



Community Council (CC) Minutes

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday September 9th 2014 In Gatehouse Community Centre

Present: Sue Best (SB), Mike Edwards (ME), Mick Fairnie (MF), Ron Forster (RF) Cecilia Franklin (CF), Paula Hamilton (PH), Kathleen Hamblin (KH), Helen Keating (HK), Alan Lowden (AL) Gerard Macnamara (GM), Councillor Colin Wyper (CW)

In attendance: PC John Brown. Alison Veitch, Thomas McKie and Kris Dickie.

1. **Apologies** were received from Stephen Hodgson and Councillor Jane Maitland.
2. Following the resignation of Pat Jacques as Provost the meeting was chaired by Sue Best.
3. **Police report:** PC Brown reported four offences: an air gun shooting, an assault, a careless driving report and an offence under the children and young peoples act.
4. **Dumfries and Galloway Council report:** following the August recess Councillor Wyper said there was nothing special to report. Kris Dickie produced designs suggested by the local children for play equipment for the Riverbank play area, which area apparently does not belong to D&G council but the maintenance of which they would be prepared to take over. SB suggested that the local residents should ask the GDI for assistance in obtaining grants, and mentioned the Hollywood Trust as being a possible source of help. CW will follow up the matter. GM also asked CW who was responsible for the maintenance of the town clock which is need of attention. As far as Garries Park tree maintenance is concerned we understand that two representatives of D&G Council will be coming to our next Community Council meeting on October 14th to talk about it.
5. The **Minutes of the previous Meeting** were signed as correct, proposed by RF and seconded by CL.
6. **Matters arising:** (i) Two new boards have been obtained to renew the notice board on the clock tower and will be installed soon by David Proudlock.
(ii) The question of banking hours has been raised by a member of the community. PH explained that it was true that a cheque put in the night safe on a Thursday evening would not be processed until Tuesday and cleared the following Monday, She explained, however, that an 'in-house' cheque under £1,000 would be dealt with on the Tuesday morning and cleared that day. It was generally felt that we are fortunate still to have a bank, with the advent of telephone and on-line banking.
7. **GDI Report:** (i) Repair of the Temple has begun with the estimated time scale of two months.
(ii) Volunteers have removed branches from the dyke at Deer Park, tidied up branches from a fallen tree at the entrance to Garries Park, and sprayed Japanese Knotweed along the river bank (having had training by the Fisheries Trust.) They have assisted in a geophysical survey by Glasgow University of the field by the cemetery, the report of which will be published in due course. They have also erected the shed purchased for the Fun Outdoors group (in a secret location!)
(iii) The condition of the town pond needs attention and the GDI is discussing it with the owner.
(iv) Community Response Team: progress has been slow for various reasons. New information has been received from D&G Council, that the school will be the official rest centre in case of emergency. There will also be mobile food wagons available in some circumstances or special arrangements made with local establishments to provide such services. Clarification is awaited on certain points.

8. **Provost's Report:** there was no Provost's report this month but a letter of concern by the British Legion about the state of the garage site as a background to the War Memorial services to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the beginning of World War 1 was read out.
9. **Dean of Guild's report:** (i) One application to add a porch and two roomed extension to a house in Laurieston Road, and an application for variation of premises licence at Auchenlarie received no objections.
10. **Treasurer's Report:** The accounts stand as at last month.
11. **Keys to Garries Park:** ME has installed the replacement padlock at the entrance from Ann Street and keys will be delivered to the Gala Committee, the Football Committee, to Kirkcudbright police station, two to D&G Council and one to the Murray Arms in case of emergency. The gate will be locked in future from October 1st.
12. **Recycling Event on September 20th:** members were asked to help at this and encourage residents to take part.
13. **AOCB :** (i) CF proposes to ask the GDI at their next meeting if they could set up a scheme to encourage young people (18 – 25) to help with various jobs in the town, whether helping with items for the Gatehouse News or other appropriate tasks, possibly with some payment involved, on which the GDI will have to take appropriate advice.
(ii) The next meeting will be our AGM, at which officers stand down and are re-elected but the rest of the Council stands until the elections in October 2015. The question of a replacement Provost produced no keen volunteer so members are asked to think about it before the next meeting.
SB will draft a letter of thanks to Pat Jacques which will be signed at the next meeting. She was thanked for her excellent chairing of the meeting.
There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

Next meeting: Tuesday October 14th at 7 pm