

Present: D Steel (Chair); T Cook; W Finlay; R Forster; J Jameson; J Morton; W McKie; K Smyth.

1. **Apologies:** P Addison; I Burnie; H Oxley.

2. **Minutes 28 January.** Accepted.

3. Matters arising:

Carbon Centre. A meeting was held with representatives of the Community and the Crichton Carbon Centre to outline the project and consider possible Gatehouse proposals. Priorities were seen as the Community Centre, the Kiosk project, and the Mill both for its own energy issues and as a hub for the Community project. Domestic green energy was also seen as important. It was again emphasized that the project needs to come from within the community. There will be a further meeting on the 2nd June at the Crichton together with the other communities involved.

4. Finance

Bank balances:

- Main Account £10350
- No.2 Cally Boundaries Account £15717.

Financial report:

- Annual accounts for 2008 in draft form have been delayed due to pressure of work at Bell Ogilvy. It should be possible to circulate these to Directors in June with a view to holding the GDI AGM at the end of July.
- Agreement has been reached with James Finlay & Son on the capital account for the wind turbine. The outstanding balance due by the GDI now stands at £2613 and this should be cleared (subject only to wind turbine performance) by September from the electricity earnings.
- A £1100 grant for Core Funding from Dumfries & Galloway Council has been awarded. This covers less than half of annual core funding expenditure due mainly to higher insurance costs for the wind turbine and the Kiosk. If we are to continue to receive core-funding, GDI project leaders must be careful to ensure visual display and acknowledgment of Council support wherever this is due.
- Following the signing of the occupancy agreement for the Kiosk with Visit Scotland and the transfer of responsibility for insurance, rates and services to the GDI, current funds available for the Kiosk stand at £2000.
- The Gatehouse Web-site fund now stands at £1900 and the Country Markets fund at £700, both now valuable "small business" contributors to GDI funds.
- A grant of £500 has been received from the John Younger Trust to carry out refurbishment of Robbers Gate as a contribution to the Cally Boundaries improvements.
- Funds for Community Centre development remain as yet unspent at £1025.

Agreements:

- The occupancy Agreement for the Kiosk with Visit Scotland runs until March 2010 and the intervening time will enable plans for possible purchase of the property for the benefit of the Community to be progressed.
- Agreements between the GDI and Cream o' Galloway on electricity supply, and with J Finlay & Son on maintenance, rental and administration have been signed.

The Chair thanked Willie and Wilma for their work on finalising the Turbine agreement.

If the accounts can be prepared in time, it is hoped to hold the AGM at the end of July.

5. Current Projects

Cally Designed Landscape. The Walls project is progressing well providing training and volunteering opportunities for those interested. Dumfries and Galloway Life magazine will be publishing an article shortly.

Community Centre. The renovation of the Work Room is now progressing and the majority of the main work will be completed very shortly.

Country Market: Running smoothly.

Economic Development: It is understood an application has been made to the Council's Targeted Fund for the renovation of the Fleetside workshops. The Housing Group is progressing and are preparing proposals on likely sites.

Garries Park: A survey of Garries Wood has now begun and will last for about a year. A survey of the trees by the volunteers group has started.

Port Macadam: The Council have been asked to spray the paths. Knotweed has been sprayed. Funding remains for a further year and a half of this. The meeting agreed to make up the further half year's funding from GDI funds.

Stellage Wood: Money is available to install an information panel on Lauriston Road. It was agreed that this would be very useful. The Mill on the Fleet will endeavor to integrate the various panels being set up into forthcoming trail guides for visitors.

The Kiosk: An application has been submitted to the Council's Targeted Fund to buy the building.

Walks: Nothing to report on the Core Paths project.

Website: Running well. Additional cottages continue to be added to the accommodation page.

Wind Turbine: There has been an ongoing problem with the wind brakes. This has meant the loss of two months of power generation. The problem has been difficult to resolve between local support and the Canadian turbine company. It is likely a small module is at fault. It is hoped that this can be resolved soon.

6. Any other business

Horse Route: This is now being renovated by the Forestry Commission. Some of the wetter sections are being drained and ditches put in where needed.

Snowdrop Festival: It was suggested that Gatehouse should make more of this national festival by enhancing the material available for the visitor. Improved signing or possibly a trail map indicating the best areas could be produced.

Destination Development: A further meeting of this new tourism initiative has taken place. It has been well supported and a small management committee will be formed. An important concept is that it should be as inclusive as possible and would include community groups such as the GDI.

7. Date of next meeting

29 July, 7.30pm, Community Centre.