



Community Council (CC) Minutes

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday August 12th 2014 In Gatehouse Community Centre

Present: Pat Jacques (PJ), Sue Best (SB), Mike Edwards (ME), Cecilia Franklin (CF), Paula Hamilton (PH), Kathleen Hamblin (KH), Helen Keating (HK), Alan Lowden (AL)

Absent Mick Fairnie.

In attendance: PC L Hawker, David Steel and Trish Lewis (Galloway News).

1. **Apologies** were received from Stephen Hodgson, Gerard MacNamara, Councillors Jane Maitland and Patsy Gilroy.
2. **Public Forum:** representatives of families from Riverbank asked for support in providing improved play equipment in the children's play area there. The Provost suggested that they should contact Nick Jackson at D&G Council to discuss with him what they would like, with suggestions from the children. It was suggested that they should form a group and come back to the Community Council's next meeting, who, in the meantime, would look into possible funding sources.
3. **Police report:** PC Hawker had nothing to report.
4. **Garries Park:** Simon Fieldhouse has explained to the GDI what is proposed for the management of the trees in Garries Park and Port Macadam. Since the Council has neglected the maintenance in the past it would like to lease it to a third party, about which the CC has reservations unless the conditions of the lease can be carefully considered. The possibility of training local volunteers was discussed, possibly on the lines of those employed by East Ayrshire Council, but the question of insurance was raised. The GDI will discuss the matter further at their next meeting and, in the meantime, everyone is asked to fill in the questionnaire on the D&G Council website to express their concerns. In the meantime David Steel will consult East Ayrshire Council about their scheme. While the Community Council is not totally against the principle of leasing outside it is concerned that it should not lose control over a valued part of the town.
5. The **Minutes of the previous Meeting** were signed as correct, proposed by PH and seconded by AL.
6. **Matters arising:** (i) D&G Council has intimated that a listed building planning application would be needed for the originally planned installation of a new notice board at the Clock Tower so it was decided that instead David Proudlock should be asked just to repair the existing one.
HK showed a copy of the item that will go into the Gatehouse News (out in late August) about the CC's recycling event 'One man's rubbish is another man's treasure' on September 20th in the town Car Park.
7. **GDI Report:** (i) Tender documents have gone out to potential contractors for the repair of the Temple and three offers have been received and are being assessed by the architects.
(ii) The Birdcage (or Dovecot) D&G Council are about to appoint a contractor to replace the roof.
(iii) The core path to the Old School has been re-laid.
(iv) Garries Park Security: granite blocks have been placed across the gateway entrance access from the car park, leaving pedestrian access only.
(v) Volunteers have cleared the bracken from the sides of the path to Trusty's Hill, cleared vegetation around the Temple and removed branches from the dyke at the Deer Park.

- (vi) Community Response Team: progress has been slow for various reasons and wardens will be sought for each street.
8. **D&G Council report:** In the absence of a councillor there was no report.
 9. **Provost's Report:** (i) PH distributed copies of the Survey of Community Councils for members to fill in, also the Amended Scheme for Community Councils which ME will digest. She suggested we discuss the latter at our AGM in October.
 10. **Dean of Guild's report:** (i) Application to open up two windows to create French doors at Glenlee, Fleet Street.
(ii) replacement of mesh panels with railings at the Temple.
(iii) conversion of a derelict building to a store at Culreoch.
It was reported that the banners at the Cally Drive entrance are unauthorized and they will be notified.
'A' boards on public land will be policed by DGFirst. The Bank of Fleet has been notified that the flags attached to the front of the building should be taken down or retrospective planning permission applied for. There has been a complaint that large bins are left outside the Masonic Arms all the time.
 11. **Treasurer's Report:** The accounts stand as at last month. She reported that the Bank has a possible team of helpers for volunteer days (applications to PH) and that match-funding is available from several banks.
 12. It was reported that the board walks at the Brick Works have been repaired but major work still needs to be done.
 13. **Keys to Garries Park:** after much discussion it was agreed that the old key system should be reinstated, this time with a permanently attached padlock so that it could not be stolen. ME will investigate appropriate padlocks and HK will consult the emergency services for their advice.
 14. **AOCB :** (i) Thanks and compliments were expressed to the Gala Committee for the week's events (in spite of the weather) and the splendid firework display (in spite of the cost!)
(ii) PH reported that letters are going out to customers to notify change of hours at the Bank of Scotland, from Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays to Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9.15 am to 12.30, 1.30 pm to 4.45.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.50 pm.

Next meeting: Tuesday September 9th at 7 pm