



Minutes of the meeting of the Gatehouse of Fleet Community Council held at 7 pm on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2009 in the Community Centre

**Community Councillors Present:** Shaun Burnie (SB), Mary Cousins (MC), Ron Forster (RF), Pat Jacques (PJ) (*Provost*), Mark Laird (ML), Allan Lowden (AL) (*Dean of Guild*), Des McClelland (DM), Ian McConchie (IM) (*Deputy Provost*), Gerard Macnamara (GM), Adam Stephenson (AS) (*Minute Secretary*)

**In Attendance:** Cllr Jane Maitland, PC Steele Johnston, Carol Clark (CC), Alan McCreath (AM) and 2 members of the public

**Apologies:** Cllr Thomas Jacques, Cllr Patsy Gilroy, Alison Steel, Franca Bruno

## 1. Welcome

PJ welcomed everyone to the meeting and the two prospective new members of the Community Council – CL & AM.

## 2. Sederunt & Apologies

As above

## 3. Public Forum

Mr and Mrs Swalwell (Auchenlarie Holiday Park) gave a presentation on the future plans to expand the site allowing an additional 50 caravans. Plans will be submitted to council shortly – discussion took place on the problems with the A75 and not with the plans for expanding the park which would be discussed when plans are received. Concern over situation with entry to park from A75 – there have been 4 accidents on the road since the Creetown West exit/entrance was closed by order of Transport Scotland – in the time prior to the closure there were 2 accidents in 25 years. Transport Scotland have advised that further changes to the road would be required if the proposed plans to expand go ahead – including adding ghost lanes for cars to turn right into the park and the same for turning into the farm/cottages on the opposite side of the road. Estimated cost of these changes would be in the region of £150,000 – which Auchenlarie have been told they will have to pay for. All agreed that improvements to the road were needed and PJ agreed to write to David Middleton (Transport Scotland), Russell Brown, Alasdair Morgan and David Dick (Area Manager Transport Scotland) to raise concerns and lobby for these improvements and/or the west entrance/exit to be re-opened.

## 4. Notice of Motion to co-opt

PJ introduced AM and CC to the meeting. All agreed to co-opting to the Community Council.

## 5. Police Report

- 11/05/2009 – breach of the peace
- 23/05/2009 – breach of the peace
- Two males are appearing in court in connection with a shooting (with air rifle).
- Report of anti-social behaviour on High Street, plant pots that have been outside properties have been damaged
- Dog attack
- 21/05/2009 – road traffic accident at Cally Palace/Hill Head
- Request for action over cars entering the 30 mph zone too fast – PC Johnston waiting to hear from traffic division
- RF requested if young people could be spoken to about cycling around the “bird hut” which has resulted in the grass being worn away. PJ suggested the CC could look at alternative provisions for the young people in the town as there are very little facilities
- High Lodge – there have been 8 accidents at this spot often running into the wall

## 6. Adoption of minutes of meeting held Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2009

- PJ welcomed AS back to the CC to take the minutes – Community Councillors will still require to write and send their own letters and PJ would be responsible for the agenda Caroline Stephenson had been approached to take on the role of Secretary, however due to another commitment she is not available.
- Minutes from both the AGM and CC Meeting were proposed by ML and seconded by AL

## **7. Matters Arising**

- Jet skis – lots of other areas have banned the use of them. IM raised the issue at the recent Area Committee Meeting and they are now taking this issue forward. Ian Howie will report back to Area Committee on this issue.
- Kirkcudbright Hospital – NHS is currently reviewing the provision of services in the region. Contact has been made with other affected Community Councils and other interest groups. Highly successful petition gained a number of signatures against the closure – agreed the petition should continue to be available for people to sign. Letter has been submitted to the scrutiny panel – PJ and IM have been taking this issue forward.
- Double white lines on A75 – still awaiting response.
- Boots sign – remains illuminated at nights. RF to submit letter about this issue.
- Slope at Spar – letter has been submitted to D&G Council. The pavement requires to be dropped as it is not level at Galloway Country Style. Roads department visiting town to tour round problem areas – CC to be present.
- Themed meeting 18<sup>th</sup> May 2009 – held recently with a good turn out from public.
- Volunteer Training 25<sup>th</sup> May 2009 – no members present attended.

