



Minutes of the meeting of the Gatehouse of Fleet Community Council held at 7 pm on Tuesday 13th April 2010 in the Murray Arms Hotel

Community Councillors Present: Franca Bruno **FB** (Chair), Ron Forster **RF**, Allan McCreath **AMcC**, Gerard Macnamara **GM**, Carol Clark **CC**, Alison Steel **AS**, **CW**, Adam Stephenson **ASt** (Minute Secretary)

In Attendance: PC Steele Johnstone **SJ**, James Hutchinson, David Steel, Cllr Thomas Jacques **TJ**, Trish Lewis (Galloway News)

Apologies: Pat Jacques **PJ** (Provost), Ian McConchie **IM** (Deputy Provost) Allan Lowden (Dean of Guild) **AL**, Chris Walker (Treasurer), Cllr. Jane Maitland **JM**, Cllr. Patsy Gilroy **PG**

1. Public Forum

James Hutchinson gave an update on the Community Centre and advised that planning permission has been submitted for the solar panels that are to be fitted to the roof. AS^t advised that approval has been granted for double glazed windows to be installed instead of secondary glazing. James advised that public surveys on domestic homes were being undertaken – the target is to complete 80% of the houses in Gatehouse of Fleet during 2010. Currently surveys are being completed by pre-arrangement and during the warmer months the team will begin cold calling. It was felt that awareness needs to be raised about the surveys and their benefits – the majority of which are free to implement and will help the public save money.

2. Police Report

A number of crimes have been reported in the town since the last Community Council meeting

- 23rd March – vandalism to Sensory garden
- 26th March – breach of the peace
- 26th March – Vandalism at Cally Golf course
- 1st April – vandalism at Football pitch (spray painting and missing grate from well in Garries wood)
- 1st April – minor assault – adult male assaulted a youth
- 4th April – breach of telecommunications act involving youths
- 5th April – breach of the peace
- 8th April – youths abusive to members of public and police
- A local male is being placed on the pub watch list, with a view to banning from local pubs – allegations have been made that the individual struck a member of staff at the Bank of Fleet and Auchenlarie Holiday park – this is being investigated.

SJ advised that action is being taken against all of these instances and that the public should remain vigilant and report any issues. Request was also made that local businesses check their security arrangements in light of five break in's between Gretna and Dumfries.

Neighbourhood watch stickers have arrived at a cost of £53.37. All agreed to allow SJ to display where he feels necessary. AS suggested in the car park and near the public toilets.

AS raised concern over a Roe deer that has taken up residence in some gardens along Catherine Street – residents have complained that the deer is causing damage. The SSPCA has been contacted and they are unable to do anything unless the animal is injured. SJ to contact to the Constable responsible for wildlife based at Kirkcudbright.

3. Minutes of the meeting of 9 March 2010

Proposed by AM and seconded by GM.

4. Matters arising

- ❑ David Steel reported that a meeting had been held today with VisitScotland over the future of the kiosk. It was agreed that a 10-year lease would be established for the kiosk at a peppercorn rent. FB asked about maintenance of the building – VisitScotland has agreed to make the building wind and watertight. Once the lease is in place funding will be sought to improve insulation and heating. The GDI are also investigating filling and levelling a piece of ground at the side of the kiosk to allow the market stalls to be placed off the tarmac. Currently awaiting estimates from the council for this work to take place and planning permission would need to be sought to remove a tree.

5. Dumfries and Galloway Report

- ❑ TJ clarified the position of the budget. A lower figure was accepted for Education and there would be no severe cut backs in secondary education. The proposal regarding kinship carers was approved – this would now be £80 per week. The authority is in short supply of foster carers – currently there are 120 children in foster care and this figure is set to increase.
- ❑ Social work budget was forecast to have an overspend of £150,000, this figure is now £50,000.
- ❑ Stewartry Area Committee will take place on Wednesday 21st April in Kirkcudbright.
- ❑ Planning application has been received for the Gatehouse of Fleet workshops.
- ❑ TJ to look into the reasons for the can recycling banks being removed from the car park.

6. Town Plan

The current town plan is up for review and once in place will last for 20 years. A plan has been submitted from G. Taylor for use of land to be included in the new town plan. Thanks were extended to G. Taylor for bringing this to the attention of the Community Council at this early stage. It was agreed that the housing and planning group meet to further consider the town plan.

7. Provost's Correspondence

- ❑ ASt received a copy of the draft Fire Service Improvement plan. FB took to review.

8. Treasurer's Report

- ❑ FB advised that an application has been received from the Community Centre for support through the Common Good Fund. The project is to allow various health and safety improvements to take place, totalling £7,130. CW recommended that £1,000 be awarded. All agreed.

9. Ron Forster's Report

- ❑ Public toilets – further damage has occurred in the disabled toilet since it was repaired recently.
- ❑ A75 brown sign has now been fixed.
- ❑ Old school – GDI met the Forestry Commission, Solway Heritage and Sulwoth Connections. Planning is going well and a programme issued. Work on site should start last week in May and be completed by first week in July with site being cleared in third week in July. The ivy has been cleared from the structure and the brambles cleared from the area immediately around the structure.
- ❑ Bus stops – further exchange of letters has taken place.
- ❑ Vandalism – the sensory garden has been spray painted and the well in Garries wood has had the security screen removed. Police were informed.
- ❑ Management plan for Garries wood will be available in the library from next week for comments from the public.
- ❑ Car park – propose to move bins in place of can bins (if they are being removed) to clean up area and improve visual appearance. No parking sign to be repainted. Looking for something to screen the transformer that is next to the kiosk.

10. Any other business

- ❑ Overnight parking in the car park – CC asked what the position as for campervans to park overnight in the car park. TJ to look into this.

- ❑ Bank of Scotland - the branch was recently closed for 9 days (this was due to power failure and public holidays) and there has been no cash in the autoteller. GM to write to Bank of Scotland to raise concern.
- ❑ Gatehouse Newsletter – not all residents received a copy of the newsletter. David Steel advised that alternative ways of distributing the newsletter will be considered for future editions.
- ❑ Biosphere – AS attended a conference on the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere, of which Gatehouse of Fleet is within the transition area. A steering group are in place and are looking for letters of support from local groups and are willing to give presentations. AS tabled a leaflet on the biosphere and encouraged members to visit the website that has been set up or the project – www.gallowayandsouthernayrshirebiosphere.org.uk.

Date of next meeting

11th May 2010 – 7 pm

DRAFT