



Minutes of the meeting of the Gatehouse of Fleet Community Council held at 7 pm on Tuesday 13th November 2007 in the Community Centre.

Community Councillors Present: Shaun Burnie, Mary Cousins, Ron Forster, Suzette Harris, Mark Laird (Provost), Allan Lowden, Ian McConchie, Gerard Macnamara (*Dean of Guild*), Craig Steele, Adam Stephenson (*Secretary*), Chris Walker (*Treasurer/Depute Provost*)

In Attendance: Cllr Patsy Gilroy, David Steel (GDI), Sgt Wallace, Josephine Cameron, David Cameron

Apologies: Cllr Jane Maitland, Cllr Thomas Jacques, Liz Modrate

1. Sederunt & Apologies

As above

2. Police Report – Community Police Officer

Three crimes have been reported:

- i. 19/10/2007 – case of fraud reported. Person knocking on doors and asking for money. This is not an isolated incident in Gatehouse. Culprit has hopefully been identified.
 - ii. 08/11/2007 – Pipes have been cut on a car at Riverbank. This has also been happening in other towns/villages.
 - iii. 11/11/2007 – Assault reported – taken place on High Street. Case passed to Procurator Fiscal.
 - iv. Street racers – ASBO & Police Warnings have been issued to street racers recently.
 - v. Scrap metal has been stolen in the area.
 - vi. Theft of ATV's and machinery.
- Community Councillors expressed concern over youths hanging around/running in the streets at night. Constable Bradley reported that no damage has been caused and Police are monitoring this.
 - All the above incidents, public should inform the Police if they have any suspicions.
 - Cllr Burnie thanked the Police on behalf of the Community Council for resolving the bus drop point on the A75. There are believed to be other drop points along the school bus route where pupils have to cross the A75 to get home, but no complaints have been submitted by parents.
 - Due to the increased traffic caused by the building works at the new Doctors Surgery, there have been a number of near misses. The implementation of a one way system around Riverbank during school run was suggested. A Police presence may help with this matter. Police Officers present suggested raising this in the next school newsletter to parents. A. Stephenson to write to Charles Clemie regarding one way system.
 - Concern was raised over speed of entry to town. Police Officer present advised the meeting that speed checks are undertaken whenever possible by patrol vehicles, but pressure on Police Force due to current operation.

3. Dumfries and Galloway Report

Cllr Patsy Gilroy gave her report:

- The next Stewartry Area Committee meeting will be held at Dalbeattie Town Hall at 6.30 pm with the main item for discussion being Health Care. The Ambulance Service will be represented at this meeting and will be an opportunity to discuss the new operation times of the Gatehouse Service. Questions can be sent to Cllr Gilroy if anyone is unable to attend.
- Planning applications for the new housing development in Gatehouse at Woodside Garage will not be ready until the new year.
- Finance – settlement from the Scottish Government will be finalised on 14/11/2007. From there on D&G Council will act on any efficiency savings that need to be made.

- New pathway in Gatehouse has been agreed in principal but some outstanding issues over land ownership. Pathway believed to be at Disdow.
- Funding for the pathways booklet has been agreed and will go ahead.

Questions from the room:

- TIC – still no reply to Ron Forster’s initial letter requesting information about the conditions the £10,000 grant was awarded to Visit Scotland from D&G Council. Cllr Gilroy thought this issue was resolved following communication with Adam Stephenson. This matter has still not been resolved satisfactorily and this issue will be chased up.
- There was confusion over the consultation time for planning permission. Two different times are expressed in letters/newspaper entries. Royal Mail strikes may have affected some and an expression was made that the council should have considered this and extended the consultation time.

Cllr Patsy Gilroy left the meeting due to conflict of interest over next agenda item.

4. Proposed Housing Development

- Cllr MacNamara informed the meeting that the plans have been in high demand as there were none available when he initially requested them.
- Concern was expressed that a high density of population will be living in a small area.
- Outside of proposed buildings seems to fit with other properties in the surrounding area.
- 33 parking spaces will be created within the courtyard; there may be overspill into street.
- Sewage is already running at capacity.
- Still waiting on ground reports and report from Scottish Water on sewage pressure.
- Traffic issues – suggestion made by member of public that developers retain an apron for delivery vans to stop.
- Concern that the flats will be used mainly as 2nd homes.
- Councillor raised the point that a SEPA report must already be available from previous planning application for site.
- Councillors recommended that the developers (South Vale) be invited to attend a public meeting.
- Prices for the flats are believed to be in the region of £160,000.
- The CADISPA report should be ready soon and will have details of community feelings on housing.
- Developer allowed to use ‘mock’ fixtures, agreement that they should have to comply with the same expenses on building work as locals, as per conservation area requirements.
- All agreed that a public meeting should be held to gather opinion from local community on housing development – this to be held on Tuesday 4th December 2007. Planning office should be informed of this meeting and South Vale invited to attend.

The issue of housing development brought up the issue of the Loreburn Housing Development at Riverbank. The Community Council had been given assurances that 80% of residents would be from the local community and that residents would be police checked. Letter to be sent to Loreburn Housing to check that this is infact happening.

5. Minutes of the Meeting of

- Quote for the new signs into Gatehouse were for both and not individually.
- Item – remove ‘for Gatehouse’.
- Letter from Ken Smyth regarding Mill on The Fleet entry point 5. Agreed that the minutes are accurate on this point, as this was what was said, and will remain unchanged.

Minutes were then proposed by Allan Lowden and seconded by Gerard MacNamara.

6. Matters Arising

Cllr Harris informed the meeting that Abbeyfield are costing repairs for the bench on Ann Street.

7. Public Forum

None

8. Provost’s Report and Correspondence

- Chair of Oban Community Council had contacted Provost to discuss various issues.

