



Community Council (CC) Minutes

Minutes of the Community Council Meeting held on Tuesday 12th September 2017

Present: Sue Best (Provost) Alison Veitch (AV), Peter Cailey (PC), Tony Fowler (TF),
Paula Hamilton (PH), Helen Keating (HK), Nigel Scott (NS), Councillor Jane Maitland (JM)
Also present, Dr and Mrs A Fricker, Mr and Mrs R Spencer and Mr R Menzies

1. **Apologies** were received from Jack Pickthall, PC John Brown, Councillors Patsy Gilroy and Dougie Campbell.
2. **Public Forum:** Mrs Fricker explained the concerns of the residents of part of Boreland Wood about the state of the overhead electricity wires and of the poles, and the lack of and conflicting information from Scottish Power representatives. The Provost has been in touch with the manager in charge of the proposed project to suggest a meeting with those concerned to explain the project (which had been scheduled to be completed three years ago), which meeting he felt should be delayed until certain wayleaves had been sorted out. SB will contact him again to ask for the meeting so that residents can have a clear picture of the proposed plans.

Action SB

The residents have also complained about the speeding of cars coming towards Gatehouse from the A75, making access from houses along the road difficult and sometimes dangerous, since the 30 mph limit is much further on into the town with almost no warning of its imminence, and indeed one sign is obscured by trees. HK read a message from PC John Brown about the problems of persuading the authorities of such a move unless there has been an accident or crash. There has also been a similar complaint from residents of Castramont Road about speeding vehicles. SB will contact the Roads Department.

Action SB

3. **D&G Council report:** The level of traffic in towns has been discussed and it seems that there is a groundswell of opinion to support 20 mph limits in built-up areas.
JM was asked what could be done about the Newton Farm caravan site exceeding the number of vans for which they have in a planning application (which should have been decided last October, and problems with toilet facilities etc still haven't been resolved.) JM suggested a query should be raised on the CC question site and Environmental and Trading Departments could be consulted since the site has had a full season of unregulated occupancy. AV will consult Councillor Dougie Campbell before any further steps are taken.

Action AV

4. **Minutes of the previous Meeting:** the minutes of the previous meeting were approved, proposed by NS, seconded SB.
5. **Matters arising:** (a) the broken stones on the steps down to the Mill on the Fleet have still not been mended (SB to put in a reminder on the CC query site.) Danny Alderslowe and Michelle McClure were thanked for their efforts in painting the edge of the steps.
(b) It was reported that the 'No Ball Games' notice in Riverbank Wynd playpark has been replaced.
6. **Provost's Report:** (i) SB reported that she and HK had attended a Community Council Engagement evening in Castle Douglas, at which five main topics were available for discussion, though they felt that some of the D&G staff were not always as well prepared as they might have been with answers to questions. There will be a programme through the year for further meetings for discussion.

- (ii) Town Hall garden: Thanks were expressed to Mick Fairnie for his help with the temporary provision of a lawn mower and for cutting the grass in the absence of Simon Faed. A mower has now been purchased for the use of the volunteers.
- (iii) SB has contracted BT about the two redundant telephone boxes in the town that have lights on 24/7. Apparently they are due to be removed eventually.
- (iv) **The Town Hall Store:** there were two registrations of interest in buying this, with the closing date 6th September, of which the outcome is unknown.
- (v) A complaint has been received about access to a former right-of-way from Ann Street to the A75 at the mill pond. This access will be discussed with lawyers and the outcome reported at a future meeting.
7. **Dean of Guild's report:** (i) Planning application has been renewed for two dwellings at the Clachan, Sandgreen Road. Cost of providing services and flooding risks were noted.
- (ii) Application for change of use to café by The Scone Kitchen (formerly The Gatehouse Deli)
- (iii) The Bank House: application to replace several windows granted.
- (iv) Memory Lane: application for the construction of a dwelling house and demolition of workshop renewed.
- (v) 9A, 14 and 18 Digby Street: replacement windows granted conditionally.
- (vi) There has been a query about the scaffolding at the corner of Digby Street, making a turn round the corner difficult for some vehicles. The builders are removing the render and have been held up by the weather but are scheduled to return next week to continue the job.
8. **Treasurer's Report:** The Admin account stands at £643.66, the Common Good fund at £1,230 and the Footpath account at £613.72. The Rutherford Monument donation and the cost of the mower will come from the Footpath account. The treasurer hopes to resolve *soon* the long-standing problem with the Bank of Scotland over the acceptance of a donation cheque in dollars.
9. **AOCB:** (a) HK reported that she had been in discussion with the Forestry Commission officer about the dangerous state of some of the trees 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 workmen had to be organised. The Commission officer said he would send in their men soon 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 has arranged a site meeting with the local D& G representative and will report progress at the next meeting.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.25pm.

Next meetings:

October 10th, November 13th and December 12th in the **Drop-in Centre**