

Present: D Steel (Chair); J Allen; D Carlisle; D Finlay; R Forster; J Jameson; K Kemp; W McKie; J Morton; K Smyth.

1. **Apologies:** P Addison; I Burnie; P Murray Usher.

2. **Minutes 30 July.** Accepted.

3. Matters arising:

- D Steel reported that 8000 copies of the Gatehouse Walks Leaflet are now back from the printers and are being distributed.

- The Gatehouse Brochure has also been reprinted with thanks to the Chamber of Trade for their financial contribution to this.

4. Finance

- Core funding is being applied for - the application needs to be in by the end of October.

- The GDI is now registered for VAT. The first return will be due in October. This is backdated to January 2006 and a substantial refund should be forthcoming, mainly with regard to the Wind Turbine. The Treasurer acknowledged the considerable support received from Rainton in managing the cash flow for this project.

- Funds are in generally good order, mainly due to income generating projects such as the Country Market, the Website, and book sales. The Kiosk project also has a healthy balance of funds. The Treasurer suggested that in view of the GDI's VAT registration it might be easier for the Kiosk to operate as an independent project to avoid being caught up in the VAT returns.

5. CADISPA

No specific report.

6. Current Projects

Cally Designed Landscape. An application has been submitted to Leader+ and the Heritage Lottery Fund for the Cally Boundaries project.

Country Market. Running smoothly.

Economic Development. This is awaiting the outcome of the Community Council's Housing sub-group. Surgeries have been held to gauge local interest/need with the Small Communities Housing Trust. There is some thought that Gatehouse could be used as a pilot in the southwest for the sorts of community housing projects taking place in the Highlands.

Garries Park.

- The *Meadow* is due for its end of season cut.

- The *Noticeboard* requires maintenance on one of the locks. [*Since the meeting this has now been fixed*]

- A meeting was held with the Council's Roads Dept re signage. Tourist Information signs will be updated on the approach to the town, and also the directional signs at the Mill/Car Park. Ownership of the large visitor orientation signs at the Murray Arms and Car Park is being looked into. It is likely the community could take responsibility for updating the content of the boards with an informal arrangement with the Council to assist with heavier/structural issues with the framework. There should be no problem with mounting signs at the entrance to Garries Park.

Port Macadam. Nothing to report.

Stellage Wood. Solway Heritage have money put aside for the tree planting which will be carried out by the NSA volunteers. A route in for a path is still being discussed.

The Kiosk. Deirdre Carlisle gave a report on the progress of the project through the season. £2500 of funding had been secured - £1000 from the Younger Trust, and £500 each from the Community Council and GDI, with a further £500 from the Stewartry Common Good Fund. The result of an application to the Area Committee is being awaited. [*Since the meeting £1800 has been received from the Area Committee*]. Following Easter opening and other ad hoc opening, the Kiosk has been open continuously since the beginning of July with the help of a committed volunteer group. One meeting has been held with the group for feedback, and a further evaluation will be carried out at the end of the season. A commission of 20% is being taken on sales - although Gatehouse businesses have been exempt this season as part of the pilot. The range of crafts and artisan foods has gradually increased. The Carbon Centre has carried out an audit on the building, and Sunny Rathore has carried out a range of tasks to extend the project including starting to compile a comprehensive directory of businesses, services, and organisations and activities in Gatehouse. There is still a perceived problem with community awareness of the Kiosk project which needs addressing. It has been suggested that a large lockable noticeboard

could be fixed to the outside of the building for community information. The issue of business rates will arise due to the Kiosk trading, and sustainability will be an issue with regard to volunteers. The Chairman reported that an approach had been made from a local business interested in renting space in the Kiosk. No decision on this could be taken until future ownership options for the building had been resolved. It is hoped to have a meeting with Visit Scotland in the near future to discuss the Kiosk project. Thanks were expressed to Deirdre for her work and to the volunteers.

Walks. Nothing to report.

Website. Running smoothly. Accommodation listings are proving very successful.

Wind Turbine. Some ongoing issues with voltage causing tripping of the system. The wind has been less than anticipated this year, but overall, income looks to be in line with estimates.

7. Any other business

- John Russell has indicated that he has retired from the GDI and will stand down as a director. The Chairman thanked him for his contribution over the years. Deirdre Carlisle as project manager for the Kiosk agreed to become a director and was appointed, as was Ron Forster both in his capacity as Port Macadam project manager and as a Community Councillor.

- John Morton raised the issue of the motorsport park which has been proposed in a submission to the Scottish Government. It was felt it would be useful to approach the developers to invite them to make a more detailed presentation in Gatehouse, whether via a public meeting, or a display which could be put on public show. It was agreed that the Community Council would be the appropriate community body to handle the matter, with the support of the GDI.

*[The proposal can be downloaded as a pdf document from the Scottish Government website at:
www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/232403/0063826.pdf]*

8. Date of next meeting

26th November, 7.30pm, Community Centre.