



Minutes of the meeting of the Gatehouse of Fleet Community Council held at 7 pm on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2009 in the Community Centre

**Community Councillors Present:** Pat Jacques **PJ** (Provost), Ian McConchie **IM** (Deputy Provost), Allan Lowden **AL** (Dean of Guild), Gerard Macnamara **GM**, Alison Steel **AS**, Ron Forster **RF**, Duncan McLeod **DM**, Sandy Kirkpatrick **SK**, Gordon Rowan **GR**, Franca Bruno **FB**, Adam Stephenson **ASt** (Minute Secretary)

**In Attendance:** Cllr Jane Maitland **JM**, PC Steele Johnstone **SJ**, Graeme Wright **GW**

**Apologies:** Cllr. Patsy Gilroy **PG**, Cllr. Thomas Jacques **TJ**, Chris Walker **CW**, Carol Clark **CC**, Alan McCreath **AM**, Sean Burnie **SB**

### **1. Results of Community Council Elections**

Graeme Wright opened the meeting and welcomed new members. All agreed to elect Provost by a show of hands.

**Nomination for Provost** – Pat Jacques, proposed by Alison Steel and seconded by Ian McConchie – uncontested.

All agreed to elect all other office bearers by show of hands.

PJ thanked GW for his role as Returning Officer and welcomed the new members to the Community Council. GW left the meeting.

**Nomination for Vice Chair** – Ian McConchie, proposed by Ron Forster, seconded by Alison Steel – uncontested.

**Nomination for Treasurer** – Chris Walker, proposed by Franca Bruno, seconded by Ian McConchie – uncontested.

**Nomination for Dean of Guild** – Allan Lowden, proposed by Franca Bruno, seconded by Alison Steel – uncontested.

All agreed to Adam Stephenson continuing as Minute Secretary.

**Overseer of accounts** – Irvine Hannah, proposed by Gerard MacNamara, seconded by Duncan McLeod.

### **2. Representatives on Committees/Groups**

- Planning – AL (Chair), FB, RF, GM, SK
- Housing – SB (Chair), GM, FB, RF, IM
- National Scenic Area (NSA) – AS
- Mill on the Fleet – GR
- Stewartry Council of Voluntary Service – AL
- Stewartry Convention of Community Councils – IM
- Community Centre – CC
- Gatehouse Development Initiative - RF

### **3. Decide on Any Other Business**

- Community Centre
- Kiosk
- Mill lade blockage

### **4. Public Forum**

No members of the public present.

## **5. Police Report**

- No recorded crimes reported
- Anti-social driving reported from anonymous caller – when police attended the cars had left.
- Bogus workmen have been operating in the area, touting for business and distributing flyers under the names B&L Property and Maintenance and JRS Property Maintenance. Public should be vigilant. Possible link to thefts of quad bikes in the east of the region.
- Social websites – meeting was held recently to highlight the problems of young people using social networking sites and to give guidance on the safe use of these sites to parents/guardians – in excess of 20 in attendance. DVD and presentation was given to P5/6/7 in school.
- Member raised recent vandalism – bin missing and rubbish in area surrounding the “bird hut” and Swan sign missing – this was not reported to Police. Police Cars patrol the area regularly in the evening.

## **6. Minutes of the meeting of 8 September 2009**

Proposed by IM and seconded by AL.

## **7. Matters Arising**

- Cally Walls Project – David Steel to examine wall for areas of concern and to liaise with council.
- Community Centre – Committee to place disclaimers in the window
- Themed meeting – planning issues were raised with regard to D&G Councillors appearing to go against the wishes of the Community Council – D&G Councillors must follow set rules over planning issues and must be seen to be independent in their judgements. Community Councils should submit objections in writing and these are taken into consideration. Granting planning permission is directly linked to the local plan, which the Community Council has the opportunity to contribute to.

## **8. Dumfries and Galloway Council Report – Cllr Jane Maitland**

- A themed meeting to look at planning and changes to the local plan has had to be postponed due to staffing issues, JM keen to see this rescheduled as soon as possible.
- Budget – the council has made an early start on budget proposals and there will a requirement to make £6.5 million savings that will directly affect the public and a further £2 million of Corporate savings. The council have made a number of proposals in order to make the savings from all service areas. There is the possibility that the proposals will be put out for public consultation that would be made available both online and in hard copy. The 11<sup>th</sup> February 2010 is the proposed date for setting the budget. The budget is being set in a difficult financial climate and it is likely that this will continue to be the case for the next 3 years.
- IM requested information on what the figure would be for the Social Services budget with the NHS change to increasing the provision of care in the community – JM would contact the relevant Service Director for this information.

