



Minutes of the meeting of the Gatehouse of Fleet Community Council held at 7 pm on Tuesday 9th March 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**, Allan McCreath **AMcC**, Gerard Macnamara **GM**, Carol Clark **CC**, Alison Steel **AS**, Chris Walker (Treasurer) **CW**, Adam Stephenson **ASt** (Minute Secretary)

In Attendance: PC Steele Johnstone **SJ**, James Hutchinson, Sean Flannighan, David Steel, Graham Wright

1. Apologies: Cllr Thomas Jacques **TJ**, Cllr. Jane Maitland **JM**, Cllr. Patsy Gilroy **PG**, Gordon Rowan **GR**, Franca Bruno **FB**, Sean Burnie **SB**, Duncan McLeod **DM**

PJ advised that a letter as been received from GR to tender his resignation from the Community Council.

2. Public Forum

- David Steel gave an update on the kiosk. Since 2008 negotiations have been ongoing between Dumfries and Galloway Council and VisitScotland on behalf of the community, to purchase the building. The kiosk is currently on a short term lease to display local produce. DGC have been exploring the options available to purchase the building below national rate as a regeneration project. In February 2009 DGC advised that they would pursue the purchase of the building for the community making use of targeted support fund. VisitScotland estimated that the market value of the building would be £28,000 and GDI felt that the purchase at this rate would not be good use of public funds and DGC advised to look into a long term lease of the building. VisitScotland advised that they were not in a position to sell below the market price. Local MP MSP has been advised and become involved in negotiations. In 2002 the ground on which the kiosk stands was sold to DG Tourist Board from DGC for £1,500.
- James Hutchinson gave an update on progress with the Galloway Carbon Action Group. Currently the team are working out of the kiosk and are concentrating on raising awareness with various groups in the town. Public are invited to make contact with the team to arrange building surveys. A meeting will be held in the Community Centre on 15th March 2010, 7 – 8.30 pm for people to ask questions about the project and find out ideas on how to lower their carbon footprint.
- Graham Wright gave an update on the Community Centre. He advised that he would be fulfilling the role of Chair on a temporary basis, Adam Stephenson is Vice Chair, Julie MacDonald is Treasurer and Rozanne MacPherson is continuing as Secretary. Work is currently underway on air conditioning units that will be used to heat the building. Approximately £90,000 of grant funding has been committed to allow installation of air conditioning units, loft insulation, secondary double glazing and solar panels (subject to planning permission). An application has been lodged with DGC for £10,000, for repairs to the roof. Insurance claim to cover damage from the burst pipes in December is still being negotiated and this should be finalised in the next few days. A discussion took place on the efficiency of secondary glazing vs Upvc windows. Graham advised that these windows would not fit in the conditions of the grants and this decision was taken by the Carbon Centre and will now continue.

3. Police Report

- 18th February – individual involved in supply of drugs
- 26th February – individual found to be in possession of drugs and supplying
- 28th February – domestic breach of the peace
- Anti-social behaviour – seems to have settled down. SJ advised that he has visited a number of residences with Ann Matley (Anti-Social Behaviour Officer) and a letter has been issued to all households in the town regarding the issue.

- A database of tradesmen is being compiled by Iain Howie (Crime Reduction Officer) in an attempt to help the public avoid bogus workmen. People joining the database will have to meet minimum standards and agree to a rating system. An appeal is being made for names of any businesses that would be interested in having their details on the database.
- A report is being submitted to the Procurator Fiscal on the attacks on sheep at Disdow Farm
- All agreed to match the money that is being pledged by Kirkcudbright Community Council for the purchase of neighbourhood watch stickers.

4. Minutes of the meeting of 9 February 2010

Proposed by AL and seconded by IM.

5. Matters arising

- CW believes that the Community Council has no assets and will contact Hazel Kerr to update.

6. Dumfries and Galloway Report

Councillors unable to attend.

