

## *Gatehouse of Fleet Community Council*

Minutes of the meeting of the Gatehouse of Fleet Community Council held at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2007 in the Murray Arms

**Community Councillors Present:** Shaun Burnie, Mary Cousins, Ron Forster, Suzette Harris, Allan Lowden, Des McClelland, Ian McConchie (*Chair*), Gerard Macnamara (*Dean of Guild*) Liz Modrate, David Steel, Adam Stephenson (*Secretary*)

**In Attendance:** Cllr Jane Maitland, Cllr Thomas Jacques, David Steel (GDI).

**Apologies:** Franca Bruno, Mark Laird (*Provost*), Chris Walker (*Treasurer/Depute Provost*), Alison Steel, Craig Steel.

### **1. Sederunt & Apologies**

As above

### **2. Police Report – Community Police Officer**

Community Police Officer not in attendance.

### **3. Minutes of the meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2007**

- i. Change Joan Maitland in present section to Joan Mitchell
- ii. Point 9 – change village to town
- iii. Point 13 - £500 is for chairs

The minutes were then proposed by Des McClelland and seconded by Allan Lowden.

### **4. Matters Arising**

- Ian McConchie noted that the transition of the Doctors surgery to the Porta Cabins went very smoothly and the temporary facilities are of a high standard.
- Clarification over the price of the new signs for the entrance into the town is needed, the £350 quoted was believed to be for both and not for each sign as stated in previous minutes.
- Carrick Sea Defences – still no further news on the issue.
- Speed Control – Jane Maitland has spoken to Charles Clemie regarding this issue. A secret sign has been ordered to replace the previous, which is broken, at a cost of £2,800 for Gatehouse. Should arrive next month. Placing rumble strips is also being considered. Previous correspondence was sent to Mr Clemie about using red tarmac on approach to the 30 mph zone. Reminder to be sent about this and copied to D&G Councillors. Noted that a police presence would also help slow motorists down.

**Action: A. Stephenson**

### **5. Public Forum**

#### **David Steel (GDI)**

- Paths booklet – recognised the importance of this leaflet for tourists, council has issued quotations, but is proving difficult to action. Not in current council budget, but will press for it to become part of it. Support for Port McAdam footpath to be in any new leaflet. Funds could be raised by selling the leaflet. David Steel and Alison Steel to liaise over the development of this.

**Action: Cllr A. Steel & D. Steel**

- A recent workshop took place over the solution of running the Tourist Information Centre. Visit Scotland to take this forward, contact all parties that have expressed interest in taking on the Tourist Information Centre either in the present site or in their own premises. Advert to be placed in local press to further advertise this opportunity. There is a feeling that an official TI facility is needed in the town. Visit Scotland will make the decision on the partner; plans will be discussed with D&G Council and Community Council.

### **6. Dumfries and Galloway Report**

#### **Jane Maitland**

- Reported that a dyke has fallen down on route 7. Charles Clemie dealing with this.
- D&G Corporate Plan, has been slightly delayed, but should be circulated for comment shortly.
- Garage site is under active consideration through the Roads Engineers, no further details known at present.

- Skyreburn bus – this issue is now resolved with buses collecting pupils at the correct side of the road. Thanks to the local Police for their assistance in this matter.
- Asset Manager/Officer for area – no one in position, council funding being an issue. Suggested that the Community Council raise the importance of this post to D&G Council.

### **Thomas Jacques**

- Contacted by local resident regarding seats outside cemetery and tennis courts. These are hazardous and will be replaced.
- Road into Garries Park (top end) – access is being improved.
- Child Protection – in the region there is approximately 3,000 children classified as 'at risk' and currently only 150-200 carers. Council asking everyone to be observant and report any cases where they suspect children are at risk. Contact 01557 339260 (ask for Duty Social Worker) or Out of Hours/Emergency 0800 811505. More details available on the D&G Council website, under Children Protection Committee Mini-web.
- Waste Disposal – visit to eco deco site by D&G Councillors (only site of its kind in Scotland). Information leaflet was passed around on operation of site. Community Council members have expressed an interest in visiting the site.
- Community Council Awareness Raising Evening – letters were passed round about this event. Taking place on Thursday 1 November 2007 in Dalbeattie Town Hall at 6.30 pm. Replies of interest to Joanne Colquhoun by Friday 26 October 2007.

**Action: All Councillors**

### **7. Provost's Report and Correspondence**

Provost not able to attend meeting.

### **8. Secretary's Report**

Letter received from Willie McKie regarding the parade on Remembrance Sunday (11/11/2007 at 10.45 am). Request that as many councillors attend the ceremony as possible. Community Council to provide a reef to be laid – this will need to be ordered.

**Action: Provost**

### **9. Planning Applications – Dean of Guild**

- Small Conservatory to be built at the back of house at 41 Fleet Street. Neighbours are happy with this.
- Dean of Guild to pursue plans for Carrick Sea Defences.

**Action: Dean of Guild**

- Noted that there is great activity at the Old Coal Yard site. Land recently purchased by Riddick Builders.

### **10. Mill on the Fleet Update**

- Large Mill Wheel is turning during the hours of daylight. Thanks to G. Macnamara and M. Hannay for making this possible.
- Still waiting on repairs to small Mill Wheel.
- A two week sale continues until 14 October 2007
- The café is closed due to unforeseen circumstances.
- No funding applied for as of yet.
- No date for an AGM.
- New Directors required.

### **11. Treasurer's Report**

Chris Walker was not able to attend the meeting; details of a recent e-mail were discussed that was issued (R. Forster & D. McClelland did not receive this information).

- Ron Forster has received a quote for weed killer on path at Port McAdam - £53.70. D&G Council will carry out this work.
- Correction – Franca Bruno present did cost £111.41.
- Purchase of Quaich/Salver for the Citizen of the Year set at £100. All agreed that a main prize should be purchased that would be issued to winners annually with names of all recipients engraved and a mini-version issued to keep. Chris Walker to look at options most appropriate for price set.

**Action: Cllr C. Walker**

### **12. Ron Forster's Report**

- Renovation of chairs: £500 from Galloway Association of Glasgow, £1,000 from Common Good Fund. Additional funding required, application made to Stewartry Area Committee – awaiting reply.
- Report circulated relating to the Japanese Knotweed Eradication Programme. This has been successful and funding is required to keep this going. Suggested that the SCVS should be approached as a possible source for funding.

### 13. AOCB

- Bench on Ann Street is a major hazard. Abbeyfield placed bench - Suzette Harris to contact Abbeyfield over removal/renovation.  
**Action: Cllr S. Harris**
- Thanks to Murray Arms for accommodating meeting at very short notice. Meetings will now return to Community Centre, making use of the Craft Room and start at 7 pm. **All agreed.**
- Ron Forster had written to Patsy Gilroy requesting a detailed account of the spending of £10,000 for the Tourist Information Centre. Tony Fitzpatrick asked to provide this information – phone call received but no answers. All dissatisfied with the time taken to answer this query (now standing at 8 weeks since initial contact). Community Council to write to Patsy Gilroy expressing dissatisfaction with the time taken over this issue and that it is dealt with promptly.  
**Action: A. Stephenson**
- Clarification over placing of skips on pavements and lack of hazard warnings. Skip placed on Digby Street is causing access problems for vehicles and pedestrians being forced to walk on the road. Roads Department/Police to be contacted to resolve the issue.  
**Action: A. Stephenson**
- Suzette Harris passed Community Council Handbook to Adam Stephenson for Councillors to access, which was received at a recent training event.

### Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Community Council will be held on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2007 at 7 pm in the Community Centre (Craft Room).