***Public meeting being held 3 November 2009 at 7pm in Kirkcudbright Academy regarding Kirkcudbright Hospital***

## **9. Provost's Report**

- Achievements – work is taking place to update the Community Council website – this is to include photos and brief biography of Community Councillors to raise awareness of the Community Council, what it has done, what it is doing and future projects.
- Green playground – project looking to improving provision for young people in the town.

- Parking outside Spar – complaint has been received, concerned about potential for accident, particularly involving young children. PJ to write to Mr Carson to raise the issue.
- Community Newsletter – Willie McKie is willing to restart the production of a Community Newsletter, to be issued twice a year and to be financed through the sale of advertising space. All members supportive of this.
- Chemist – complaint received regarding the Chemists reliance on one supplier, which on occasions has resulted in locals having to go back and forward between the GP and the Chemist, ultimately if Boots supplier does not stock any version of the drug required, patients will require to travel to either Wigtown or Dalbeattie, which are the nearest Chemists not part of the Boots group. PJ to contact Boots and NHS to raise the issue. A second Chemist is believed to be opening in Kirkcudbright in the future.

## **10. Provost's Correspondence**

- Copy of report from independent scrutiny panel for NHS services in Dumfries and Galloway
- Copy of letter to Cllr Thomas Jacques regarding Cally Drive – Dumfries and Galloway Council have found no significant defects, but will be undertaking surface repairs.
- Street lights – Dumfries and Galloway Council conduct regular checks of street lights in the town, the last one was undertaken on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2009. When reporting problems with street lights, the number on the street light should also be reported.
- Leaflets on "Your future NHS Care" are available from PJ.
- Christmas lights – DG First (formerly Combined Services) will be supporting the erection of Christmas lights this year. Request made that all cables, bulbs, wall fixings and electricity supplies to be checked by Community. GM reported that he has checked the wall fixings and the Lions Club check all electrical items.
- Documents from recent Stewartry Area Committee.

## **11. Planning Applications**

- Sandgreen – change to roof of conservatory
- Carrick Bay Sea Defences
- Newton Farm – Rural Development Contract
- Change of use of land at Auchenlarie has been refused

Lists of planning applications can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=4579>

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

- A75 double white lines to be painted after work at Glenterry which is due to start on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2009. There has been no progress with the brown tourist sign.
- Youth shelter – meeting held with the council. Letter received 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2009 with proposals for a new shelter – these were circulated. All agreed that a new larger shelter would be welcomed. PJ to invite group of young people to a future meeting to discuss the plans.
- Cape Path – letter received from council on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2009 to inform that due to funding restraints work will not take place. SK to pursue use of voluntary group to complete work.
- Bus stops – meeting was held with Council Engineers on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2009, with TJ, 4 Community Councillors and 3 members of the public. The Council Engineer agreed to look again at his proposals to see if he could accommodate the comments made.
- Japanese Knotweed – final spray of the year took place last week.
- GDI projects:
  - Cally Ha Ha now cleared of all debris. Hotel to arrange removal of trees to complete work.
  - Cally walls project continues, volunteers continue to remove ivy from the walls along the B727 by the Robbers Gate.

- Brashings collected by volunteers throughout the Cally wood have now been chipped by Forestry Commission staff. Further areas to be tackled in the future.
- Interpretation Board for the Snowdrop Festival; discussions continue with forestry staff.

### **13. Any other business**

- ❑ Community Centre – RF advised that a full account was required from the Community Centre Management Committee to show where the money has been spent that was donated for the refurbishment of the meeting room. An official opening ceremony for the refurbished room was held on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September, AS advised that there was a poor turnout. Few members were aware of the ceremony. GR advised that invites were issued, but these were not received – GR to look into this. All members congratulated the Community Centre on the refurbishment project, the room was well decorated and the finishing touches were a welcome feature.
- ❑ Parking at Mill on the Fleet – DM raised the issue of a number of cars parking at the Mill causing obstructions to views of the wheel and difficulties with delivery vans turning. PJ to raise this with the Mill Management Committee.
- ❑ Kiosk – FB requested an update on progress with the Kiosk, particularly with reference to the possibility of the building being put on the market by VisitScotland. PJ to invite Ken Smythe/New Kiosk Manager to a future meeting.
- ❑ Mill Lade – there is potential for a blockage at the Mill Lade between the Church and Ford Road from a weed growing – GM to write to Dumfries and Galloway Council to raise issue.

### **Date of next meeting**

10<sup>th</sup> November 2009 – 7pm

DRAFT