



## Community Council (CC) Minutes

### Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday February 10th 2015

Present: Sue Best (SB), Mike Edwards (ME), Ron Forster (RF), Paula Hamilton (PH), Helen Keating (HK), Alan Lowden (AL), Gerard Macnamara (GM), Alison Veitch (AV), Councillor Patsy Gilroy (PG), PC Brown.

Present David Steel

1. **Apologies** were received Cecilia Franklin, Kathleen Hamblin and Councillors Jane Maitland and Colin Wyper. .
2. **Police report:** an ongoing scam was reported where hotels have been approached for money with a promise in advance of a large party to be brought to the bar. PC Brown reported that the Council feels that no more signs are needed on the Cape Road but plan to remove the blockage in the culvert under The Cut to prevent further flooding in Laurieston Road. It was agreed that no further discussion was appropriate until after these repairs have been made.
3. **Dumfries and Galloway Council report:** The budget was passed last week and looks manageable. There are still discretionary funds available for Area Committees. The Council tax will remain the same. SB reported that the budget survey on the D&G Council website that we had been encouraged to read and comment on had not been available in January. PG will report this.
4. **The minutes of the meeting** on January 13th 2015 were approved and signed, proposed by GM seconded by AV with the following amendment to item 4 (ii): ‘An email in early December from the leader of the Council to Mr Ashmore indicated that the head of planning, Steve Rogers, would be writing to the Community Council with an update on the situation. As the Provost has not received a reply from Mr Rogers, and has not received a reply to her email of 19 October, she has emailed Mr Rogers asking for a full response, and has also registered a formal complaint against Mr Rogers and his department for their consistent lack of response.’  
The report of the folding of the Gatehouse Lions Club was also added, with regrets expressed and thanks for all they had done in the past.
5. **Matters arising:** (i) The Provost has received a response to her emails (about the garage site) from Robert Duncan, who apologised for lack of reply. A meeting has been proposed with the site owner’s representative to discuss future plans. Since approval has been given for the building of eight dwellings there is no intention to pursue any further action.  
A meeting is arranged for March 25<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm in Castle Douglas to propose the formation of a Stewartry Community Councils Group. SB will attend and anyone else is welcome.
6. **GDI Report:** (i) Mill Pond: A meeting has been held with another contractor who will provide advice on methods of silt removal and indication of cost.
7. (ii) The Temple: ITV Border visited the site today and the film should be shown some time (to be advised) this week.  
(iii) Core Path: The core path at Anwoth Church needs attention to improve the boggy surface and repairs to the timber bridge. Council will do temporary repairs to the bridge and later on improve the surface of the path.  
(iv) Sandgreen Road: RF attended a D&G Council meeting on the condition of the Sandgreen Road and the flooding in particular. The Council is in contact with the Forestry Commission and

landowners about a solution to the problem. The Forestry Commission are surveying the length of the watercourse from the Sandgreen Road to a point in the wood to confirm the amount of fall available to ensure that the drainage from the road is adequate to overcome the flooding problems.

(v) Volunteers continue to work in the Cally Woods, Port Macadam and on the banks of the Fleet.

8. **Provost's Report:** SB attended the meeting about the Wigtown Bay petition and registered our support for it. It was suggested that the CC should invite the planners to a meeting to put forward their proposals.

She also reported that members of the CC could claim expenses for the attendance at meetings. Individuals should submit their claims to the Treasurer.

9. **Dean of Guild's report:** (i) The garden room applied for at Rusko tower is attached to the house part and not the old tower and there is no objection.

(ii) A further application has been made to erect one dwelling above Whitefield.. The same concerns were expressed as at the last application and the Provost will look at the Local Development plan again before any judgement is made.

10. **Treasurer's Report:** The accounts stand as at last month with £203.45 in the General Fund, £619.16 in the Common Good Fund and £613.72 in the Footpath Fund. All necessary paper work has been lodged with D&G Council. No funding for the Common Good Fund as yet been received.

11. **Electric car charging point:** the CC has received the formal application from D&G Council for the siting of one in the main Car Park, SB will reply formally again.

12. **Community Response Team:** Progress is being made on the format of the document to be sent out to all households within the CC area. The draft form is substantially complete. It is hoped to have the final document agreed with D&G Council before the next meeting but the list of wardens will not be included as this will depend upon the number of volunteers we can recruit to take on the task of checking vulnerable neighbours during and emergency.

13. **Community Survey Report:** the Provost distributed copies of a resumé of replies to the survey which members are asked to read and to bring forward ideas and suggestions at the next meeting. David Steel reported on the meeting about slow broadband, and HK will email members CF's very helpful suggestions. Apparently it is proposed to update Gatehouse's broadband provision by 2017.

14. **AOCB:** (i) SB reported that she is now on the Board of the Mill on the Fleet which has asked for financial assistance toward the provision of a database for information about the Mill. It was felt inappropriate for the CC to do this and that there is other financial help available for charities.

(ii) AL reminded the meeting that the repair or replacement of the town's Union flag and Town flag had been discussed. SB will look into it with the help of GM.

(iii) ME reported that he had discovered that there is funding to repair the B796 to facilitate the use by forestry lorries.

(iv) PH reported that the children's play area had been removed from Burger Park with no replacements. RF will look into it.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.30 pm

**Next meeting:** Tuesday March 10<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm