

GATEHOUSE OF FLEET COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Minutes of Meeting – 14th March 2006 – 7pm – Community Centre

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| Present: | Franca Bruno – Provost | Suzette Harris |
| | David Rennie – Treasurer | Mary Cousins |
| | Tony Vaux – D & G Councillor | Kerr McConchie |
| | Liz Modrate – Secretary | Alan Lowden |
| | Alex McLaren | Chris Walker |
| | Ron Forster | Gerard Macnamara |
| | Mark Laird | PC Bradley |

Apologies: Alison Steel

Guest Speaker: Charles Clemie – Principal Roads Services Officer (Stewartry)

Members of the Public: John Russell, Bill Hunter

ITEM 1 : Sederunt and Apologies : Apologies received as above.

ITEM 3 : Charles Clemie : The Provost welcomed Mr Clemie, who started by giving an overview of his responsibilities. These include:- the workforce, the budget of £1.3M, war memorials, council harbours, signage, lighting, nameplates/signs, flood prevention, road facilities work, and clock towers (Gatehouse's being the only one); all this within the 1,000 km of road which make up the Stewartry area. The following issues were brought up:

a) C Walker noted that some covers are off tobys (drains) in the town and, although a Scottish Water issue, if C Walker sends Mr Clemie the details, his office will take this forward with Scottish Water on our behalf. **Action : C Walker**

b) The 'No Entry' sign in Ann Street near the Cally Estate offices previously requested has not been done. Mr Clemie apologised for this and promised early action.

c) K McConchie was concerned that maintenance on the A75 was not so prompt since AMEY took over the contract. Mr Clemie explained that this had been put out to tender and, although the Roads Dept had tendered, AMEY had won the contract on the past two occasions. However, AMEY sub-contract labour from the Roads Dept. He stressed that any issues regarding maintenance should be taken up with the Scottish Executive who fund AMEY.

(PC Bradley joined meeting)

d) R Forster asked about the possibility of extra car parking in the town. Mr Clemie advised that the best way forward would be to have a joint venture – similar to the one in Kirkcudbright last year where the Monet Exhibition overflow car park was still used after the exhibition finished.

e) M Cousins was concerned about where the 30 mph signs were situated as it was 60 mph on the main road where some side roads join it. Mr Clemie said that speed signs had to conform with certain requirements and could not be moved at will. He did suggest perhaps a moveable 'secret sign' which warns drivers if they are over the limit and he will look into this.

f) The Provost commented on the recent lighting replacement in the town, over and above those being installed across Burgher Park, and Mr Clemie explained that this was because Health & Safety had noted rusting on some lights and funds had been made available to renew these.

g) The flooded flower tubs in the car park was noted and Mr Clemie will action this.

h) The issue of the new Surgery in Garden Street was widely discussed, in particular the school drop-off point being moved to Dromore Road. Various suggestions were put forward; a strongbow system, a 20 mph limit at school times, etc. Mr Clemie suggested that the 'Safe Routes to School' officer – Fiona Lessals – be contacted and asked to look at the issue. There is a School Board meeting on Thursday 16th March and some council members may attend. **Action : Secretary**

i) Mr Clemie discussed the work of Dave Williams and the Harbour Master on the Mill Pond and the apparatus they had made was excellent. It consists of two floats on poles and mesh between which rises and falls with the water level, thus covering the culvert. The meeting added their thanks to Mr Williams and the Harbour Master for their work.

j) It was noted to Mr Clemie that G Macnamara still does the flag flying and clock work on the tower and Ann Sweetin had been contacted to comment on this as it was the Council's responsibility.

k) Mr Russell was concerned that Drum Road, although resurfaced only 2 years ago, had potholes farther up which were continually being repaired. Mr Clemie is to take this up.

l) General topics were discussed; flooding on Sandgreen Road; cracked pavements at Bakers Dozen. R Forster asked about forthcoming works and Mr Clemie is to supply him with a Programme of Works.

ITEM 2 : Police Report : PC Bradley informed the meeting that the recent spate of vandalism and damage to vehicles had stopped and enquiries were progressing to find the culprits. A visitor to Gatehouse had spoken to PC Bradley about the excessive dog fouling in the town and a letter will be sent to the Environmental Officers based in Castle Douglas to take this forward. PC Bradley will continue to support the Community Council as far as his workload will allow. **Action :**
Secretary

ITEM 4 : Minutes of Meeting on 14th February : Minutes were accepted with two changes.

a) M Laird in Apologies will be marked as 'On council Business'. This will be actioned should this happen again and this was proposed by A Lowden – seconded by R Forster.

b) On item 5f – Willie McKie should read Archie McKie.

