



Meeting held on March 12th 2019  
in the Community Centre at 7.0 pm

Present: Provost Sue Best (SB), Danny Alderslowe (DA), Peter Cailey (PC), Suzette Harris (SH), Helen Keating (HK), Jack Pickthall (JP), Fiona Power (FP), David Richmond (DR), Nigel Scott (NS), Francois van der Zee (FZ), Councillor Jane Maitland (JM), PC Alison Blacklock.

- 1. Police Report:** (i) PC Blacklock reported that there will be a Drop-in session at Kirkcudbright Police Station on April 1st at 1 pm. (ii) There is Police concern over increasing scams and frauds so a notice will be put on the CC notice board to warn residents of the problems. There are still yellow cards available in the Post Office with details on how to avoid being caught. (iii) JP reported that he had received a scam letter, purporting to come from Royal Mail, demanding money to receive an undelivered parcel. (iv) DA reported concerns about potentially dangerous items being left in the public toilets. He also appreciated that, with increased police help, there have been fewer problems with visiting youngsters at the Drop-in centre.
- 2. D&G Council report:** (i) JM reported that the Budget for next year has been approved. (ii) There are to be new national licensing regulations for caravan parks. (iii) Members have received notice of the overhaul of the CCES system of contacting D&G Council. Concerns have been expressed in the past about the slowness or lack of replies to queries. SB will report to D&G Council. (iv) DA expressed concern about the lack of clarity in instructions about applying for grants. (v) Members expressed their great concern at D&G Council's proposed removal of a nursery class qualified teacher at the school, to be replaced with a non-teaching manager. (vi) JM informed members that details of the new recycling waste plans (now that Shanks are no longer involved) will be published in July. There will also be a report on plans for post Brexit. (vii) NS deplored the erection by D&G Council of an obviously expensive (and possibly unnecessary) notice on the road up to the station. JM will pass on the comment.
- 3. Minutes of the previous meeting:** with the amendment to AOCB (i) that it should read niece instead of daughter and Gatehouse website instead of Facebook page, the acceptance of the minutes was proposed by SH, seconded by FZ.
- 4. Matters rising:** (i) A reply is still awaited from Scottish Water about a possible re-connection to the water supply at the Clock Tower. (ii) The dog bin has been replaced at the end of Ladies Walk. Concerns were raised over the number of filled dog bags being left on road sides and in bushes instead of being put in any rubbish bin. (iii) The double parking on the zigzag lines at the zebra crossing is still causing concerns. **Residents are reminded about the potential substantial fines that could be incurred.** (iv) The town survey has now been delivered and boxes available to collect them by the end of March. (v) The GDI will be notified re concerns at the late publication of Gatehouse News.
- 5. Provost's report:** (i) Councillor Dougie Campbell is following up the concerns for dedicated parking outside the Post Office at certain times. (ii) SB has been informed that there will be a third defibrillator for the town, to be put in the porch of the Community Centre and the CC has agreed to help with the maintenance of batteries and pads for all three machines, at a cost of £600 over four years. (iii) A letter has been received about a proposed trail-running event to be held in bluebell time through Cally Woods, (with the permission of the Forestry and other affected

parties), possibly on May 12<sup>th</sup>. The CC will support this and make available the use of Garries Park for toilets and changing rooms.

**6. Dean of Guild:** FP reported that the following applications have been granted: (i) the installation of a flue at 6, Bakers Dozen, the erection of an extension at Laundry Cottage, Cally, and the erection of two dwellinghouses at 6-8 Roseberry Terrace (conditionally). (ii) New applications include (i) the siting of 8 holiday cabins at Laggan, (ii) alterations including installation of replacement doors and window at 10, Garden Street, (iii) change of use of Bank House ground floor to community facility/sales area and storage, (iv) siting of 3 static caravans and 5 lodges at Mossyard Caravan Park and (v) erection of an extension to the south-east elevation of the reception building at Sandgreen Caravan Park. Ongoing is the change of use from shop/tea room to shop/cafe with associated hot food takeaway at the Rutherford Hall. More detailed plans are requested; these mention that they hope eventually to install a chip fryer.

**7. Treasurer's report:** The Admin account still stands at £373 and the Common Good Fund at £398.

**8. Stewartry Community Council Network:** FP reported on the meeting of the group that has been set up to enable local community councils to have mutual contact and to discuss common problems. SCVS will be responsible for organising meetings and providing secretarial services, under the SCCN Chairman John Enos and we are asked to contribute £25 p.a. towards the costs. In return when our representatives have attended at least two of the four meetings a year there will be £100 available to be claimed from D&G Council. Concerns to be passed on from the meeting included the state of the roads in the area, recycling of waste and kerbside and household collections, Broadband, mobile phone and radio difficulties. The revised Scheme of Establishment was discussed briefly and Tongland and Ringford notified their refusal to accept it.

We were also asked to pass on whatever successes each Community Council has achieved over the years and our suggested events include the re-siting of the proposed Smart Meter mast, organising the Hogmanay celebrations and Citizen of the Year award, the maintenance of the Town Hall garden, the planting of the RAF memorial flower bed, the maintenance of the Meals on Wheels service, the moving of the Murray Centre shed to the grounds of the Mill on the Fleet, support for the Gatehouse Lights Fund and the restoration of the Rutherford Monument, and the paying for the Forest School's staff first-aid training.

**9. Clock Tower water:** SH reported on the continuing investigation into the possibility of restoring the water fountain at the Clock Tower. SB has contacted Scottish Water about the reconnection of supply and awaits their response. The SW community officer, Scott Fraser has indicated that SW would be involved in testing the water supply but has no funds to help with the restoration. Funding will have to be sought elsewhere.

**6. AOCB:** (i) FZ reported that Twynholm Post Office is to close, to be replaced with a mobile unit. (ii) NS reported that Robert Dodds has expressed interest in joining the Community Council. His co-option was agreed and will be proposed and confirmed at the next CC meeting. (iii) DR drew attention to the letter from Borgue Community Council requesting support for the proposed circular bus circuit to be run on Saturdays and Sundays from May to September, for which confirmation of our support will be sent to Borgue CC. (iv) HK reported on the ongoing problem of the state of the trees in Garries Park and, following a specialist's preparatory report, the intention of D&G Council to begin work in the autumn. Funding for a complete survey of the trees will be sought by the D&G Council department concerned. The CC also approved in principle the Common Good grant of £250 for the Big Lit weekend, to be provided out of next financial year's grant.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

Next meetings: April 9<sup>th</sup>, May 14<sup>th</sup>, June 11<sup>th</sup>, July 9<sup>th</sup>

