



Minutes of the meeting of the Gatehouse of Fleet Community Council held at 7 pm on Tuesday 8th December 2009 in the Community Centre

Community Councillors Present: Pat Jacques **PJ** (Provost), Ian McConchie **IM** (Deputy Provost), Allan Lowden (Dean of Guild) **AL**, Gerard Macnamara **GM**, Ron Forster **RF**, Duncan McLeod **DM**, Sandy Kirkpatrick **SK**, Franca Bruno **FB**, Carol Clark **CC**, Sean Burnie **SB** Adam Stephenson **ASt** (Minute Secretary)

In Attendance: Cllr Thomas Jacques **TJ**, PC Steele Johnstone **SJ**

Apologies: Cllr. Jane Maitland **JM**, Cllr. Patsy Gilroy **PG**, Gordon Rowan **GR**, Alan McCreath **AM**, Alison Steel **AS**, Chris Walker **CW**

1. Public Forum

No members of the public present.

2. Police Report

- Three crimes have been reported, two of these were thefts. One theft involved handbag being stolen from the Murray Arms and the second from a theft from the Spar. Enquiries are ongoing. Enquiries into vandalism that has taken place at the Cally are also ongoing.
- Drinkers have been using the public toilets and leaving large amount of litter including broken glass. SJ spent Friday evening engaging with young people and will continue this.
- Panel has been kicked out of the bus stop opposite car park.
- Quad bike thefts – two individuals from Lanarkshire area have been reported to the fiscal.
- Possible plan to target ATM's by a Criminal group.

3. Minutes of the meeting of 10 November 2009

Proposed by SK and seconded by CC.

4. Matters arising

- Mill lade blockage – problem has resolved itself from flood water passing through. GM to monitor.
- Community newsletter – FB passed around a mock-up of the newsletter layout. There would be three per year and the first issue will be distributed in spring.
- Community Centre – initial survey of building has been completed and has identified a number of structural problems. A full structural survey will be undertaken shortly by SmithsGore to decide on the viability of the building. A number of ideas for use of the Community Centre and voluntary offers received following recent meeting.
- Burgher Park – council are looking into issues.

5. Constitution

- The constitution to be circulated to all members and discussed at the next meeting.

6. Provost's Correspondence

- PJ circulated code of practice and code of conduct for community councillors to members.

7. Dumfries and Galloway Report – Cllr Thomas Jacques

- Budget – consultations have taken place over the savings proposals, including a survey and public meetings. Between 70-80 people attended the public meeting at Castle Douglas.
- PPP Schools – two schools have now been completed.
- Themed meeting on the topic of drugs and alcohol held in Dalbeattie had a poor turnout; weather conditions were bad on the night.

- National Scenic Area – rangers and volunteers have been busy in Gatehouse with various projects including Port McAdam, Anwoth path signs, clearing of the Haha and clearance/repairs to the dyke.
- Discussion took place over the proposed budget savings. TJ advised that any alternatives to the proposed budget savings should be submitted to the Chief Executive.

8. Planning Applications – Dean of Guild

- Dwelling house adjacent to Katriona – plans available to view
- Bank of Fleet – extension plans have been submitted
- Garden Street – change of store to dwelling house

Lists of planning applications can be viewed online at:

<http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=4579>

9. Treasurer’s Report

- In the absence of CW, PJ reported that there has been no movement in the balances of the accounts.

10. Ron Forster’s Report

- Burgher Park fence has been repaired
- Fleetside pavement has been raised
- Summer seat – work on repairs is in progress
- Jimmy Girgan bench – council have removed this and will provide a replacement.
- Youth shelter – RF passed round sketches of possible replacements. It was noted that there was still a problem with litter and that the notices that were displayed by PJ warning of the persistence of litter at the bird hut were ripped off within a matter of hours. FB proposed that rather than replace the structure, the current one be modified. It was agreed that until further discussion with all parties involved takes place no further action would be taken to modify/replace the bird hut. PJ/DM/SJ to arrange to go to the bird hut to take to the “users” on a Friday evening. ASt is to enquire as to the possibility of having a cinema evening at the Community Centre.
- Boots sign – the sign is now back on at night. The store manager advises that there is a problem with the electricals and this is being dealt with.
- Bus stop – the councils revised plans were discussed. All were happy with the location of the west bus stop at Spar side. 6 voted that the east bus stop should be moved to the other side of the mill entrance, 3 were happy with the proposal by the council. After further discussion it was decided that this stop should be moved slightly further to the west, as per the council’s revised plans. It should be suggested that the bus makes it longer stop at the top entrance (garage). All agreed to moving where the bus actually stops as per the plan. Request that the colour of the bus shelters compliment the surrounding area.
- Brown tourist sign on A75 – in progress.
- Council to be contacted to remove the leaves on paths and on footbridge at the Mill.

11. Any other business

- Housing – discussion took place over social housing issue in town. All agreed to invite a representative from Loreburn Housing to discuss the points system, as it was felt that local people are being overlooked.
- Energy (SB) – three projects have been submitted to the Carbon Centre – Community Centre, Mill on the Fleet and Energy review of local houses. The energy review will involve the appointment of an area co-ordinator (full time post) and a number of part-time staff who will survey/advise local houses. These posts will be advertised in the local press in the next few weeks.
- Spar double yellow lines – ownership of the road outside the Spar is unclear, a representative from the Community Council to meet with Mr Carson to discuss the road safety issue.
- TJ wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Date of next meeting

12th January 2010 – 7pm – Community Centre