

Gatehouse Community Council

Minutes of Meeting - Tuesday 11 September 2007 – Community Centre

Present: Mark Laird (Provost), Chris Walker (Vice Provost), Ron Foster, Suzette Harris, Allan Lowden, Alison Steel, David Steel (GDI), Joan Maitland, Ian McConchie, Gerald MacNamara, Constable Simon Kennedy, Adam Stephenson (Secretary)

Apologies: Mary Cousins, Councillor Patsy Gilroy, Councillor Jane Maitland, Liz Modrate, Shaun Burnie

- 1. Dr. Downs – Health Centre Update:** A Doctor's perspective on the plans for the new health centre was presented by Dr. Downs. The CC was informed that 28 September 2007 is the firm date for the move from the current surgery to temporary porta cabins. A detailed plan is in place for the move. The surgery will close on the Friday 28 September 2007 to allow the move to take place – rooms will be available to treat patients if required on Friday. It is estimated that porta cabins will be in use for 42 weeks. It was noted that the NHS Board has been very supportive to practice staff and assisting in ensuring minimal disruption to normal service. The new surgery will offer a number of new services to the local community and additional working space for medical and administrative staff. The environment and conditions staff are currently working in will be greatly improved. The Provost expressed his thanks for all the hard work staff at the practice have been doing and for Dr. Downs for taking the time to talk to the Council.
- 2. Joan Mitchell – Tourism in Dumfries and Galloway:** Joan Mitchell described the role of the Area Tourism Partnership (ATP) in Dumfries and Galloway, of which she is the chairperson. The ATP has been set-up by the Scottish Government with representatives from public agencies and tourism industry. The groups remit is to provide a forum for ideas and initiatives and to lobby for tourism. In Dumfries and Galloway Tourism is everybody's business and Dr Mitchell is keen to hear the views of the Council and to organise an Annual Convention in the region to all allow parties to meet to take the regional strategy on tourism forward. It was noted that the ATP has no operational control and no budget to work with. The Council thanked Dr Mitchell for her contributions and agreed that the presentation had given all a lot to think about. Dr Mitchell will advise when the Annual Convention is to take place.

Action: Joan Mitchell
All Councillors

- 3. Police Report:** Constable Simon Kennedy was in attendance, in the absence of Constable Bradley.
Matters arising from minute of 14 August 2007

- i.** Signage on A75 – the signs at the junction onto the A75 from Kirkcudbright are unreadable and are causing confusion and potential danger to motorists. Constable Kennedy to enquire as to who has responsibility for sign replacement – may be dispute between Amey and Roads Department. The Council agreed to take matter up with the Roads Department also. Update for next meeting.
- ii.** Updates on reported incidents – feedback from local police on reported incidents have been limited. Constable Kennedy advised that when reporting incidents to police, the name of the Constable who the incident was reported to should be taken and that the Constable is asked to provide an update at a later date.
- iii.** Constable Kennedy informed the Council of the new telephone number for contacting Kirkcudbright Police Station, this being 0845 600 5701. This number will be answered 24/7 by Dumfries Call Centre and as a result of new IT equipment, calls can be connected directly to a local Police Officer or messages left.

Action: Community Policeman
Provost

- 4. Sederunt and Apologies:** As above.

5. Public Forum: No questions were asked

6. Minutes of the Meeting on 14 August 2007:

- Item 4, add 'Action: All Councillors' and that the £10,000 allocated to the TIC should be monitored as to usage.
- Item 6, regarding the signage on the A75 should read 'possible illegal sign' and not 'illegal sign'

7. Matters Arising:

- No Regional Councillor present at meeting, meaning the issue with the Skyreburn School bus cannot be resolved. E-mail to be sent to Jane Maitland to obtain update on this.
Action: Provost
- Cllr Walker has obtained two out of three quotes for the new Gatehouse of Fleet signs. It is estimated that the cost for each sign should be in the region of £350.
Action: Cllr Walker
- The Murray Arms has been booked for the Citizen of the Year Award, which will take place on 23 November 2007. Cllr Walker will organise for posters for display around the village and tickets to be issued at the next meeting for Councillors to display/sell.
**Action: Cllr Walker
All Councillors**
- The switching on of the lights will take place on 9th December 2007 at 5pm. Mulled wine and Mince Pies will be provided by the Murray Arms (for a small charge). Santa is still to be asked to make an appearance.
Action: Cllr Walker
- Public Forum – The plans for the Carrick Sea Defences have been advertised in the local press, however these plans have not been brought to the Council. Formal request for the proposal is to be made.
Action: Cllrs Foster & Mcnamara

