



**Meeting held on 10 March 2020 at 7pm
Draft Minutes**

1 Attendees

Councillors: David Richmond (DR) (Chair), Danny Alderslowe (DA) from 7 30 pm, Robert Dodds (RD), Jonathan Henderson (JH), Ruaridh Hesketh (RH), Helen Keating (HK), Jack Pickthall (JP), Fiona Power (FP), Nigel Scott (NS), Francois Van der Zee (FZ), Councillor Dougie Campbell (DC) until 7.30 pm
Police Scotland: PC Chloe Ellis (CE)
Minutes Secretary: Susan Miller (SM)
Apologies: Peter Cailey (PC), Suzette Harris (SH)
In attendance: Lesley Richmond (LR); David Steel (DS) Gatehouse Development Initiative (GDI)

2 Declarations of Interest

DR had potential issues in regard to items 11 and 12.

3 Police Report: CE reported as follows

- 3.1 (a) there had been a road traffic collision involving drink driving on 8 March near Mossyard
(b) damage to a vehicle in the town on 22 February had been reported and enquiries were ongoing
(c) fraudulent activity involving sales of facemasks had been reported.
- 3.2 CE responded to FZ that there had been no developments regarding a theft of gas regulators from the Bowling Club.

4 Public Forum

- 4.1 DS reported on behalf of the GDI that the former Tourist Information Centre (TIC) kiosk (also those in K'cudbright and Castle Douglas) were being sold by Visit Scotland to local community interests under the terms of the Community Empowerment Scotland Act 2015 (CESA)..In Gatehouse, the GDI were the relevant body. A nominal purchase price was being sought.
- 4.2 The GDI had leased the building for 10 years, had made significant investments in it and currently let it to Foundation Scotland. Under the terms of CESA the GDI would need to provide a satisfactory business plan and demonstrate community support and community benefit.
- 4.3 The Council agreed unanimously to support the GDI in this initiative and to consider future use for the building once the sale had taken place. DS thanked the Council for its support.

5 Dumfries and Galloway Report

- 5.1 DC reported as follows

(a) the budget process was in 2 parts this year; the Council Tax had now been agreed with an increase of 4.84% and further decisions on efficiency savings would be made by the end of March with the focus on protecting the education, social care and roads budgets.

(b) the increase plus a better financial settlement would provide some £3.8m additional revenue. D and G Council Tax would be the 26th lowest out of 32 councils across Scotland.

(c) the lead for Covid-19 response sat with the UK and Scottish Governments and the NHS but the situation was being continually monitored by D and G Council with preplanning focussing on supporting vulnerable members of the community, keeping essential services running and liaising with Community Councils.

6 Minutes of meeting on 11 February 2020

6.1 DR raised the following revisions required to reflect the version he had approved

(a) Insert **5.1 (d)** *"11.2 'Historic Scotland' should be 'Historic Environment Scotland'*

(b) **11.2** Insert *'comprising an exhibition'* between 'the Mill' and 'talks'

(c) **11.8** Insert after *...gets £100)* *"The Network chair had been positive about the work of the Stewartry CCs in helping to maintain services but sought better engagement between D and Council and CCs' whose role for the future should be to monitor service provision and report on the impact of cuts. There was presentation ..."*

(d) **11.9** Replace with *'DR raised the question of how any conflicts of interest should be dealt with. PD suggested asking at the beginning of each meeting if any member had any interest to declare in relation to the agenda items before the meeting. HK to add as an agenda item.'*

(e) Insert **11.10** *'DR closed by saying that, from this meeting forward, unapproved minutes would be sent to him for review after the meetings and he would then forward them to HK for circulation.'*

7 Matters Arising

7.1 HK reported as follows:

(a) the fallen trees in Cally Park had been dealt with and a general inspection of the trees was now taking place. She would liaise with the Gala Committee regarding removal of the Christmas lights from one of the fallen trees.

(b) the leak affecting the noticeboard resulted from placement of the doors and had now been rectified.

(c) there had been no further update on the sale of the garage site

7.2 DR reported that the work to refurbish the bench at Fleet Park was scheduled.

8 Correspondence

8.1 DR said that the notification of the Participatory Budget (PB) event on 29 February had not been received until the day of the meeting itself which made public attendance difficult. This was the second late notification of a meeting this year. DA added that the PB process was welcome as providing funding for excellent projects but he had experienced a range of problems with its administration. DC undertook to raise the issue with both Stewartry Councillors and the officers concerned.