ITEM 5: Matters Arising :

a) The Pond weed was widely discussed and the meeting decided that we should look into cutting it back to a more manageable level. The Provost and R Forster are to look into this.

Action : The Provost/R Forster

b) The Library Trust transfer was almost complete as reported by M Laird.

c) Boundary Changes – the new map had been sent to the Provost and Kirkmabreck with the suggested alterations (the station and the Glen). A letter will be sent in agreement.

Action : R Forster

d) Conservation Booklet – C Walker had gone through this and was very impressed. He noted that there are grants available for the upkeep of traditional buildings in the town. The Provost, R Forster and A Lowden are to have a meeting with Ronnie Irving, David Bell and Volkmar Nix to discuss.

Action : Provost

e) Scottish Power – S Harris is to attend the meeting next Monday 20th March.

Action : S Harris

f) Health & Community Care Plan Document - The Provost had been asked to comment and outlined the following issues:

i) A full medical check up should be available for men and women over 40 years of age.

ii) Children over five should be supplied with electric toothbrushes.

iii) There is no transport available for patients between the hours of 9am and 5pm – apart from pre-arranged journeys. There was some confusion in the meeting what exactly the transport policy was and the Secretary is to write to the Health Board (c.c. local GPs) for clarification on the issue.

Action : Secretary

g) Core Path Document – K McConchie attended the Kirkcudbright meeting which was very informative. He stressed the importance of communities to recognise what footpaths they wanted.

h) Government Boundary Comm. – The Provost handed round a copy of the new Electoral Map – the area is now referenced Ward 4 Dec.

ITEM 6 – Dumfries and Galloway Report : Councillor Tony Vaux gave a brief overview of the recent budget meeting and the resulting consequences. The 3% budget is to be explained in a meeting near the end of this month and these meetings, as always, are opened to the public.

Someone from the Community Council may attend. As part of the Finance Sub-Committee, C Walker is to look into the budget and see into where monitory responsibilities lie and action a meeting.

Action : C Walker

ITEM 7 – Provost’s Report : New Primary Care Centre : A letter was received from June Watters with a new set of plans (only slight alteration from last ones). The meeting was concerned at the very slow progress of this and a letter is to go the June Watters with our concerns.

Action : Secretary

ITEM 8 – Planning Applications – Dean of Guild : G Macnamara had the following applications:

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| a) Store room and sauna – Carrick | : | No Action |
| b) Alterations to house and fuel tank – Ramsey Wood | : | No Action |
| c) Woodlyn Home back to dwelling house | : | No Action |
| d) Extensions to No 17 Catherine Street | : | No Action |
| e) Fleuglark Farm – steading to dwelling house | : | No Action |
| f) New boathouse at Carrick (site 18 – not near shoreline) | : | No Action |
| g) New Surgery – changes to original plan | : | No Action |
| h) Extension to entertainment suite at Auchenlarie | : | No Action |
| i) 35-37 High Street – house to chiropody clinic | : | No Action |
| j) Old Posting Stable at Murray Arms – store to dwelling house | : | No Action |

ITEM 9 – Mill on the Fleet : D Rennie informed the meeting that the funding for the Mill was now in place and he was optimistic for a positive year ahead.

ITEM 10 – Treasurer’s Report :

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| a) | D Rennie still held the £1400 in the Footpath account for Portmacadam until R Forster signed the work off. There are problems with drainage and R Forster will not sanction payment until rectified |
| b) | Payment from Admin. Account - £200 to Mrs Robertson (Graham’s honorarium) £100 to Provost (expenses) £12 to Alison Steel (admin. Expenses) |
| c) | Common Good Fund - Rent to Community Centre agreed on £350 to Portmacadam for various stone works £165 to Mrs McKay for Senior Citizen’s trip Application has been sent to Bowling Club Application from Golf Club to be asked for |

ITEM 11 – R Forster’s Report : Awards For All have given approval for new seats. An application has been sent to Scottish Natural Heritage for funding for two interpretation boards. The bird boxes are now up and when the weather improves, the new trees will be planted.

ITEM 12 – A.O.C.B. – The Provost asked the meeting if they would consider a service to the community of posting printed minutes of meetings on request, at a nominal charge. Some of the members felt that the minutes displayed in the town’s notice board, in the libraries, and on the internet, was sufficient and a vote was taken that this remains the same. The vote was 5 for the existing method and 3 for the new service. The existing method stands.

The meeting closed at 10pm

The next meeting is scheduled for

Tuesday 11th April 2006 – 7pm – Community Hall