



**Meeting held on Zoom on 8 December 2020 at 7 30pm
Approved Minutes**

Attendees

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

Minutes Secretary: Susan Miller (SM)

Apologies: PC J Brown (JB), Cllr Pauline Drysdale (PD)

In attendance: Ron Forster (RF)

2 Conflicts of Interest

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

3 Public Forum (Agenda item 2)

3.1 No items submitted.

4 Police Report (Agenda item 3)

4.1 JB had emailed to say follow up action was taking place with regard to the recent vandalism in the Town Hall Gardens; DR said he had notified JB of damage to the fence at the Community Allotment at The Mill earlier today. DR/HK added that there had been an instance of accidental, not deliberate, damage at the Clock Tower.

5 Dumfries and Galloway Report (Agenda item 4)

5.1 JM reported that the Borderland Partnership work was progressing; councillors had received a vaccination briefing; the Events Strategy for 2021/22 would focus on encouraging communities to start up again; and the Galloway Hoard would be exhibited in the region from August 2021 to May 2022.

6 Minutes of meeting on 11 November 2020 (Agenda item 5)

6.1 The minutes of the meeting on 11 November were agreed. Approval was proposed by FP and seconded by HK.

7 Matters Arising (Agenda item 6)

7.1 DR advised that he had submitted a request to CCES for a motion sensor LED floodlight at the recycling area in the car park.

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

8.1 DR advised that it had not been necessary to reactivate the Volunteer Helpline so far; the region was now in Tier 1;

8.2 DR had submitted an application for a Top-up Tap in the car park which would be considered by Scottish Water in their next round of installations;

8.3 DR said that there had been further correspondence regarding the harbour wall at Port Macadam. After discussion of its feasibility and taking into account comments from Will Jones who had consulted with engineers, it was decided not to take this any further at this stage. DR would advise Will Jones accordingly.

8.3 DR said that the Community Resilience Team (CRT) had been offered training to assist in identifying signs of vulnerability for referral to specialist agencies and asked the CRT members to let him know if they wished to take this up. JM said the latter training can be done virtually

8.4 DR said that defibrillator training was also available. FZ said that a defibrillator was available in Gatehouse Store pending installation on the outside wall. FP undertook to establish if planning permission would be required.

9 Planning Applications (Agenda item 8)

9.1 FP reported as follows:

(a) there had been four decisions made since our last meeting with permission granted:

(i) conditionally for the erection of a dwelling house at Plot 1, Clachan of Girthon, a change of house type to that approved in 2017;

(ii) unconditionally for the erection of a carport at Shelterstone, Planetree Park, Gatehouse of Fleet;

(iii) conditionally for an extension to the southeast elevation to the chalet Shilfa, Carrick;

(iv) granted unconditionally for the raising of existing porch wallheads and formation of a hipped roof over the southeast

elevation of the dwellinghouse Shepherd's Cottage, Drumwall, Gatehouse of Fleet.

(b) there had been one new planning application, for the erection of an extension to the north elevation of the dwellinghouse at Mansewood, Planetree Park, Gatehouse of Fleet (amended proposal to that approved in 2019)

10 Treasurer's Report (Agenda item 9)

10.1 PC reported that the Admin Account stood at £575 and the Common Good Fund at £324 and that he would make an application for further resilience funding.

11 Cardoness Lights (Agenda item 10)

- 11.1 Members considered the recent communication from Historic Environment Scotland (HES) and, in particular, the need for a bat survey. After discussion, it was agreed that **DR** would commission a bat survey for Spring 2021 when any bats would no longer be hibernating and in the meantime NS/FZ would make enquiries as to whether access to the site could be arranged to see if there was any evidence of a bat colony there.
- 11.2 **JH** undertook to have the draft legal agreement reviewed to identify if legal input would be necessary. **DR** said he would contact HES seeking confirmation that nothing else was now going to arise which would impede progress.
- 11.3 **DR** added that the electrician had contacted SPEN for a contribution to the installation costs without success and **DR** would liaise with PD who might be able to assist in progressing this within SPEN.

12 Memorial Tree (Agenda item 11)

12.1 **HK** said she would arrange for the stone/plaque to be delivered and **DR** said he would liaise with Nigel Barrass regarding the trees. **HK** was asked to liaise with the McKee family regarding a small ceremony.

13 Town Hall Garden (Agenda item 12)

13.1 See 4.1 above

14.1 AOCB (Agenda item 13)

- 14.1 **DR** said that there were 2 water leaks (1) between the Clock Tower and the War Memorial and (2) between the War Memorial and the Tennis Courts. **HK** had reported (1) and **DR** would report (2) to CCES.
- 14.2 **DR** advised with regard to the email received from Jeremy Brock that the matter had been previously investigated by legal officers in D and G Council who had advised that there was no historical evidence of a right of way and that therefore no right of way existed now. The matter was now considered closed. **DR** would inform Mr Brock accordingly.
- 14.3 **DR** said that CCES matters this month had been covered at 7.1 and 14.1 above.
- 14.4 **HK** reported that the SPEN works on the road to Gatehouse Station were now complete.
- 14.5 **NS** said that the recent repairs to the road surface in Victoria Street were already showing wear and tear and that part of road needed full resurfacing. **HK** said she would report this to CCES.
- 14.6 **NS** said that a kerb stone in Victoria Street was a safety hazard and **HK** said she would report this also.
- 14.7 **FP** congratulated **FZ** on the lights in the Town Hall Gardens.
- 14.8 **FP** raised the need for some form of memorial to Hamish MacInnes. It was noted that there was a display in The Mill but agreed that some form of plaque on the house where he lived would be appropriate and **NS** agreed to make enquiries as to its location.

The meeting ended at 8 50 pm

Next meetings: 12 January, 9 February, 9 March