



## Community Council (CC) Minutes

### Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday October 14th 2014 Following the AGM in Gatehouse Community Centre

Present: Sue Best (SB), Ron Forster (RF) Cecilia Franklin (CF), Paula Hamilton (PH), Helen Keating (HK), Alan Lowden (AL) Gerard Macnamara (GM), Councillor Patsy Gilroy (PG)

In attendance: Alison Veitch, Michael Ashmore, Suzette Harris, David and Alison Steel, Trish Lewis (Galloway news)

Absent: Mike Edwards, Mick Fairnie

1. **Apologies** were received from Stephen Hodgson (together with his resignation from the Council as his work now takes him too far away), PC Brown, Kathleen Hamblin and Councillors Jane Maitland and Colin Wyper.
2. **Garries Wood Presentation:** the representative was unable to attend.
3. **Police report:** There was no police report.
4. **Public Forum:** (i) Michael Ashmore asked what the state of play was over the garage site. He had written to Peter Kaye, the owner, who replied, via his solicitor, that the owner was now Energysunny (the shares of which are entirely owned by Mr Kaye and his wife.) He suggested that the site had been illegally walled off using some of the public footpath and in front of D&G Council's road signs, which had now been cut off and set in front of the fence in two buckets of concrete. The owner has planning permission for houses with several conditions to be met before final permission is given. Mr Ashmore asked if D&G Council could put pressure on the owner to clear or at least tidy up the site. Councillor Gilroy agreed to investigate. It was also suggested that the Council's Conservation Officer might be involved since the site is within the town's Conservation area. PG also suggested that the CC might send a letter of complaint about the delay in resolving the situation to Robert Duncan and the planning officer.  
(ii) David Steel thanked RF for notifying the CC of the DGI's nomination for the Scottish Rural Parliament Rural Innovator Award and expressed the hope that everyone would cast their vote for them by Friday next.
5. The **Minutes of the previous Meeting** were signed as correct, proposed by AL and seconded by SB.
6. **Matters arising:** (i) Kris Dickie has been sent a list of possible funding sources for the children's play area and a proposed meeting with RF had been cancelled by Mr Dickie and nothing further arranged.  
(ii) Recycling event: the support for this was rather disappointing but it was agreed that we should try again, with events held twice a year, next March and August. It was suggested that perhaps Bogue and Twynholm should be invited to join us in the event, with advertising on Facebook and further afield than the Stewartry.
7. **GDI Report:** (i) Repair of the Temple is progressing, with the pointing to be finished by the end of October.  
(ii) Volunteers have been spraying Japanese Knotweed with D&G Council men and the Fisheries Trust.

- (iii) The town pond: the swans are back and are eating the weed but a contractor has been contacted with a view to removing the silt; his proposals and estimates are awaited.
- (iv) The GDI has had an annual meeting to discuss further plans.
- (v) RF also attended the public meeting about red squirrels at which volunteers are asked to monitor them.

- 8. Dumfries and Galloway Council report:** (i) Councillor Gilroy reminded members of the meeting on November 18<sup>th</sup>, to which KH and RF have agreed to go.
- (ii) She also reminded members that the Kirkcudbright bridge will be temporarily closed – with the **changed dates of between November 3rd and 14<sup>th</sup>**.
- (iii) Budgets for D&G Council will have to be cut back severely over the next three or so years, by £32.75 million. These will be discussed at the next D&G Council meeting.
- 9 Provost's Report:** (i) The Local Government and Regeneration Committee will have a public meeting on October 27<sup>th</sup> at the Easterbrook Hall, 12.30 till 2 pm. No-one volunteered to attend but SB will try to find someone to represent us.
- (ii) 'Funding News' has been received with suggestions of the availability of several sources of financial support.
- (iii) Citizen of the Year: it was agreed that voting papers and boxes should go out at the beginning of November, with the result known by the December CC Meeting. The winner should then be asked how or when they would like to receive the Quaich.
- (iv) The question of a granite sign with the town's name on it on the rockery at the entrance to the town (both ends being requested by AL) was revived and ideas are requested for the next meeting.
- (v) Notice for applications for young people to be nominated for the Scottish Youth Parliament has been received and will be passed on to the Drop-in Centre.
- 10. Dean of Guild's report:** (i) Application has been lodged for the renewal of the lapsed permission for two houses in Roseberry Terrace.
- (ii) Cardoness Estate has applied to rebuild the building at the rear of the estate office (no objection).
- 11. Treasurer's Report:** The accounts stand as at last month.
- 12. Community Response Team:** no further news – awaiting further information.
- 13. AOCB:** (i) CF expressed concern that Gatehouse might become less tidy now that our street cleaner is only allowed here one day a week. It was suggested that householders should be encouraged to keep the pavement in front of their properties free from weeds and litter.
- (ii) The suggestion that there should be a survey among residents of what they would like of the CC should be revived and SB offered to draw up a possible form.
- (iii) SB reminded members of the email she had sent round concerning attendance at meetings, as now required under the revised constitution adopted by D&G Council on 24<sup>th</sup> June 24<sup>th</sup> June 2014. Under these regulations it was unanimously agreed that Mick Fairnie no longer qualifies as a member of the CC.
- Members of the Council were asked to support the Remembrance Day parade on November 9<sup>th</sup>, at which the Provost will lay a wreath.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.00 pm.

Next meeting: Tuesday December 9th at 7 pm