- Letter from Julie White from NHS, informing that the work on the Doctors Surgery is on schedule.
- Letter received from Ken Smyth – tabled letter of complaint from member of public regarding Mill on Fleet.
- Letter from Ken Smyth, giving details of applications that have been made for funding recently.

9. Secretary's Report

- Letter received from Charles Clemie (11/10/2007) regarding Secret Sign and Red Tarmac Strips at entrance into Gatehouse of Fleet – will be in place as soon as possible.
- E-mail received from Tony Fitzpatrick (11/10/2007) – regarding Tourist Information Centre. Detailed Report is being completed and further details were promised two weeks after this e-mail was received however no further information has been provided.
- The SCVS Newsletter was tabled.
- Letter received from Creetown Development Initiative. Sean Burnie passed the letter and information to consider a reply.
- Child Protection Leaflets were passed around.
- Letter received from Council Roads Department (01/11/2007) regarding provision for Winter Service Operations.
- Letter received (07/11/2007) from John Allison, Community Leisure and Sport Officer, requesting information of Activities taking place in local Community. Ron Forster to contact John Russell for a copy of the local list that has already been compiled to pass to Adam Stephenson.
- Request from Stewartry Area Management (16/10/2007) for update to any contact details. Only change is to Adam Stephenson's address.
- Letter received from Kenny Eggo, Community Planning Coordinator Stewartry, providing details of a grant that is available for Community Projects to tackle Anti-Social Behaviour. Agreed that application would not be submitted as the town did not have any projects that would fit into the requirements of the grant.
- Letter received from Area Management Stewartry (16/10/2007) providing a programme of Community Council Awareness Raising Evenings for 2008. Copies were passed around. The events taking place on 10/12/2007 and 17/01/2007 need names to be submitted to Joanne Colquhoun by 03/12/2007.

10. Planning Applications – Dean of Guild

- Conservatory – 41 Fleet Street
- Extension to chalet at Carrick Shore
- Erection of dwelling in grounds of Rutherford Manse
- Alteration to house at Skyreburn

11. Mill on the Fleet Update

- Mill chairman to contact Adam Stephenson regarding joining the board.
- Councillor Thomas Jacques joined the board as the D&G Representative.
- Manager hopefully working through winter on projects and feasibility study (funds applied for).
- The AGM will be closed to the public. An open/public meeting will be held later in the New Year.
- Signs in the grounds surrounding the Mill have been replaced.
- The Mill has registered a general interest in the running of the TIC.
- Mill closed on 31 October 2007 will reopen 21 March 2008 (Good Friday).

Discussion about the Mill on the Fleet:

- Cllr Bruno proposed that as the Community Council are members of the Mill that all should attend the AGM. Cllr McConchie seconded this. Request the Board to issue an invitation to the Community Council.
- All agreed that it is essential that there is a member of the Community Council on the Board.
- Disappointment was expressed in the limited progress in the development of the Mill and limited number of applications made to secure funding for the future.
- Agreed that Cllrs Burnie, Walker and McConchie would draft questions to ask at the AGM and these questions would be submitted to the Board prior to the AGM taking place.
- Community Council wished to express that they are not turning against the Mill, but that there are serious concerns that need to be expressed.

12. Treasurer's Report

- Posters and tickets were issued to Councillors for the Switching on of the Christmas Lights/Citizen of the Year Award Ceremony. Tickets also on sale in the Premier, Franca Bruno's and The Murray Arms. Cllr Bruno to looking into organising singing whilst the lights are being switched on.
- Two quiches purchased – larger to be engraved with Gatehouse of Fleet Citizen of the Year and to be rotated between winners every year. Smaller one for winner to keep. Cllr MacNamara organising preparation for the lights being switched on. Cllr Bruno organising the tree. Presents to be purchased for Santa.
- Application for the Common Good Fund from Royal Society of Country Dance – Gatehouse of Fleet for £32.50. Approved and decision made to award £50.
- Guidance to be sought over the Community Council being allowed to apply to itself for funding for refurbishment of chairs – seeking £1,100 from Community Council.
- Ken Smyth requested that the results of the CADISPA report be put into the next Community Newsletter. Newsletter to be produced in the spring.

13. Ron Forster's Report

- Quayside – GDI considering taking out a lease – currently considering the implications of the doing this.
- Council have agreed to complete spraying of paths with weed killer – this will take place in the spring.

14. AOCB

- Thanks to Charles Clemie for prompt action to fix the dyke on cycle route 7.
- Gates have been placed across a public right of way into the park. Gate is permitted as long as not locked. Member asked if a sign could be placed on the gate so that public know that they are allowed through. Letter to be sent to Public Rights of Way Officer to make an official sign for this.
- Cllr Bruno informed the meeting that the seat backs on the 'Big Twitcher' at the Mill on the Fleet are broken.
- Street lights have recently been changed at Fleetside and Riverbank. Letter to be sent to Council to request reason for not informing the Community Council of this.
- Cllr Lowden asked how the Citizen of the Year was picked. Nominations were requested in the last issue of the Community Newsletter.
- Grant from Scottish Natural Heritage allowed for the creation of a booklet – The Cally Story- these were passed round.
- David Steel updated on the TIC interviews. Following advert in newspaper there are 3 firm applicants. David will be unavailable to attend interviews in the morning, but may attend when he is available. Cllr Bruno expressed concern over a conflict of interest over interviews. Cllr McConchie added that a conflict of interest would only occur if David was involved in the decision making process. Community Council thanked David for his assistance in negotiating with Visit Scotland.

Date of Next Meeting

Public Meeting for Woodside Housing Development 6 December 2007
Community Council Meeting – 11 December 2007
8 January 2008