

GATEHOUSE OF FLEET COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 9 November 2005

Present: Provost Franca Bruno, Deputy Provost Alison Steel, Councillors Mary Cousins, R Forster, A Lowden, D McClelland, G Macnamara, A McLaren, D McLeod, also PC Dickie, Arthur Martin (National Trust for Scotland), Anna Johnson (National Scenic Area Officer), Shona Bryden (D&G Planning and Environment), Phillippa Joad (NSA Ranger) and 18 members of the public

APOLOGIES: David Rennie

2. PRESENTATION – NATIONAL TRUST FOR SCOTLAND Arthur Martin, Conservation Manager NTS

The NTS is a legislative charity with wide powers. These powers are unaffected by recent changes to the feudal system of landholding. The NTS works closely with National Scenic Area Officers and local planners.

A map of the conservation agreement areas was displayed. Different types of NTS agreement cover areas of land round Gatehouse

- a) Some land, like Vinnie Hill, is inalienable
- b) Landowners made conservation agreements on their land in perpetuity following the 1938 NTS Act. Mrs Murray Usher made several such agreements between 1940 and 1990 with the aim of preserving the outstanding beauty and character of the area. The Rainsford Hannays also entered into agreements with the NTS in relation to Cardoness Estate. In general the agreements on agricultural land prevent the erection of non-agricultural buildings.

The NTS will not sanction piecemeal development and will only consider the release land covered by such agreements for development where there is an “undeniable need”. This proven need must be for the whole community and following formal agreement on landscaping and with full public involvement. The NTS does not feel there is an “undeniable need” around Gatehouse of Fleet at this time.

In discussion Mr Martin said the NTS felt the Agreements, with regard to farms and the changed agricultural situation, were still relevant to their original purpose. The issue of new housing was raised and it was pointed out that there are still some plots available in areas like Bracken Wood. Mr Martin said that the NTS had not been asked about releasing land for affordable housing. There was some discussion about what “affordable” meant. Mrs Shona Bryden said that there was no “affordable” scale even in this region because each town and village has different characteristics. Mr Martin also stressed that the NTS is not there to protect the interests of any one group. Other members of the public pointed out that development has usually been in the form of small clusters of housing and there are still areas around Gatehouse which could be made available. Other points raised included the fact that there were few jobs for the young so they were less likely to stay in Gatehouse.

(all members of the public left the meeting)

3. POLICE REPORT -

PC Dickie reported that :

- there had been a theft of a Landrover and caravan from Mossyard Farm. The Landrover had later been recovered in Humberside.
- there had been a minor fire on the beach at Auchenlarie
- there was an unrelated domestic incident at Auchenlarie.
- a window had been smashed at the Visitor Centre in Cally Woods.

(PC Dickie left the meeting)

4. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 20 AUGUST

The Minutes having been read D McClelland proposed and A Lowden seconded the motion that they should be accepted.

5. MATTERS ARISING

- a) Progress on the new surgery –*see Provost’s report below*
- b) Stopcock covers – G Macnamara has still to list these.
- c) Flower Tubs – *see R. Forster’s report below*
- d) Dam at War Memorial – *see R. Forster’s report below*

6. DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY REPORT.

None as Councillor Vaux was not present.

7. PROVOST’S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE

- a) **Plans for Surgery** Councillors were shown the plans for the new surgery. There followed some discussion about the most suitable drop off point for the school children during the construction. The present situation, with children being dropped in the Community Centre car park and cars going in and out, is dangerous but the school has rejected the idea of a “one-way crescent” system (like CD High School) in front of the main building. D McLeod pointed out that when work is in progress the Community Centre car park would no longer be available as it would be used to store building materials.
- b) **Health Centre Progress Updates** Mrs Julie White is unwell and about to go on maternity leave. The Provost has asked that we will still receive regular reports about the Health Centre.
- c) **Rehearsal for Remembrance Day**. There is to be a rehearsal on Saturday 12 November at 11am for the Remembrance Parade on Sunday. Mr Kaye had kindly offered the use of the garage in case of rain.
ACTION: ALL COUNCILLORS
- d) **The Library Trust** has passed a resolution under Section 10 (8) of the Law Reform (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Scotland) Act 1990 to wind up the Trust and transfer its assets (£104,500) to the Murray Usher Foundation. It has been decided that 10% of the rental for the building should go to Gatehouse School.
- e) **Community Council Minutes** will be posted on the Gatehouse of Fleet website. **Action: A. Steel**
- f) **Garden Waste** Mrs Suzette Harris has written proposing a central skip for garden waste in Gatehouse. This would be in keeping with D & G Council’s recycling policy promoted in the latest edition of *Broadcast*. R Forster said that in the past similar proposals had been rejected because the skip would require constant supervision, drainage etc. Her letter will be forwarded to the relevant officials. **Action: Provost**
- g) **Secretary’s Post** The Provost had written to the Council informing them of the death of Graham Robertson. She asked what remuneration was available for Community Council Secretaries and was advised by Anne Sweetin, Kirkcudbright Council Offices, that this was in the hands of the local councils. It was decided to put up notice advertising the secretarial post. **Action: Provost.**
- h) **Multipurpose hall** Though there are no plans for a building at present, the possibility of seeking funds for such a project is on the agenda of the GDI.

8. PLANNING APPLICATIONS - Dean of Guild

- Surgery (see discussion above).
- Replacement windows at a house in Fleet Street, ‘like-for-like’. Agreed.

9. MILL ON THE FLEET UPDATE – Written report from Councillor D. Rennie

The Mill has had a relatively good year with an increase in visitor numbers. This has resulted in a larger surplus of funds than last year. A grant application has been submitted to the council for core funding (for 3 years). The manager will be working part-time over the winter months

10. TREASURER’S REPORT – Written report from Councillor D. Rennie

Common Good Fund (£1,500) has now been released. The Gatehouse Beaver Colony submitted an application. They wish to purchase indoor games equipment at a total cost £569.95. It was agreed to grant £284 from the Common Good Fund i.e. 50% support.

11. COMMUNITY COUNCIL TRAINING SESSION

There is to be a Community Council Training Session at Gatehouse Community Centre on **1 December 5.30-7pm.**

ACTION: ALL COUNCILLORS

12. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT - Councillor R. Forster

- a) **Flower boxes** Andrew Currie of D & G Council has agreed to provide new flower boxes. The old flower boxes at the War Memorial have been removed.
- b) **Dam at War Memorial** We are still waiting for David Hawker’s advice on the best method of dealing with the weed problem
- c) **Grass cutting** The problem of ‘too infrequent’ grass cutting in Garries Park is being addressed by the Council.
- d) **Paths** The path behind the Tourist Office is to be improved by drainage. There was a suggestion that overflow car parking could be constructed behind the toilets between the present car park and Garries Park.
- e) **Festive Lights** The Council has offered to install festive lights at Christmas and has contacted the Lions Club who supply the Christmas street lights. **The switching on of the lights will take place on 4th December.**
- f) **Port McAdam** Work is going well

13. AOCB

- a) Mrs Frame has asked for Community Council Minutes to be sent to the library. **Action: A. Steel**
- b) Letter of thanks to Mr Arthur Martin **Action: A. Steel**
- c) D McLellan reported that the new lights were still not in place near the Mill.
- d) A Lowden reminded everyone that his job as Town Crier was not just for summer and he was very willing to ‘cry’ in the winter months as well.

The meeting ended at 9.37pm