9 Planning Applications

9.1 FP reported as follows:

- (a) planning permission has been granted unconditionally for the installation of three replacement windows with UPVC sash and case windows to the front elevation of 23-25 High Street, Gatehouse.
 - (b) applications have been received for:
 - (i) alterations and erection of an extension to the side elevation of the dwellinghouse at Marchfield, 14 Garden Street, Gatehouse
 - (ii) the erection of a porch at 4 Posting Stables, Horatio Square, Gatehouse
 - (iii) the erection of a dwellinghouse at Mossyard, nr Gatehouse
- 9.2 DA said that Wheels of Fleet was having difficulty progressing proposals for bike shelters for which Sustrans funding was available because of conservation area status.
- 9.3 RH reported that work was due to begin in some areas of the town to bury electricity cables underground.

10 Treasurer's Report

- 10.1 HK reported on behalf of PC that £100 had been received for attendance at 3 Stewartry Community Council Network meetings, the Admin Account now stood at £857.65 and the Common Good Fund at £219.25. Fleet Valley Volunteers planning to paint the town hall gates should claim for materials.

11 Cardoness Lights Report

- 11.1 RD and FZ updated on progress since the last meeting. The cables supplying the lights had been inspected and were in good working order and one quote had been received and a further one was expected by the end of the week both of which would include a sum for ongoing maintenance. It was noted that there would be costs for fencing off any new electricity installation and perhaps also legal costs associated with the need to enter into a contract with Historic Environment Scotland but there was now sufficient information to complete the grant application to the Region wide Community Fund.
- 11.2 FZ reported that Transerve had repaired the A75 brown tourist indicator to the Castle at the western access to the town.
- 11.3 All involved in progressing the project were thanked for their contribution.

12 VE Day commemoration and Battle of Britain anniversary

- 12.1 HK reported that arrangements had been made for people with direct experience of the war to give talks at the school and notices had been out up requesting WW2 memorabilia.
- 12.2 FZ reported that he had contacted the Devils Porridge museum who had agreed to run a childrens' event on or around 8 May. There would be no cost beyond possible travel expenses.
- 12.3 LR said plans were being made for a commemorative event at the War Memorial at 3pm on 8 May which would be followed by refreshments at the Murray Arms where people would be encouraged to share memories with a view to mounting an exhibition of in September at The Mill. She added that plans were also under consideration for commemorating the 80th anniversary of the Battle of Britain in September with an event at the Cairnsmore memorial.

13 AOCB

- 13.1 HK: contacted Robert Lowther to replace the sign at the well in Garries Park.

- 13.2 JP: the siting of the Mens Shed was problematic and works were needed to shore up the wall behind it. It was noted that the costs of any works would fall to The Mill but there might be some funding available given the archaeological importance of the site.
- 13.3 JP: Pothole problems were worsening despite previous notifications. DR offered to accompany anyone to address these concerns but added that everyone should report potholes when they found them and make follow up contact if necessary.
- 13.4 DA: Wheels of Fleet was now offering support to increase cycling by local people and holding a cycling conference on 21 March which had attracted speakers and participants from across D and G. Members of the Drop In would be taking part in a sponsored walk in aid of Parkinson's Disease.
- 13.5 NS: the fence from the pedestrian bridge to Rutherford Hall (again) needed to be repaired and **HK** undertook to report it to CCES.
- 13.6 The Council placed on record their appreciation of Stephen McKie's 31 years service as a retained firefighter.
- 13.7 HK: Any apologies for the next meeting to be notified to DR.
- 13.8 DR: the CC should have a stall at the Community Centre Open Day on 21 March to publicise the work of the Council including the proposals for e.g. Cardoness Lights and other initiatives. This was accepted.
- 13.9 There was discussion of the Covid-19 issue. DC's earlier comments were noted it was agreed that a more local response was premature at this stage but would options be considered in due course if required. In the meantime anyone requiring further information should visit the NHS Inform site <https://www.nhsinform.scot/> or phone 0800 028 2816. **Anyone feeling unwell should contact their surgery or phone 111.**

The meeting ended at 9.05 pm

Next meetings: 14 April, 12 May, 9 June, 14 July