## **8. Dumfries and Galloway Councillors Report**

### **Jane Maitland**

- New timetable for buses starts 15/06/09. Some buses now continue to Lockerbie, with no need to change. Timetable is not user friendly and Cllr Maitland agreed to raise this with relevant staff.
- D&G Council have launched a Marine and Coastal Litter Campaign. Council will now help and support any group or community who wish to organise a beach clean by collecting and disposing of the waste.
- Mill on the Fleet – foot bridge is now being repaired.
- Litter that was dumped near the Cally Palace entrance was quickly removed after being reported.
- Digital Switchover – some problems in Kirkcudbright with sky dishes being placed on the front of houses. Residents should contact the planning department if engineers try to attach dishes to the front of a house.
- PJ requested if the Council could provide a second hand computer to the CC – Cllr Maitland to look into this.

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

- PJ keen to update the CC website with details of the successes of the CC, current and future projects, as well as information about what the members of the Community Council are responsible for and have done along with a photo. Ken Smyth is happy to facilitate any additions to the current website provision. All felt that a form for members of the public to complete to send in their queries/questions/comments to the CC electronically would be a welcome addition. All to provide details to PJ of what the CC has achieved.
- Application received from Community Centre for funds from Common Good Fund for 20 budget folding tables. Discussion took place over procedures for dealing with common good fund applications – it is believed that other groups have submitted applications but these are not available. There have been no recent donations made from the fund. ML proposed and GM seconded that £250 be given as a first instalment and future funding for this application be considered in the future when the other applications have been found. Following further discussion about the application and the Community Centre in general, all agreed that PJ would write back the Community Centre and request that they obtain a quote for having the old tables repaired and also suggest that they write to the users of the Centre requesting donations and then come back to the CC once these options have been tried.
- D&G Council have not released funding to the CC yet – DGC say they have not received the application form for this money, however Chris Walker believes this was submitted. ML suggested that application be resubmitted to Council.
- RF reported weed killing at Port McAdam was taken place.
- Reported that the car park at the National Trust Vinnie Hill site is untidy and over grown. RF to contact National Trust.

- AGM of Mill on the Fleet takes place on 15/06/2009 – representative from CC to be present. MC agreed to attend.
- Letter received from Mr Russell (Drumwalls) about a proposal for a new town hall. PJ to respond.
- PJ to write to Community Centre Management Committee to invite them to give a report at CC meetings – this would help aid decision on granting money from the Common Good Fund.
- PJ will be joining the Public Partnership Forum which is tasked with influencing local health service development.
- Complaints of rats on High Street. Residents to contact Environmental Health in this situation. They are possibly nesting in the garage site – MC to look into this issue.

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

Plans have been submitted for the following locations (details are available on D&G Council website):

- Longacre
- Littleton Farm
- Bakers Dozen
- Hannay Street
- West Neilson Square, High Street
- Garden Street
- Memory Lane
- Chalet at Carrick Shore

Discussion took place over the reporting of building work that is taking place with no plans submitted. All agreed that this must be brought up at CC meetings and should not be kept secret. ML reminded all of the Code of Conduct for Community Councillors.

#### **11. Correspondence**

- Scottish Health Council Newsletter
- Chief Registrar for births, deaths and marriages will only be present in the library if an appointment is made in advance.
- “Enquire” – leaflet/poster regarding advice/support for additional support for learning
- D&G Council – Stewartry Roads Maintenance surface dressing programme
- Robert Watkin – copy of letter to Professor Clark regarding Kirkcudbright Hospital
- D&G Council – copy of letters to Miss Cliff McCulloch and Mrs Corrie regarding footways towards Port MacAdam
- Jim Hume – e-mail with thanks for letter of support for forestry campaign

#### **12. Project Progress Report – RF**

- Paths have been sprayed
- Cally Walls project is progressing well

#### **13. Housing Project Report - SB**

- SB gave an overview of the Housing Working Group remit
- Currently two options for taking forward and group will make a report on their recommendations shortly
- Looking at various funding options for purchasing land and the possibility of becoming a trust when and if land is purchased with a Trust Manager being appointed

#### **14. AOCB**

- PJ recommended that any AOB to be discussed should be agreed at the beginning of the meeting – list would be made and any items not discussed would go on the agenda for the next meeting to help prevent the meeting over running past 9 pm
- Energy – SB gave details on a low carbon community’s project. Number of ways Gatehouse could get involved in this (energy efficiency surveys performed on resident’s homes by local people, improvements to Community Centre and Mill on the Fleet to make more energy efficient or local food initiative through the kiosk). Also possibility of conducting a study into renewable energy sources for the town. Written proposals of the projects to be submitted by mid-July to be considered for funding.
- Consider removal of “birds hut” to prevent litter problems?

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

14<sup>th</sup> July 2009 – 7 pm – Community Centre