



**Community Council (CC) Minutes**

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday, January 14th 2014  
In Gatehouse Community Centre

- Present:** Pat Jacques (PJ) Provost, Ron Forster (RF), Paula Hamilton (PH), Stephen Hodgson (SH), Alan Lowden (AL), Helen Keating (HK), Gerrard Macnamara (GM).  
In attendance: PC Steele Johnston  
Member of the public: Kathleen Hamblin  
Apologies were received from Sue Best and Mike Edwards.  
Absent: Cecilia Franklin and Mick Fairnie.
- New members** of the Community Council were approved:  
Helen Keating (proposed AL seconded RF) as Minute secretary  
Paula Hamilton (proposed AL seconded PJ) as Treasurer  
Stephen Hodgson (proposed RF seconded AL)  
Gerard McNamara (proposed PJ seconded AL)
- Police report:** Pc Johnson reported 3 events since the last meeting: 1 theft of BT cable at Rusko, 1 vandalism (smashed window in house in Digby Street), 2 domestic disorders, and 1 ant-social behaviour (2 young men swearing and kicking things in the High Street.)  
He also reported that there will be having a new Inspector Stewart Davidson in February based at Castle Douglas and a new Sergeant Karen Bain at Kirkcudbright.  
The text messaging system installed is an effective way of rapidly communicating with local communities (shops, banks, councillors etc.)  
AL asked about the legality of cars parking on the road lugs at junctions. PC Johnston will investigate.
- Minutes of the previous meeting**, 10th December 2013:  
Amendment to no 5: Jane Vermeersch was approached instead of Jane Maitland  
The adoption of the Minutes was proposed by SH and seconded by AL
- Matters arising:** The Provost asked that any communications sent personally by members of the CC should not be sent as representing the views of the CC unless discussed at a CC meeting and the Provost informed. Any comments on minutes should be circulated to all CC members.

At this point Councillor Jane Maitland (JM) and Dawn McIntyre (DM) arrived.

**6. Public Forum:**

DM was invited to report on the Gatehouse School PTA meeting they had both just attended. She said that the parents are concerned about proposed plans by D&G Council to install the Nursery Class in the room at present used by P1/2 (installing the necessary toilet facilities) and putting P1/2 in a room upstairs. The question of the young children's safety going up and down the stairs was questioned, especially for children with special needs who would have to go down to the toilets on their own. The parents have asked for the support and advice of the CC.

It was suggested that a letter should be sent to D&G Council outlining the parents' concerns, asking for options, costings and arrangements, with particular reference to Health and Safety and any statutory requirements for the safety of and provisions for young children.

**7. Dumfries and Galloway Report:**

JM reported that it is hoped that the road signs ('Unsuitable for HGVs') for Station Road requested by the CC would be installed in the New Year. The road south of the station cannot be excluded because of timber felling access but in the event of a diversion, such as happened when the A75 was blocked, the signs should be placed at a position where HGVs could turn round as the Station to Creetown road is an 'excluded route'.

She reported that this year's Council budget should go through but next year's will be very difficult.

She understood that Gatehouse of Fleet will not receive its new refuse bins until 2015.

RF asked why a Rural Parliament had been suggested but JM had no information.

GM asked about the provision of salt bins. JM will send a copy of the necessary application form to HK and she will send it out to all members with the minutes.

**8. GDI Report:**

RF reported that £27,000 has so far been raised towards the cost of £78,000 to restore the Temple in the Cally Woods.

He awaits developments concerning the fallen trees in Carries Park and at Port Macadam, having had a meeting with a Council representative. He has requested the presence of a Ranger so that volunteer help can be used. The GDI is to have a meeting in March with Simon Fieldhouse concerning the woodlands policy.

**9. Provost's Report:**

Communications received: re Rural Parliament, Road signs for Gatehouse Station Road, Stewartry Area Meeting, a poster from Relationships Scotland which will be put in the CC notice board.

She reported that she had finally received the Discretionary Grants for both 2012/13 and 2013/14.

She has had a letter about Community Resilience plans, which are for plans in case of adversity in the town. Pat Riley has offered to come to a CC meeting to talk about this.

Details of a Planning Energy Forum in Edinburgh have been received and expenses are available for any member wishing to attend.

Along with other CC representatives she has been invited to meet Inspector Clare Walker at Castle Douglas police station.

On Wednesday January 29<sup>th</sup> she will attend the Community Council Forum. Originally formed to discuss a wind-farm application, it has been decided to keep it going as a means of mutual support and communication between local Community Councils.

We are now in a position to pay the GDI half the cost of the notice board and £200 towards the Pict Project (Trusty's Hill), about which RF gave a brief report on this very important site.

She reminded that comments on the 4<sup>th</sup> Periodic Revue and Scheme of Establishment are due in by February 7<sup>th</sup>.

10. **Planning applications:** in the absence of the Dean of Guild we have no reports.
11. Paula Hamilton was welcomed as treasurer of the CC. Only any change of finances need be reported.
12. **AOCB:**

HK suggested that the CC might organize a 'Recycling Session' in a suitable place – a time when townspeople could bring unwanted household items (not clothes or bedding) to which anyone could help themselves, instead of taking perfectly good unwanted items to the Council tip. She suggested that members might like to canvass opinion before the next meeting.

JM suggested that the CC should apply soon for the next year's grant as a misleading notice from D&G Council has led to a very poor application so far.

The Meeting closed at 8.50 pm.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday February 11<sup>th</sup>.