



Meeting held on Zoom on 9 February 2021 at 7 30pm

Attendees

Councillors: David Richmond (DR) (Chair), Peter Cailey (PC), Robert Dodds (RD), Jonathan Henderson (JH), Helen Keating (HK), Fiona Power (FP), Nigel Scott (NS), Francois Van der Zee (FZ), Cllr Jane Maitland (JM)

In attendance: Ron Forster (RM) **Minutes Secretary:** Susan Miller (SM) **Apologies:** PC J Brown (JB)

1. Conflicts of Interest

DR reminded members to be mindful of any potential conflicts of interest and to declare them if necessary.

2 Public Forum (Agenda item 2)

2.1 **HK** had been contacted by a resident concerned about the installation of pylons in the area of the Laurieston Road. After discussion it was agreed that **HK** would draft a response to SPEN setting out the Council's concerns and advise the resident of the arrangements for responding to the SPEN consultation.

3. Police Report (Agenda item 3)

3.1 Following discussion of JB's written report:

- a) it was agreed that **HK** would complete the survey on Body Worn Video;
- b) Residents are urged to be very cautious to avoid financial scams and are advised that appointments for Covid vaccinations would only be made by letter or telephone, never by email. Nor would money be requested for such vaccinations;

DR would arrange for information on such scams (<https://takefive-stopfraud.org.uk>) to be posted on the Council's website and Facebook pages

3.2 **DR** said that he had been contacted by a local resident regarding a safety issue arising from a local pheasant shoot. He understood the incident had been reported to the Police and, given the safety issues arising from it, the CC would be grateful to hear of any advice from Police Scotland to prevent such occurrences in future.

4. Dumfries and Galloway Report (Agenda item 4)

4.1 JM reported that:

- a) D and G Council fully supported the Galloway Gravel Biking event. They would provide funding of £20k;
- b) A £30k fund for local community events was available;
- c) Priorities and funding for road issues were still under consideration;
- d) The new waste/recycling arrangements would roll-out in the Stewartry from March 2021

4.2 DR queried the arrangements for winter support, in particular pavement gritting. After discussion it was agreed that **HK** would provide contact details to DR to follow up.

5 Minutes of meeting on 12 January 2021 (Agenda item 5)

5.1 The minutes of the meeting on 12 January were agreed. Approval was proposed by FZ and seconded by PC.

6 Matters Arising (Agenda item 6)

6.1 DR asked for a report back from the Galloway Gravel Biking Sub-Committee (GGBSC). JH/RD said that initial discussions had taken place around accommodation, parking, transport, the need for permissions and ongoing liaison with e.g. D and G Council and Forestry Land Scotland (FLS). Local event organisers had been appointed which should assist in the overall logistics. **DR** said he would raise the event at the GDI meeting with FLS on 10 February.

6.2 No local reaction to the event had been noted and DR asked **HK** to add a standing agenda item in future to allow a monthly report back from GGBSC.

7 Chair's report and Correspondence (Agenda item 7)

7.1 DR reported that

- a) the flooding problem at Lauriston Road had been dealt with;
- b) Galloway Community Transport had offered to assist individuals to get to vaccination appointments but he was not aware of uptake numbers;
- c) the number of cases of Covid 19 within the region was reducing;

- d) he had spoken with JB regarding the incident of graffiti mentioned last month;
- e) charges had been brought in regard to the Town Hall Garden damage with the outcome that those responsible had agreed to pay for the repairs.

8 Planning Applications (Agenda item 8)

8.1 FP reported as follows:

There had been two decisions made since the last meeting:

- a) permission had been granted conditionally for alterations and an extension to a domestic outbuilding to form a residential annexe and installation of solar panels at Marchfield, 14 Garden Street, Gatehouse of Fleet;
- b) no objections were raised to the reduction in height of an oak tree at Mosslade, Ann Street, Gatehouse. There were seven new planning applications, for:
 - a) the erection of an extension to the south-east elevation of Stables Cottage, Ann Street, Gatehouse;
 - b) the construction of an earth-banked silage pit with an underground silage effluent storage tank and the formation of a hard-standing working apron at Mossyard Farm, Gatehouse Of Fleet;
 - c) demolition of the function room at the Murray Arms Hotel, Ann Street, Gatehouse;
 - d) the installation of a retractable canopy at 50 High Street, Gatehouse;
 - e) the erection of two dwelling houses at Bardristane Farm, Gatehouse;
 - f) change of use, alterations and an extension to an agricultural building to form a dwelling house and the erection of a workshop at Syllodioch Barn, Rainton, Gatehouse; and
 - g) partial demolition of the existing walk-in fridge/store and the erection of an extension to the fridge/store, including the erection of four additional storage buildings at the Masonic Arms, Ann Street, Gatehouse.

9 Treasurer's Report (Agenda item 9)

9.1 PC reported that the Admin Account stood at £575 and the Common Good Fund at £324 but that the further Covid19 resilience funding had not yet been received. **PC** said he would follow this up.

10 Cardoness Lights (Agenda item 10)

10.1 DR said that a quote in the region £2,500 inc VAT had been received From Machars Ecology for the bat survey required by Historic Environment Scotland (HES). A discussion followed looking at possible expansion of the lights project e.g. tying the installation of the lights into the Galloway Gravel event and/or expanding the scope of the project to encompass improved walking/cycling routes should be explored. **JH** said he would raise the issue with Golazo and **DR** said he would raise the wider project with the GDI. In the meantime, he would contact with the ecologist to let the company know what stage we were at.

10.2 DR and JH would discuss comments received on the draft legal agreements with HES.

11 Memorial Tree (Agenda item 11)

11.1 **NS** said he would liaise with FLS regarding planting the 3 replacement cherry trees and the memorial silver birch.

12 Cally Woods Management (Agenda Item 12)

12.1 DR reported that he would be attending the meeting on 10 February. A number of improvements were proposed including new signposts.

13 AOCB (Agenda item 12)

13.1 It was agreed not to pursue the Incredible Edible initiative further at this stage;

13.2 DR had responded to the NHS local strategic plan in a personal capacity.

13.3 In respect of CCES requests DR reported that

- a) a pothole at Cally Avenue had been reported
- b) the zebra crossing light had not yet been repaired
- c) he had raised the possible use of the solar supply at the kiosk to power a motion sensor floodlight at the recycling area in the car park;
- d) he had sent a reminder regarding the water leak at the garage site.

13.4 DR said that the war memorial would be 100 years old in August 2021 and he was liaising with the Gala Committee as to a suitable commemorative event

13.5 DR said that because of difficulties in attending online meetings JP had been granted leave of absence in accordance with the Scheme of Establishment until such time as normal meeting arrangements resumed. There were no objections.

13.6 Potholes and dog fouling were raised as serious concerns. **DR** said he would liaise with the CSOs via CCES to explore options for dealing with dog fouling.

13.7 **FP** said she would a fallen tree in Memory Lane to CCES.

The meeting ended at 9 20 pm

Next meetings: 9 March, 13 April, 11 May