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Gatehouse Community Council

Minutes of Meeting : 7pm Tuesday 12 August 2007 : Community Centre

Present: Mark Laird, Provost; Chris Walker (Vice Provost), Franca Bruno, Mary Cousins, Ron Forster, Suzette Harris, Allan Lowden, Liz Modrate, Alison Steel (acting Minute Secretary) Councillors Patsy Gilroy, Thomas Jacques and Jane Maitland, Ian Steen (Treasurer Carrick Residents' Association) and David Steel (GDI)

Apologies: Shaun Burnie, Gerald Macnamara, Ian McConchie, Des McLelland and Craig Steele

The Provost noted the death of James Murray Usher and drew attention to James' devoted service to Gatehouse, and to the Community Council, in particular.

1. Sederunt and Apologies: As above.

2. Police Report: None - the officer present was called to a road traffic accident before meeting started.

3. Public Forum: Ian Steen described Carrick Residents' Application for sea defences on the road between Sandgreen and Carrick. The plans made in consultation with SNH will come before the Community Council (CC) shortly. The CC will ask for the plans if they are not sent automatically.

Action : Cllrs. Foster & Macnamara

4. Tourist Information Centre (TIC) Update: (David Steel)

- i. About 19000 tourists annually use the Gatehouse TIC
- ii. Businesses in Gatehouse have been invited to consider running the TIC / providing tourist information within their premises. The CC wishes to retain the present site.
- iii. A survey of tourists has been conducted both within TIC and in Gatehouse
- iv. There is to be a Visit Scotland workshop on 22 August for all who have expressed an interest in running a TIC.

Chris will represent the CC at the Workshop and pose the questions raised at the meeting concerning funding, consultation, the CADISPA study report and other options.

Action : Cllr. Walker

It was agreed to ask Joan Mitchell (Dumfries and Galloway Area Tourism Partnership) to attend the September CC meeting.

Action : Cllr. McConchie

5. Minutes of Previous Meeting

D & G Councillor Jacques name had been omitted from the sederunt..

6. Matters Arising:

Suzette asked about police action on matters reported to them including an abandoned tent and a vandalised car. Allan had asked for an illegal sign to be removed with no result. Councillors expressed disappointment at the speed of response and lack of feedback from the police.

Action : Community Policemen

Skyreburn school bus. Councillor Maitland promised an update at September CC.

Action : Cllr. Maitland

D & G Council to help with funding for the Gatehouse sign and Chris will get 3 estimates for putting the sign on hard board and for a name plate.

Action : Cllr. Walker

7. Dumfries & Galloway Councillors' Report:

- Stewartry Local Operations (Reserved Schemes) Plan now published
- The elderly who were overcharged for care are to receive an *ex gratia* payment.
- There is unlikely to be funding for Gatehouse Community Centre
- There is money to spend on footpaths at Anwoth, Disdow and elsewhere.
- Stewartry Area Committees will hold themed sessions e.g. Services for Young People.

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7. Provost's Report & Correspondence:

- Julie White's 'Programme of Works' has been received – the new surgery completion date is mid-end June 2008. The CC is to ask that the memorial stone to Dr Berrill be moved and re-dedicated on the new site. **Action : Provost**
- A UNESCO biosphere programme has been adopted by D & G as in other regional councils..
- The Scottish Ambulance service proposes a restructuring in the Gatehouse / Kirkcudbright Area, removing standby cover at weekends, after 17h on 2 days and after 19h on 3 days. Grave concern was expressed at this diminution in service. D & G Councillors promised to raise the matter when health issues are discussed at the November Area Committee.

Action : All D & G Councillors

8. Secretary's Report:

After lengthy debate on the work and cost of a Secretary it was agreed :

1. to advertise the post of CC Secretary more widely **Action : Provost**
2. for councillors to take turns to write Minutes meantime
3. for councillors to write their own letters on issues raised at meetings meantime..

9. Planning Applications: None, the Dean of Guild being absent.

10. Mill on the Fleet Update – Suzette Harris:

Work going ahead on the small wheel. Visitor numbers are lower than hoped.

The manager finding it hard to apply for funds and to manage the visitors at same time.

11. Treasurer's Report

Common Good Fund stands at £1762.95p with no current applications. The current account has £1087.73p but there are items outstanding e.g. rent of the Community Centre. The Footpath Account has £1477.77p

There is a clear winner of the Citizen of the Year Award. It was agreed to present the award at a ceilidh in November. Chris agreed to check the availability of The Murray Arms for this event as well as for the Switch-on of the Christmas Lights on 9 December. **Action : Cllr. Walker**

12. Ron Forster's Report :

- Interpretation boards for the Wild Flower Meadow have arrived.
- Fleet Valley Viewing Areas, Knocktinkle and Knockbrex have been inspected. Along with the GDI turbine and SUP 'Communities on the Edge' projects, these entered in the Caring for the Environment Good Practice LEADER + Awards 2007.
- The Sensory Garden was officially opened on Sunday 12 August.
- The engineering dept of D & G Council will manage the quayside project at Port MacAdam. An estimate of the cost is needed before Ron can apply for funding.
- A new estimate for re-covering the Town Hall chairs in leather has been requested. The Councillors voted for red leather covers. It has been agreed that the chairs can be kept in the Faed Gallery but a suggestion that the CC might hold meetings there was rejected because the CC preferred to support the Community Centre.

12. A.O.C.B.

1. The street cleaner, replacing David Dougan, is to be congratulated on his excellent work.
2. There is a Small Building Group review to allow communities to suggest sites for small groups of buildings. **Action : Cllr. Macnamara**
3. Switching-on of lights Ceremony - Santa should be contacted! **Action : Cllr. Walker**
4. Hedge 'up the Cut' needs cutting. Email to be sent to Mr Clemmie. **Action : Provost**
5. Congratulations to be offered to all involved in the Gala, especially the magnificent firework display, to Chris for his Gala Day commentary and to the Provost for the Riding of the Marches.

Meeting closed at 9.45pm **Next meeting: 11 September** - 7pm Gatehouse Community Centre.