



Minutes of the meeting of the Gatehouse of Fleet Community Council held at 7 pm on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2010 in the Murray Arms Hotel

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

**In Attendance:** Cllr. Patsy Gilroy PG, PC Steele Johnstone **SJ**, Kerr McGregor, James Hutchinson

**1. Apologies:** Cllr Thomas Jacques **TJ**, Cllr. Jane Maitland **JM**, Gerard Macnamara **GM**, Allan McCreath **AMcC**, Gordon Rowan **GR**

## **2. Public Forum**

PJ introduced James Hutchinson who is the local Area Co-ordinator for Gatehouse of Fleet for the Galloway Carbon Action Project. James gave an overview of where the project stood at the moment. Two domestic carbon surveyors are currently receiving training and will then offer advice to all domestic properties in the town. Kerr McGregor, a Renewable Energy Expert, has been in the town for the past few days and is currently manning the information van that is parked in the town car park, providing information to people on renewable energy (the van will leave on Wednesday afternoon).

## **4. Police Report**

- Assault taken place involving juveniles from primary school.
- 14/01 – anti-social behaviour involving vulnerable residents being taunted.
- Letter is currently being distributed to residents to raise issue of anti-social behaviour and appealing for any incidents to be reported to the Police.
- Reports of “boy racers” speeding down Dromore Road. No vehicle descriptions or registration numbers have been provided. Traffic section has been alerted to this.
- Disdow Farm – number of sheep have been savaged by dogs/wild animals. Enquiries are ongoing.
- Members asked to consider providing neighbour hood watch stickers to be purchased in A3 for residents to display on wheelie bins, at a cost of 50p each. A discussion took place on where best to display these signs, members asked to bring suggestions to the next meeting.
- A second panel from the bus shelter outside Mill on the Fleet entrance is out.
- Public disabled toilet has been vandalised.
- SJ advised that he has been pledged some basketball nets and stands. PJ would arrange collection for community use from Castle Douglas Primary School.

## **5. Minutes of the meeting of 12 January 2010**

DM advised that he had not received a copy of the constitution. Proposed by AL and seconded by SB.

## **6. Matters arising**

- Public toilets – FB/RF completed a survey recently and identified various problems. Work will be completed to repair problems; weather had caused delay in plastering work.
- Common Goods Asset list – CW is writing to Hazel Kerr.

## **7. Dumfries and Galloway Report – Cllr Patsy Gilroy**

- Budget day will be Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> February
- Stewartry Area Committee Themed meeting to be held Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February, looking at keeping safe and dealing with the winter weather. Meeting will be held in Castle Douglas Town Hall from 5.30pm. PJ tabled information leaflets about this meeting.
- PG advised that the council have given full support to the development of the Kirkmabreck Quay for use in the timber industry.

- AS asked about the responses from the public consultation on the proposed budget savings. PG advised that the results can be accessed through the council website.

### **8. Provost's Report**

- Community Centre – a visual structural survey has been completed on the centre by SmithsGore. Essential work has been estimated at £42,511. It has been estimated that £103,636 would be needed to complete all issues uncovered by the survey (this cost does not include wall repairs in the kitchen, new kitchen units, new toilets, carpet/decoration, repairs on electrical items that are faulty). Public meeting to be held 23 February 2010 and will be well publicised. Request has been made to lift £9,000 from trust fund to help with costs. PG will forward information on grants that could be available through the council to PJ before the Community Centre meeting. Discussion took place on ideas/suggestions for the Community Centre.
- Willie McKie has requested a short welcome message from PJ for the Community newsletter. PJ asked that members submit any points that should be mentioned on Community Council successes by the end of the week.

### **9. Provost's Correspondence**

- Reply sent to Jim McInally regarding Cally Walls and Anwoth graveyard.
- Member of Fleet Star invited to tonight's meeting to discuss their proposal to purchase and run the pitch themselves – no representative attended and this issue is to be pursued to clarify what Fleet Stars plans are.
- Thank you card received from Jill Russell for Bon Spiel and presentation of salver.
- Update was provided on plans for the Kiosk – arts/crafts may be moved to the Mill and locally produced food will be sold in the kiosk. Negotiations are ongoing between Dumfries and Galloway Council and VisitScotland over the purchase of the building for the community.
- PJ tabled leaflets regarding the volunteer programme for the User and Carer Involvement project.
- SCVS are looking to update their group contact details for the town, no one was aware of any new groups that had been set up recently to add to the list.
- Kenneth Morrison is looking to log all war memorials in Scotland. AS to take details and assist if possible.
- No further response received from Loreburn/DGHP on giving a presentation to the Community Council. PJ to chase up.

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

- Alteration/extension to Dromore Farmhouse
- Extension to Stable Cottage, Ann Street
- Auchenlarie re-application for additional 30 caravans. GM, RF, FB and AL to meet to look at plans.

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

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

- CW not present

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

- Public toilets – inspected by FB and RF and report sent to Dumfries and Galloway council. The disabled toilet was vandalised, materials on order. Work in female toilet complete. Male toilet work, plaster at entrance, delayed due to adverse weather.
- Seat in Ann Street – the council will provide their standard design which is not suitable for this location.
- Fleet Street – raised flagstones. Report sent to council. Recent inspection shows they have settled back down. Although still a minor hazard. No response from council.
- A75 double white lines – letter sent to Transport Scotland and circulated to all Councillors, MP's and MSP's. Offer to help if required received from Russell

Brown. Positive reply received from Transport Scotland. The double white lines have been painted; the brown sign is still not fixed.

- ❑ Snowdrop festival – new interpretation board installed. Press release issued and hopefully in the paper this week.
- ❑ Vinniehill – stock fence now erected.
- ❑ Old school – GDI met the Forestry Commission and agreement was reached to go ahead with the proposed preservation of the structure. The work being programmed to be complete by August this year.
- ❑ Wind turbine is now operational and generating funds for the community.
- ❑ Bus stops – consultation continues with interested parties.

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

- ❑ Trusty's hill – confusion from visitors of how to get there, looking for another sign to help guide walkers.
- ❑ Playground equipment – both PJ and Irene Burnie have an interest in developing the play park further. RF to gather information from Irene Burnie and PJ to send details to RF, who will pull the information together and create a report. Request has been made that the basketball court to slightly moved to allow the 5-a-side football pitch to be used.
- ❑ Hospital – final response was sent to Health Board and MP's and MSP's on 19 January 2010. The Health Board have now suspended consultation process and it will be at least 18 months before a final decision is made. PJ expressed her thanks to IM for his work on this project on behalf of the Community Council.
- ❑ Housing – no news on the garage site. There has been a request from a member of the public to look into the ownership and rights to the lade, watercourses and the mill. Possible issue that will allow action to be taken. SB to look into this.
- ❑ Website – AL noted that the Community Council webpage has yet to be updated with recent photos taken of members.

### **Date of next meeting**

9<sup>th</sup> March 2010 – 7 pm