7. Provost's Report

- DGHP – PJ advised that she is making contact on a weekly basis with James Shirazi to arrange a presentation to community council but is unable to make contact with him.
- Website – now has photos that were taken of Councillors

8. Provost's Correspondence

- Scottish Health Council Annual Report and future changes tabled
- Notification of Health Board elections poster has been displayed in the notice board – election to be held 10 June. This is the first time that a public ballot is to be held to elect Directors. Concern raised that nominations were to be received across the entire region and was not split into wards; it was felt that the Board may not be evenly represented because of higher population in the east of the region.
- Notification of Alasdair Morgan's surgery on 5 March.
- Stewartry Area Committee Agenda and previous Minutes tabled.
- Letter received from Mark Hannay regarding the Gatehouse Chamber of Trade. This organisation is now dormant with £2,000 being held in an account should anyone be interested in resurrecting the group.
- Fleet Star has advised that they will not take on responsibility for the pitch, as a Service Level Agreement is in place with DGC for maintenance.
- Gatehouse Lions Club has requested financial assistance for Christmas lights. CW will issue an application for the Common Good Fund. All felt that new lights are required.
- Letter received from Auchenlarie Holiday Park (through Gala Committee). Gala Committee has requested sponsorship from local businesses and Auchenlarie have responded with a refusal to support the Gala due to the Community Council rejecting their planning application for expansion.

10. Planning Applications – Dean of Guild

- Cardoness has applied for a felling licence
- Community Centre – 22 solar panels
- Mill on the Fleet – felling of 4 trees
- Auchenlarie Holiday Park – meeting was held of the Planning sub-committee following the last meeting of Community Council. Application has reduced the number of vans from 50 to 30 and a 1.5 meter fence is to be erected to screen the development. The sub-committee recommendation was that the plans should be rejected and that the same response will be given as previously. A vote was taken of Community Councillors – 5 agreed to follow recommendation of sub-committee and reject plans with 1 abstention due to conflict of interest.

Lists of planning applications can be viewed online at:

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

- ❑ IM advised that the Town Plan is now up for review and responses are required by June. It was agreed that this issue would be moved to the next meeting to allow thought to be given to what should be included in the plan.
- ❑ IM advised that Taylor's from Disdow Farm are seeking support for the use of land at the gap site near Galla Hill to be used for personal use to build a retirement home. This would be considered as part of discussion at the next meeting along with the Town Plan.

11. Treasurer's Report

- ❑ CW gave an update on account balances:

Current Account:	£1,371.64
Common Good Fund:	£2,622.88
Footpath Account:	£1,361.63
- ❑ A Common Good Fund Application has been received from the Scouts, this was returned as details of bank account balances was not included and should be resubmitted with this information.

12. Ron Forster's Report

- ❑ Public toilets – almost complete, awaiting update.
- ❑ Seat in Ann Street – council advised that a seat in keeping with the area could be purchased for £224.48 if the Community Council would fund it. It was agreed that a replacement seat was not required and the removal of concrete slabs needs to be looked in to.
- ❑ A75 – brown sign is still not fixed.
- ❑ Snowdrop Festival – new interpretation board installed and featured in the Galloway News last week.
- ❑ Town map at Kiosk – could be fixed to the wall of Kiosk if resolution over building is achieved. The cost of uplifting cast iron posts and fitting a new base plate would be £195 plus VAT.
- ❑ Old School – GDI to meet with Forestry Commission, Solway Heritage and Sulwoth Connections tomorrow to assess progress.
- ❑ Bus stops – letter received from DGC advising actions they propose to take. These are in line with their drawing TM/S/03/116, therefore, rejecting our comments previously made. Reply should be sent stating we reject DGC recommendations.
- ❑ As part of the Cally Walls Project, the Scenic Area Volunteers have installed a kissing gate at the side of the Robbers Gate and the dyker held a training session on building cheek ends.
- ❑ AM advised that the work that recently took place near Port McAdam has made a mess of the edging at the side of the road. RF advised that he has been in contact with DGC to chase this up.

13. Any other business

- ❑ Trusty's hill – Douglas McDavid sends thanks for the signs that have been put in place.
- ❑ AS advised that she would be attending a meeting regarding the Biosphere with Scottish National Heritage.

Date of next meeting

13th April 2010 – 7 pm