



Minutes of the meeting of the Gatehouse of Fleet Community Council held at 7 pm on Tuesday 13th January 2009 in the Community Centre.

Community Councillors Present: Mark Laird (Provost), Gerard Macnamara (*Dean of Guild*), Alison Steel, Franca Bruno, Pat Jacques, Mary Cousins, Ron Forster, Ian McConchie

In Attendance: Cllr Tommy Jacques, 2 Police representatives

Apologies: Cllr Jane Maitland, Cllr Patsy Gilroy, Community Councillors Chris Walker. Sean Burnie, Alan Lowden, Dawn Hartley (Secretary)

3. Public Forum

No members of public present.

4. Police Report – Community Police Officer

Two incidents have been reported:

- i. Assault and breach of the peace reported – had taken place at Murray Arms on Boxing Day.
- ii. Lighted paper pushed into post box at Gatehouse Post Office.

The new Nominated Neighbour Scheme was brought to the councillors' attention. Vulnerable people would be given a card to show to any cold callers. There was some discussion on the pros and cons of the scheme.

5 Adoption of Minutes of the Meeting of 9 December 2008

Item 8 The last line should read **Action : Secretary** (not A. Steel)

Item 10 The last 2 sentences to be omitted.

Item 12. The switching on of the Christmas lights was by Amy Carson, Gala Queen.

The citizen of the year was announced – Mary Cowan.

The council would like the Secretary to produce the minutes within 7 days of the last meeting.

Action Secretary

There was no mention of the Rights of Way Issue (See below)

6. Matters Arising

Rights of Way Issue. Cllr Steel had subsequently sent information about this to all councillors.

7. Dumfries and Galloway Councillors Report

Dates for future themed Stewartry Area Committee meetings

16 Feb. 6pm Castle Douglas 'Challenges and Opportunities for the Stewartry Economy'

18 May 6pm Kirkcudbright 'Planning in the Stewartry'

There had been a £1.5 million overspend on social work mainly due to homecare for the aged population. This is provided by outside contractors. John Alexander is keeping a close eye on the situation.

Phil Jones (Chief Executive) and Les Jardine (deputy) have asked for and been granted early retirement.

Allotments. At a recent Stewartry Area Committee it was stated that D&G Council does not have funding for provision of new allotments but that the Council has a statutory duty to acquire land for allotments where there is sufficient demand.

8. Provost Report and Correspondence

Wilkinsons (new store in Castle Douglas) has asked if Gatehouse can provide them with a town crier for the opening of the store. Action: **Provost to contact Alan Lowden**

9. Planning applications. Dean of Guild

Planning permission has been requested from Boots the Chemist which has taken over the chemist in Gatehouse. to erect a new shop sign in place of the old Stark sign. The majority of councillors

thought that the new sign was not satisfactory and that the old sign should be retained. As the High Street is in a conservation area it was agreed that Volkmar Nix should be contacted.

Action G Macnamara

It seems that not all planning applications are received by the Community Council. Cllr.T Jacques to look into this. **Action Cllr T. Jacques**

The council would like information on planning permission for farm buildings and also tree felling.

Action G Macnamara

10.Treasurers report. No report as treasurer absent.

11. Ron Forster's report

Muddy paths. Council will drain the path from the car park to Garries Park and extend the footpath. The state of the footpath by the Dam (start of Lauriston Rd) had been reported to Mr Clemie but nothing has been done. **Action R. Forster**

Cally Woods Horse Route Path is in very poor condition. Lady Vaux to be asked for information about this. **Action R. Forster**

Stellage Wood. 35 trees have been planted.

Dry stane dyking. Funding is progressing.

12. AOCB

The 'Birdhouse' by the car park is in an unsafe condition. Mr. Derek Crichton to be informed.

Action M.Cousins

A subgroup was formed to consider the Scottish Executive's proposals for the Forestry Commission.

Meeting ended at 9.25pm

Date of Next Meeting

February 10 at 7pm

March 10 at 7pm

April 14 at 7pm