



## Minutes of the Community Council Meeting held on 10 December 2019 at 7pm

**1 Attendees: Councillors:** David Richmond (Chair), Peter Cailey (PC), Robert Dodds (RD), Suzette Harris (SH), Helen Keating (HK), Jack Pickthall (JP), Fiona Power (FP), Francois Van der Zee (FZ), Councillor Dougie Campbell (DC) Minutes Secretary: Susan Miller (SM)

**Apologies: none. Not present:** Danny Alderslowe, Ruaridh Hesketh

**2 Police Report:** No police presence.

**3 Public Forum:** No members of the public were present.

**4 Dumfries and Galloway Report:** DC reported as follows:(a) no up-date on the 2020/21 budget process because of the election. (b) The Communities Committee has agreed to refresh the Active Travel Strategy to support local initiatives such as cycling and bus travel. There would be an event in Dumfries in which he hoped Wheels of Fleet would be involved. (c) a new £300k Coastal Communities Fund had been approved with funding from Crown Estates to support projects specifically linked to mitigating the climate emergency; more information would be available in 2020. (d) The D&G vehicle fleet would transition to electric as part of the ongoing replacement programme; the introduction of the new recycling arrangements in Autumn 2020 would include 2 electric recycling trucks sponsored by SPEN, (e) All decision making would include consideration of the climate emergency impact. There was some discussion about electric charging arrangements, in particular whether D&G charging points would be available to the public. DC advised that work was ongoing, with funding from the Scottish Government, for a wider roll out across the country. The point was made that the Active Travel Strategy depended on D&G providing the services/infrastructure in terms of improved bus services and walking and cycling routes.

There was some discussion about the variability of recycling arrangements which resulted in reducing the volume of items sent for recycling. DC said that the new kerbside recycling arrangements, together with the Scottish Government's bottle deposit and return scheme, should achieve a significant reduction in waste sent to landfill.

**5 Minutes of meeting on 12 November 2019:** Approved, proposed by FP, seconded by FZ.

**6 Matters Arising:** (1) DR and HK advised that they had provided comments on the D&G 2020/2021 budget. DR said that he had done so as a private citizen, not on behalf of the CC. There was no formal CC response. (2) DR reported that the wheelie bin missing from the Cally Drive had been stolen and discussions are ongoing about a replacement. (3) HK reported that the Meals on Wheels volunteers had been advised that it was unlikely that they would be covered under the Council's insurance scheme. There was some discussion about whether or not some of the recipients might prefer to have a meal at the school and it was agreed that HK would raise this with the Headteacher (and the Meals on Wheels organiser) and FZ would discuss with one of the beneficiaries to determine if the proposal was feasible/attractive. (4) HK advised that she had heard nothing further about the garage site. (5) HK reported that arrangements had been made with the school to plant the flower tubs with daffodils. There is now someone at the school in charge of gardening and there will be further discussion about ongoing arrangements. (6) HK advised that the closing date for nominations for Citizen of the Year has been extended and the result would be available on December 23<sup>rd</sup>. There was some discussion about the process used this year which differed from that successfully introduced in 2018. It was agreed that the initiative should be reviewed in 2020 to begin the process in October 2020. (7) FP asked about the whereabouts of the smiley speed sign; it was noted that it is

used across the whole county. (8) DC has contacted Sustrans who are already aware of the Bike Conference planned for February 2020 in Gatehouse.

**7 Correspondence:** (1) HK reported that D&G had confirmed that the request for the 30 mph sign on the approach road from Cardoness Castle has been turned down as not meeting the required criteria.

There was some discussion about the traffic management arrangements in Dromore Road which were considered to be largely ineffective. A number of suggestions were made including rumble strips, a life-size model police officer, a life-size model of a child in a high-viz jacket carrying a 'slow down' sign and, in particular, enforcement action. DC said he would raise the need for enforcement action with D&G.

**8 Planning Applications:** FP reported as follows: planning permission had been granted unconditionally for a raised veranda to the north-west elevation of Cairnsview, Laurieston Road,, unconditionally for alterations and erection of extension to rear elevation at Mile End, Woodside Terrace, conditionally for erection of dwelling house and formation of access at Plot 2, Memory Lane. A planning application has been received for the installation of 2 replacement timber doors on the front elevation of 12-14 High Street.

**9 Treasurer's Report:** PC presented the end of year accounts in which the Admin account stood at £329,55 and the Common Good Fund (CGF) at £119.25. As agreed at the November meeting DR would publicise the CGF and its uses and encourage donations in Gatehouse [News.

**10 National Park:** DR reported that Parton Community Council had contacted all CCs with a request that they consider the proposals for a National Park. DC explained that a National Park would involve significant funding for the region to provide the necessary infrastructure and would introduce a further level of bureaucracy in the form of a board made up of councillors and local community representatives. He said the focus was more on preservation and tourism rather than growing sustainable communities through jobs and affordable accommodation. The Scottish Government would ultimately make the decision in the light of extensive research and public consultation. After wide-ranging discussion of the advantages and disadvantages, DR said that he would draft a letter for consideration by all members of the Council to the effect that, whilst there was not unanimous support for the proposal, on the whole the CC was broadly in support subject to fuller information as part of the public consultation.

**11 AOCB:** (1) DR raised the recent scam email sent to members of the CC and reminded everyone that emails should be sent bcc and he would request D&G Council to do the same. (2) HK congratulated FZ and Stephanie on the action they took to deal with an incident at Gatehouse Store involving someone trying to change fake Irish £50 notes for Euros. Thanks to their quick thinking the suspect was caught by the police in the Newton Stewart area. (3) FZ reported on the DGI AGM as follows: (i) the transition to SCIO status was now complete and the new constitution would be available soon; the new status would make the process of applying for grant funding easier. (ii) All funding is now in place for the play park. (iii) Christmas lights would be installed in the Town Hall garden. (iv) the liaison between the CC and the DGI through shared membership was welcomed. (4) SH congratulated the Christmas Lights Committee on their work and said that it was planned that the function would be subsumed by the Gala Committee. (5) SH reported on the Community Centre AGM: (i) the Centre is planning to become a SCIO. (ii) the Centre had thanked the CC for the funding for the chairs. (6) DR said that the big wheel at the Mill had been floodlit and working at the Christmas Fair and thanked the organizers. Finally he wished all members of the CC and everyone in Gatehouse a Happy Christmas and New Year.

The meeting ended at 8.30 pm

Next meetings: 14 January 11 February, 10 March, 14<sup>th</sup> April