8. Dumfries and Galloway Report: No D&G Councillors present.

9. Provost's Report and Correspondence:

- Letter received from Jane Russell thanking the council for their assistance in resolving the issue of the Van Bus that was parked on Birtwhistle Street.
- Letter received from the Office of the Chief Executive regarding the presentation of the Draft Corporate Plan. This is to take place in the Kirkcudbright Council Offices on 19th September 2007 from 10am. Separate presentations for groups can be arranged for September.
- Letter received from the Office of the Chief Executive regarding grants for administering Community Councils. Funding will be considered on 27 September 2007 for the 2007/2008 financial year. £59,340 is the figure that has been set aside, however in order to retain the same level of funding as the previous year, higher funding will be required. Further details are to follow after the meeting of 27th September.
- Community Council Training will take place on 12 September 2007 at 6.30pm in Castle Douglas. Leaflets were circulated.
- Letter received from the Office of the Chief Executive notifying that the Stewartry Area Committee Meeting will take place on 17 September 2007.
- Recently the Stewartry Local Health Partnership Meeting took place with a low turnout.
- Letter received from Susan Heind expressing her distress at the death of a Swan at Mill Pond and asking if there was any additional protection that could be placed around the pond to protect the birds. This issue has previously been looked into with the RSPB; however it was felt that the birds would fly over any fence that would be put in place. This issue also raises the problem of vehicles entering the village at speed. Charles Clemmy is to be contacted to chase-up the speed protection methods that had been promised.

- The hedge 'up the cut' has now been cut back.
- Ian McConchie has a new e-mail address – ianmconchie@tiscali.co.uk
- Notification of temporary Road closures/restrictions going up to the Gatehouse Station
- Letter received from the Police Sergeant reassuring the council that Police are keeping up-to-date with reports of incidents that are made.

10. Planning Applications:

- The Ship Inn has submitted a plan for an additional dormer window at the rear of the building.
- Cardoness has submitted plans for additional stands for caravans.
- Resident in Ann Street wishes to cut down a diseased tree.
- Carrick Sea Defences – plans seem to have been lodged but the council have received no details of the plans.
- Posting Stables – Plans submitted to change a beer store into a dwelling house with no major changes to the exterior of the building.
- No further news on garage development site – situation to be monitored.

11. Mill on the Fleet Update – Suzette Harris

- Progress on the repair of the wheel has come to a standstill due to contractor suffering an accident.
- The Board of Directors at the Mill on the Fleet has no Dumfries and Galloway Representative and plans cannot move forward without this
- There is disquiet from the Council about the lack of funding applications.

12. Treasurer's Report:

- Two proposals have been put forward for use of the Footpath Account.
 - Cllr A. Steel would like to produce a leaflet with information about local walks.
 - Cllr R. Foster would like to have the footpath at Port McAdam treated with weed killer, as D&G Council are unable to fund this.

Both proposals are to be investigated further and details presented at the next meeting.

Action: Cllrs A. Steel & R. Foster

- A separate account is to be set up for the money received for the refurbishment of the chairs.

Action Cllr C. Walker

13. Project Progress Report – Ron Foster:

A cheque for £500 has been received from the Galloway Association of Glasgow. A further £3,600 is required to allow the project to go ahead.

14. AOCB:

- The 'Bunker Club' has recently restarted in the Community Centre with a good turnout of children. There will be a half an hour overlap between the club finishing and the Council Meeting starting. As a short term solution to the health and safety issue of moving tables around while children are running around Community Council meetings will now start at 7.30pm, with all able bodies arriving at 7.25pm to help set-up table and chairs.
- The Council asked to consider relocating the location of the Council meeting. Further consideration to this at the next meeting.

Meeting closed at 9.45pm. **Next meeting: 9th October 2007 at 7.30pm** - Gatehouse Community Centre