



Community Council (CC) Minutes

Minutes of the Community Council Meeting held on Tuesday 13th February 2018

Present: Present: Sue Best (SB), Danny Alderslowe (DA), Peter Cailey (PC), Paula Hamilton (PH)
Helen Keating (HK), Jack Pickthall (JP), Alison Veitch (AV) Councillor Patsy Gilroy (PG)
PC John Brown

Also present: Fiona and Brian Power, David Richmond, Stephen Norris (Galloway News)

1. **Apologies** were received from Nigel Scott, Councillors Jane Maitland and Dougie Campbell
2. **Police Report:** (i) Parking again on the lug outside the chemist has been reported to the police and dealt with. (ii) Damage to the Surgery Garden is being investigated. (iii) Certain children have been causing a nuisance at the Spar and the problem is being monitored and advised. (iv) Members were reminded that comments would be very welcome on the Scotland Police Plan which has been circulated via email,
3. **D&G Council report:** Councillor Gilroy reported that the Council's Budget for the coming year will be discussed very soon but that savings of some £12million will be sought. Her attention was drawn to the terrible state of the roads at the entrance to Riverbank from Dromore Road and on the corner of Catherine Street and Castramon Road, which she will report.
4. **Minutes of the previous Meeting:** the minutes of the previous meeting were approved, proposed by PH, seconded DA.
5. **Matters arising:** (i) DA was thanked for his efforts on the arrangements for Hogmanay at the Clock Tower. He reported that £82 had been collected in the bucket, which amount was divided between those performing and providing the equipment to defray expenses. (ii) SB reported that the tobies outside the fire station have been repaired but there is another one in need of attention at the bottom of the town. Scottish Water Board will be asked to repair it. (Action SB) (iii) The pile of building materials on the road at the corner of Catherine Street has been reduced but is still a possible hazard. Community Safety Officers will be asked to attend to it. (iv) There are still bollards in the pond and in the burn on Garries Park. D&G Council has been notified of the latter via CCES. (v) DA circulated the reply about the irregularity of the 500 bus service. It is under contract to SWestrans but, since no official complaints have been received, (no telephone number being provided at the bus stops) particular instances are invited and will be taken up with Stagecoach which provides the service.
6. **Provost's Report:** (i) SB read a letter of thanks from Councillor Jane Maitland in reply to the letter of condolence sent to her on behalf of the Community Council. (ii) Further communication about Knockendurrick Wind Farm application has been received. SB will write to D&G Council to express our concern over the delay in resolving the planning matter because of further discussions by Banks with potential users. (iii) SB read a letter in reply to our concern over the siting of the 30mph limit sign at the Castle entry into Gatehouse. Mrs Power also expressed concern at the sign's proximity to the town. SB will email PC John Brown about the possibility of having it moved. (iv) HK reported on the progress of the water leaks at the top of Ann Street. With the assistance of David Richmond, and on the advice of Scottish Water, it has been established that the leak of mains water is *not* the responsibility of the houses around Beechwood and the Murray Usher Foundation at Savills of Dumfries, under whose land the leak is sited, has been advised of that fact. It has been suggested that instead the leak comes from a pipe designated as a private water supply (installed in

2014) which serves the houses down the Cally Drive and the Cricket Club, whose Chairman Dennis Coombs has been very helpful in obtaining professional advice from Andrew McQuaker. Mr McQuaker has been in touch with the administrators of MUF and awaits further instruction. The muddy water that has added to the blockage of the drain at the Garries Park gateway and the drain in the grass section in Ann Street was also reported by the surveyor at Savills but MUF was reminded by D&G Council that these two drains are the responsibility of MUF. The muddy water coming down the road is the result of the building works on the MUF private road from Ann Street to the Cally drive and will be repaired in due course when the builder digs the trenches for their water main and sewage connections. It was agreed that SB should write to MUF administrators and to the Chairman of MUF Trustees to express our concerns about the delays over repairing the mains leak (which has been discussed with MUF for at least three years and which is now leaking 7 litres of mains water per minute), over the removal of the rubbish dumped on the grass in Ann Street and also the failure to complete the removal of the dead tree roots in the triangle at the top of the street and its replacement with a new tree.

(v) The progress of the Riverbank Wynd Playpark was discussed, since they have now received an estimate for the provision. Thanks were expressed to the family of Alan Dickie, at whose funeral the collection was given to the Playpark fund, to be added to the donations already given. It was suggested that official applications for funding might now be made. (vi) The removal of the Murray Centre to the Mill on the Fleet grounds is being held up by Forestry Commission concerns; it was agreed that their land agent should be consulted. (vii) The question of the provision of the Meals on Wheels service will be discussed at a meeting on February 14th. (viii) The revised Establishment of Community Council document is to be discussed and it was suggested that we do this via one of the Focus Groups offered. (ix) The revised Data Protection Regulations have been received and will be followed up by the CC treasurer.

7. **Traffic calming approaching the school:** We have received a large plan detailing the proposed calming features, which will reduce the space for parking on the Dromore Road. It was agreed, therefore, that the Provost will inspect the site and suggest to the department concerned that the local residents should be consulted,
8. **Dean of Guild:** AV reported several applications that have been approved and listed the proposed new applications, which include two developments of three chalets each at Bardristane, none of which would seem to have grounds for objection.
9. **Treasurer's Report:** The Common Good Fund stands at £1,230, the Admin Fund at £583.34 and the Footpath account is being closed.
10. **AOB:** (i) HK read a letter of New Year greetings from Alistair Jack MP who has asked to be kept informed of our monthly meeting details and inviting any expressions of concerns in which he might be of assistance.
(ii) TF asked that the Citizen of the Year award might be put on next month's agenda for discussion.
(iii) JP reported that the sign at the Well Entry to indicate pedestrian access to Garries Park was removed some time ago and asked if it could be reinstated (for 'old times' sake') and a possible replacement sign will be investigated.
(iii) PH reported that a retained firefighter rushing to the Fire Station had a very near miss with a young driver and also that it was noted that a house in Riverbank was using a shed in the garden as a business. AV will investigate.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.45pm.

Next meetings: March 13th in the **Drop-in Centre**, April 10th, May 8th in the **Community Centre**