to them.
- Brian Jones – planning permission will be required to take the garage down.
- Cllr McConchie proposed that the Community Council agree that the plans submitted are totally unacceptable, this was seconded by Sean Burnie and agreed amongst the rest of the Community Council.
- F. Bruno, R. Forster, S. Burnie and A. Stephenson to form a sub-committee to put together the response from the Community Council. The ground for objection should be drawn from the previous report submitted and a copy of the minutes of the Public Meeting should be included.
- Provost asked that the D&G Councillors support the views of the Community Council over the development.
- David Steel suggested releasing a press statement over this issue.

## 6. Dumfries and Galloway Report – Cllr Thomas Jacques

- Council Tax – no decision as of yet, whether Dumfries and Galloway Council will be freezing Council Tax or use power to raise.
- Classroom Assistants – press have said that 70 Classroom Assistants are to be dismissed – this is not the case. A formula is used to determine the number of Classroom Assistants in each school, D&G has not stuck to the formula strictly and this has resulted in the surplus. SNP are against the removal of Classroom Assistants.

- Cllr McConchie informed the meeting that at the Stewartry Area Committee, Cllr Duncan had announced that Council Tax will be frozen – Cllr Jacques stated that a decision has not yet been reached.
- Cllr Jacques asked if the Application for the Administrative Grant and Small Initiative Grant has been submitted. Cllr Walker advised that the Admin Grant Application has been completed and submitted and David Steel advised that the GDI have submitted an application for Small Initiatives.
- Community Council Training (Grant Funding) – 17<sup>th</sup> January 2008 in Castle Douglas Town Hall at 6.30 pm.
- Community Council Training (Civic Pride) – 21<sup>st</sup> January 2008 in Gatehouse of Fleet Primary School at 6 pm. Provost requested that as many people attend this event as possible.
- Date of planning meeting for Housing Development has not yet been agreed.
- Cllr Forster asked the following questions/made the following statements:
  - i. Tourist Information Centre Funding – Tony Fitzpatrick has been contacted (by both the Community Council and R. Forster as an individual) trying to find out the conditions the funding was issued. The reply from Mr Fitzpatrick to R. Forster provided no real answer – not an acceptable response from an officer of the council.
  - ii. Port McAdam – water courses culvet now blocked. Pathway inaccessible at times. Need to find out who is responsible for the maintenance of the water course way to resolve these problems.
  - iii. A recent letter from the Access Department stated that due to staff shortages they have been unable to answer letters promptly – this is unacceptable.

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

- Area Committee – provost attended recent meeting where NHS issues were discussed. First Response Ambulance Service will be made up trained members of the public. Ambulance Service would be willing to come to a future meeting to discuss this new service. Invite to January/February meeting.
- Letter received from CADISPA regarding interim housing report. Tabled.
- Stewartry Convention of Community Councils – request a member to attend every meeting – volunteers required and rota could be drawn up. Must attend at least 2 meetings to receive additional £100. Noted that turnout to these meetings is disappointing. This meeting has potential to allow a more powerful response to issues that all Communities are facing.

## **8. Secretary's Report**

- Mark Thomson willing to discuss issue of increased traffic at Primary School from Surgery Development. Telephone number tabled.
- E-mail from Cllr Jane Maitland – Update from Julie White (Local Health Partnership) that the Surgery is still on schedule.
- Scottish Water/Loreburn Housing/D&G Council to be chased up for response from previous meetings.

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

- Extension to Cross Cottage (on the way down to the Cricket Pitch). Will involve doubling current size. Currently used as a weekend house. One strong objection lodged. Extension will be requested to review plans.
- Chalet at Carrick. Plans requested, but no response – to be chased up.

## **10. Mill on the Fleet Update**

Report from Cllr Harris:

- Mill is closed until mid March
- Funding has been secured for the Manager to work on the project for the derelict building and an operations manual for the Mill and plans for improvements to visitor attractions.
- Planning will continue with regard to redevelopment of the first floor exhibition area and securing a display for the Faed Gallery.
- Crafts – interest from local craft people is being followed up with a view to having a demonstration and sales area on the book shop floor. Local crafts people can contact Irene Burnie on 01557 814276 regarding bookings for 2008.
- Work should be complete on the small wheel by the end of December.

- Next Board Meeting 7<sup>th</sup> January 2008, 7 pm, Murray Arms. AGM – 15<sup>th</sup> January 2008 – time to be confirmed.
- Cllr Walker read the questions that the sub-committee created to ask the Board of the Mill at the AGM. All accepted the questions read. Request to take the maximum number of Councillors to the AGM and not just be restricted to one.
- Cllr McConchie – informed the meeting about the Cocoa Bean Company, currently based in Twynholm, looking for new premises. Suggested that the Community Council send a letter to the Mill asking them to look into this opportunity. All agreed to form a sub-committee to draft letter.

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

- Up date on accounts will be given in January. Awaiting final invoices to arrive from recent expenses.
- Application for funding has been sent to the PTA.
- Scottish Royal Dance Group – money has been sent.
- Administrative Grant – application sent.

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

- Clearance of Rhododendrons at Cally – volunteers helped this morning with this task.
- Port McAdam blockage – mentioned in section 8 point 3.3.
- Application for funding for refurbishment of chairs - £500 awarded from Community Council and £500 from Galloway Association. Stewartry Area Committee rejected application for funding. SCVS contacted for advise of other funding sources.

#### **13. AOCB**

- Cllr Laird, Walker and Lowden to meet to identify ways to improve the Citizen of the Year Award Ceremony. Suggested that a sound system would be useful.
- Community Council thanked Cllr Walker for organising the Citizen of the Year Award.
- Thank you letter to be sent to the Murray Arms for excellent service given for Citizen of the Year Award.
- H. McLean, B. Pringle and the children thanked for singing at the ceremony. Also thanks to the Festival Group for taking part voluntarily.
- Hogmany – festival group playing music at informal gathering at clock tower at midnight. Request attendance of the Provost – will attend if possible.
- Dog fouling on Fleet Street. Letter to be sent to Environmental Health. Public advised to pick up the phone and report.
- Graves – Anwoth Church Yard require to increase size. No further on with negotiations with landowner. To be pursued.
- Cllr McLelland – lack of lighting at the Mill on the Fleet from Rutherford Hall to the bridge. Danger near steps. Community Council to support Mill with finding for winter lighting bill. Request to be made to D&G Council to look into additional lighting at steps between Catherine Street and the Mill.
- December meetings – use the Murray Arms with coffee/mince pies.
- Cllr Bruno – suggested forming a sub-committee to look at a strategy for housing development in Gatehouse of Fleet. Community Council should work with GDI on any housing development projects. Draft CADISPA report should be available next week. Concerned that GDI have supported a proposal to look into housing development without consulting the Community Council. Suggested that a sub-group/follow-up meeting to set up once the CADISPA report is released. Thanked David Steel for enabling the housing section of the CADISPA report being available at the public meeting. All agree in formation of a joint working group.
- Wooden statue (Jubilee) – could it be oiled/painted as cracking. R. Forster to investigate.
- Leaflets from the Fire and Rescue Service and Communities Scotland tabled by F. Bruno.

#### **Date of Next Meeting**