



Community Council (CC) Minutes

Minutes of the Community Council Meeting held on Tuesday 12th June 2018

Present: Danny Alderslowe (DA), Provost Sue Best (SB), Peter Cailey (PC), Tony Fowler (TF), Helen Keating (HK), Jack Pickthall (JP), Fiona Power (FP), David Richmond (DR), Nigel Scott (NS).
Also present: Suzette Harris, Stephen Norris (Galloway News), PC Chloe Ellis.

1. **Apologies** were received from Councillors Dougie Campbell, Patsy Gilroy, Jane Maitland.
2. **Police Report:** PC Ellis reported that (i) police patrols had been increased in the town following reports of problems with youngsters, some of whom had apologised for the trouble they had caused. DA reported that there are still one or two banned from the Drop-in Centre until discussions have been held with their parents. (ii) Chloe warned that there are those about who contact businesses and residents purporting to help but in fact hijacking private information and she asked anyone approached should report this to the police. (iii) The question of the parking of large trailers was again discussed but if they are not impeding traffic it is not illegal, and it was felt that the present site being used is a good compromise in the absence of a designated lorry park in the town. (iv) The speeding through the town by firemen going to the fire station was again discussed and it was confirmed that it is illegal for them to exceed the speed limit while in their cars, but not when in the appliance.
3. **Minutes of the previous Meeting:** the minutes of the previous meeting were approved, proposed by DR, seconded FP.
4. **Matters arising:** (i) The Gatehouse Store has a new Postmistress and has received permission from the Post Office to install an ATM at the shop. The layout of the PO counter is planned to be altered in order to give more privacy for those making transactions. (ii) There has been no further news about the provision of school meals in the holidays. (iii) The light at the zebra crossing has still not been repaired. (Action SB).
5. **Provost's Report:** (i) The request for support from 'Dual the A75' was discussed and support expressed for the by-passing of Springholm and Crocketford and improvements wherever possible. SB will send a message of support. It was agreed that a representative should be invited to a future meeting if they would like to come and talk to us. (ii) The Bunkeroo Group will be organising events to celebrate the Year of Young Persons, including an outdoor cinema presentation in Garries Park on Sunday 8th September at 4 pm. Funds are already being raised and applied for to pay the £2,500 for equipment and insurance, £310 for WCs, and £334 for film hire. It was agreed that we should wait to see how their funding applications go but that in principle we should welcome an application to the Common Good Fund for the film hire. (iii) SB has received notification from the Loreburn Housing Association that there is a vacant flat in Stellage Court for those with mobility problems and anyone interested should contact SB. (iv) The CC was brought up to date about the proposed smart meter antenna and the members of the whole community were thanked for their support and comments condemning the initially proposed site. It was agreed that we should express our support, however, for the alternative site (next to the BT telephone exchange on the Laurieston Road) now being pursued by the company responsible. (v) Representation had been made by a parent whose youngest child has been refused a place at Gatehouse School (which the two eldest children attend). It was agreed that the CC should support their appeal against the decision. (vi) Following the request for a flower bed to commemorate the RAF Centenary a site of the bed in the

Car Park has been marked out and JP was thanked for the provision of the wooden square for the bed. The Provost and secretary have planted it up (with thanks to Franca Bruno for allowing them to have water for the job!) and it was suggested that, when the bed is in full flower, the Galloway News might like to photograph it with a local resident who was in the RAF during the war (receiving the DFC for his heroic efforts in getting home a plane whose instruments had been damaged.) (vii) SB announced that the Riverbank Play Park committee will be holding a fund-raising event, a Silent Auction, on 16th June in the Community Centre. Entrance £3 to include light refreshments. (viii) Following the resignation of the Treasurer and Dean of Guild at the last meeting volunteers were invited to take on those two jobs. Peter Cailey was proposed by SB and seconded by NS as Treasurer and Fiona Power agreed to become Dean of Guild, proposed JP seconded SB. Notification of these two changes will be sent to D&G Council.

(ix) Suzette Harris's expression of willingness to join the Community Council again was welcomed and the necessary steps will be put in place to co-opt her at the next meeting.

6. **AOB:** (i) HK reported the concern of some residents at the lack of a flag on the Clock Tower on the occasion of the Royal wedding. It was also noted that the clock is not chiming at the moment. SB will contact Gerard MacNamara to ask if he is willing to continue to look after both and the CC should remember to ask him to put the flag up when considered appropriate. (ii) DR reported that the light is still missing outside the chemists. (iii) DA reported that there is to be a 100 mile bike ride in aid of Cancer Relief on Saturday 14th June and suggested that it would be nice if as many people as possible could be out to cheer the riders as they pass through Gatehouse between 3.30 and 4 pm.

(iv) PC reported that the undergrowth around the seat up Memory Lane (on the way to the cemetery) had become very overgrown; DA offered to get the Drop-in volunteers to help to clear it. PC also reported concern that the Scottish Government was talking about banning cars from parking on any part of the pavement, which would cause great concern in some Gatehouse streets. It was agreed, however, to monitor any further discussions before making representations. (v) JP complained that the grass in the cemetery was appalling long but he was reminded that D&G Council had announced some time ago that cemeteries' grass would only be cut twice a year. He also reported that the well had no doors to protect it so it was agreed that Area Committee funding could be applied for to provide doors. Apparently the scaffolding has been erected around the Rutherford Monument but there is no sign of work. Mrs Harris kindly offered to bring it up at the GDI EGM on June 3th. JP also agreed to deliver copies of Gatehouse News around Ramsay Wood.

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

Next meetings July 10th in the **Community Centre**