



## Community Council (CC) Minutes

### Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday December 9th 2014

Present: Sue Best (SB), Mike Edwards (ME), Ron Forster (RF) Kathleen Hamblin (KH), Helen Keating (HK), Alan Lowden (AL) , Councillor Colin Wyper (CW), Alison Veitch (AV)

PCs Hawker and Drysdale

In attendance: John McFarlane, Fiona and Ruari Hesketh. .

Absent Cecilia Franklin

1. **Apologies** were received from Gerard Macnamara.
2. **Police report:** PC Hawker reported only two local breaches of the peace in the town. PC Drysdale reported opportune thefts of tools from vans etc and golf clubs from sheds in rural parts of the Stewartry and mentioned the problems of 16<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> birthday parties in Village Halls where there is no adult supervision.
3. The **Minutes of the previous Meeting** were signed as correct, proposed by AL and seconded by AV.
4. **Matters arising:** ME reported on the problem of traffic round the Cape Road. Various solutions have been suggested, in consultation with the residents and interested parties and it was agreed that a site meeting should be sought with John How, the tenant farmer and the farm owner.  
It was reported that D&G Council have today prepared new posts for the road signs previously put temporarily in buckets of cement by the site owner. The Provost will pursue the question of signage to the Health Centre.
5. **GDI Report:** (i) Repairs of the Temple have been completed and the scaffolding will be removed in the New Year.  
(ii) The town pond: two contractors have agreed to provide a budget price to remove the silt and some of the scrubby trees at the north end. The Council has tried to clear the obstruction under the road, with partial success. The problem will be addressed in next year's Council budget, once the water level has dropped and the full length of the pipes can be surveyed.  
(iii) The Bird Cage (the Dovecot) roof is completed. .  
(iv) Roads – Winter Service Preparation: RF attended a briefing with council officials to hear of the arrangements for the management over the winter period, with the emphasis on keeping them clear of snow and ice. Experiments are under way using a mixture of molasses and salt which tends to stick to the road surface rather than the usual salt mixture. There is also a brine which is sprayed onto the road but only on the A75. Comprehensive cover of winter arrangements may be seen at [dumgal winterserviceoperationsplan](#).  
(v) KH and RF attended a training event to hear about data protection, the Amended Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils and the Proposed Network of Community Councils in the Stewartry. A meeting for the latter is proposed for some time next year. The website [communitycouncils.org.uk](http://communitycouncils.org.uk) is recommended.  
(vi) Volunteers have removed fallen leaves from paths in the Cally Woods and attended a stone walling and lime pointing training exercise at the water tank in the Cally Woods.
6. **Dumfries and Galloway Council report:** (i) Councillor Wyper congratulated the town on its cheerful lights. He also reported on the work done by the Community Payback workers and

recommended the new website [www.dumgal/lia](http://www.dumgal/lia) which is a large resource of images of Dumfries and Galloway.

- 7. Provost's Report:** (i) She is still waiting for the report of the consultation about Garries Wood.  
(ii) Mike Ashmore had written to D&G Council Planning Department after an unsatisfactory response to his letter about the garage site from the owner but has had as yet no reply from the Council. CW will follow this up.  
(iii) The Biosphere Group has a new Chairman, Dr Joan Mitchell and a new logo. Nick Coomby has offered to give a presentation to the CC.

**8. Dean of Guild's report:** in the absence of GM it was reported that an application for further building has been lodged by Littleton farm.

**9. Treasurer's Report:** The accounts stand as at last month. Details of last year's Common Good donations have been sent to D&G Council

**10. Community Council Forum:** ME reported that the decision about Knockendurroch wind farm has been delayed until next May while SNH and RSPB approval is sought.

**11. Community Response Team:** nothing to report.

**12. Community Survey:** the Provost thanked members for their comments and she has prepared the survey to be delivered with the Gatehouse News.

**13. Citizen of the Year:** the Provost will count the votes and notify members of the winner and the time of presentation of the Quaich if the winner wishes it to be other than at Hogmanay at the clock tower.

**14:** Ecotricity has sent an invitation to discuss the California Wind Park development at Stroans Hill. The Provost will respond.

- 15: AOCB:** (i) the Provost will email those members who have not yet given her the short paragraph about themselves for the web-site.  
(ii) She has received a request from Franca Bruno for £50 from each of the CC and the GDI to pay for music by two musicians at the clock tower at Hogmanay. After some discussion this was agreed.  
(iii) AL asked to record congratulations to the Gatehouse Christmas Lights committee for their efforts and HK asked for similar congratulations and thanks to Margaret and Graham Wright for their work in the preparation of the excellent WW1 exhibition in the Mill on the Fleet.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.45 pm with thanks to the Provost for the Christmas refreshments.

Next meeting: Tuesday January 13<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm