



Community Council (CC) Minutes

Minutes of the Community Council Meeting held on Tuesday 10th October 2017

Present: Present: Sue Best (SB), Peter Cailey (PC), Paula Hamilton (PH), Helen Keating (HK), Jack Pickthall (JP), Councillor Patsy Gilroy (PG), PC John Brown.

1. **Apologies** were received from Tony Fowler, Nigel Scott, Alison Veitch and Councillors Jane Maitland and Dougie Campbell. Not present Danny Alderslowe.
2. **Police Report:** (i) apparently one fire fighter is still speeding to the station. The police will have further words. (ii) There has been a family dispute in the town, being followed up. (iii) The usual Christmas drink-driving, anti-shop-lifting and pub watch campaigns will shortly be underway.
3. **D&G Council report:** (i) The Stewartry Committee will now only meet four times a year, with the option of an extra meeting to be called by the Chairman if necessary. (ii) We will be kept informed of the crucial dates for any applications by PG or Ingrid Gemmell.
4. **Minutes of the previous Meeting:** the minutes of the previous meeting were approved, proposed by SB, seconded PC.
5. **Matters arising:** (a) Following concerns expressed at last month's Public Forum about the replacement of electricity poles, SB reported that she had been in touch with Scottish Power but their representative will only hold a meeting to explain plans to those residents concerned once the final details have been settled. (b) The Garage site: a D&G official has been in touch with the Trustees of the site and clearance has been taking place. Concerns about the fence have been raised and the whole matter will be discussed by D&G Council in November. (c) The matter of the delay in planning application for the extension of Newton Farm caravan site is still causing concern since the Caravan Club CL licence was withdrawn by the Caravan Club in 2014. The Community Council's concern at the delay will be registered on the CCES.

Action SB

6. **Provost's Report:** (i) A letter has been received from the RAF requesting the possible acknowledgement of the RAF's 100th anniversary 1 April 2018, suggesting that we might plant a flower bed in RAF colours. It was agreed that we should pass on the suggestion to the volunteers who look after the Town Hall garden and planters and the RAF representative will be notified of the suggestion. **Action**

HK

(ii) SB reported that there had been three registered interests in the store in the Town Hall garden, the greatest being a five figure sum (!)

7. **Dean of Guild's report:** The only current application is for a garage at Laurel Bank, High Street.
8. **Treasurer's Report:** The Admin account stands at £598.34, the Common Good Fund at £1,230 and the Footpath account at £24.72 following the donation of £500 to the Rutherford Monument appeal and the cost of the mower of £89. She has still not managed to resolve the long-standing problem with the Bank of Scotland over the acceptance of a donation cheque in dollars because of the name on the cheque but SB will be entertaining the donors tomorrow and will ask them to amend the name.
9. **Garries Park Trees:** HK reported that she had been in discussion with the Forestry Commission officer about the dangerous state of some of the tree along the lade in Garries Park. One of these had dropped a large quantity of branches blocking the Well entry the day before Gala Week started and

an emergency clearance by D&G Council had to be organised. The Commission officer said he would send in their men to remove the dead trees before the winter sets in, but unfortunately they have discovered that D&G Council bought the land from the Commission in 2001. HK had a site meeting with Jim Crossan from D&G Council Castel Douglas offices and PG promised to raise the question immediately and suggested that concerns should be registered on the CCES (Community Council Enquiry Service.)

- 10. AOB:** PH reminded members that by law bonfires were not supposed to be lit before 6 pm. She also reported that the First Responders Group is very short of members; they make such an invaluable contribution to the town since we lost the ambulance station and it is hoped that new recruits will be found. The possibility of using the now defunct telephone boxes as defibrillator sites was also discussed.

JP reported his concerns about the continued use of the scaffolding at the corner of Catherine Street, causing a traffic hazard. He has also helped the custodian of Cardoness Castle to find a noticeboard to advertise the fact that the Castle will be open until the end of October. There was also discussion about the cutting of the grass by the roadside in front of the custodian's office and it will be mentioned to the Castle Douglas office that deals with grass cutting. He also expressed the hope, reinforced by SB, that there would be a better turn-out by members at the Remembrance Day service on November 12th.

PC reported the concern over the removal of the ATM when the Bank of Scotland closed. Banking services are now available at the mobile bank on Monday mornings between 10 and 12 noon in the Community Centre car park.

The 'Citizen of the Year' award was discussed and it was agreed that the CC should draw up a list of suggested possible worthy candidates at the next meeting so that members of the public could then have a list from which to choose to vote.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.15pm.

Next meetings: December 12th, January 9th, February 13th in the **Drop-in Centre**