



**Meeting held on Zoom on 13 October 2020 at 7 30pm
approved Minutes**

Attendees

Councillors: David Richmond (DR) (Chair), Peter Cailey (PC), Suzette Harris (SH), Helen Keating (HK), Nigel Scott (NS), Francois Van der Zee (FZ), Councillor Pauline Drysdale (PD)

Minutes Secretary: Susan Miller (SM)

In attendance: Ron Forster (RF)

Apologies: Robert Dodds (RD), Jonathan Henderson (JH), Ruaridh Hesketh (RH), Jack Pickthall (JP), Fiona Power (FP), PC John Brown (JB)

2 Conflicts of Interest

2.1 DR reminded members to be mindful of any potential conflicts of interest and to declare them if necessary.

3 Public Forum (Agenda item 2)

3.1 No items submitted.

4 Police Report (Agenda item 3)

4.1 HK said that information had been received on a rural crime initiative Look After Your Oil Tank and placed on the noticeboards.

4.2 DR reported that the lorry/trailer had been parked outside the Anwoth caravan park again and suggested the situation be kept under review.

5 Dumfries and Galloway Report (Agenda item 4)

5.1 PD reported on the progress of various projects throughout the Stewartry and said it was disappointing that a planned cycling event for young people had been cancelled because of Covid19 restrictions. She said that all D and G Council services were now functioning again but some projects had been delayed, notably the roll-out of the revised waste management arrangements. The flu vaccination programme was being rolled out but there were some problems with arrangements for certain age groups. PD said she would forward DR further information on this and also on a new app with data on Covid19.

6 Minutes of meeting on 8 September 2020 (Agenda item 5)

6.1 The minutes of the meeting on 8 September were agreed. The formal proposal was made by HK and seconded by NS.

7 Matters Arising (Agenda item 6)

7.1 SH asked for an update on (a) the harbour wall at Port Macadam and (b) the Brickworks area adjoining the nature reserve at Vinnie Hill. Regarding (a) DR said that RD had followed up the approach and contact had been made with the Stewartry Ward Officer. The utility of the proposal was in question and RF added that the wall was the responsibility of D and G Council and thus it was agreed to take no further action. Regarding (b) DR said he had ascertained that the site was managed by the Scottish Wildlife Trust. RF said that the site was on MUF land and the Foundation had taken a decision to block it off.

7.2 PD mentioned that the applications to the Coastal Benefit Fund were open until the end of November and funding was available for businesses as well as groups and undertook to send DR further information.

7.3 DR reported that he had responded to a further email from the residents of Baker's Dozen regarding the felling of an ash tree and now considered the matter closed.

7.4 DR reported that there had been a meeting with Roads and Flooding officers from D and G Council regarding the flooding in Ann Street as result of which 2 additional drains would be inserted in Ann Street. In addition, a sewer survey had been carried, the sewer had been flushed and irrigated and a camera survey carried out which showed some damage which would be repaired.

8 Chair's report and Correspondence (Agenda item 7)

- 8.1 DR said that arrangements were being made to reactivate the Helpline should it be necessary. Members agreed to keep the situation under constant review to ensure it was available as soon as it was needed but, in the meantime, residents could order online deliveries or use Food Train. For those with no local support there is a National Assistance Helpline - 0800 111 4000.
- 8.2 Members agreed to a request from the GDI to support a grant application for a cycle lane on the A75 from Gatehouse to Auchenlarie.
- 8.3 **DR** said that he had attended a GDI presentation on affordable housing and would circulate the video of the presentation by Dumfries and Galloway Small Communities Housing Trust as and when he received it. **PD** confirmed that the Local Development Plan was available on the D and G Council website and **DR** said he would draw this to the attention of the GDI.

9 Planning Applications (Agenda item 8)

- 9.1 There has been one decision made since our last meeting: permission has been granted unconditionally for the erection of an extension to the side elevation of holiday accommodation at Braemar, Carrick.
- 9.2 The application at 27-29 High Street, Gatehouse of Fleet – for alterations including removal of the timber shopfront and installation of replacement shop door and windows to the front elevation and the installation of two PVC doors to the rear elevation – has been withdrawn
- 9.3 There have been four new planning applications:
- permission for the erection of an extension to the southwest elevation of the dwelling house Glenavon, Digby Street, Gatehouse of Fleet;
 - an amended proposal to a previously granted application for the demolition of a disused hipped and flat-roofed extension to the side elevation at the Murray Arms Hotel, Gatehouse of Fleet – now proposing blocking up of the existing opening into the disused dining area instead of installing a new window facing the widened access;
 - permission for change of use of agricultural buildings to form two dwelling houses, alterations and extensions, formation of car parking and turning areas and installation of two septic tanks and soakaway at Low Barlay, Gatehouse of Fleet; and
 - retrospective permission for the erection of a detached domestic garage at 62 Riverbank.

10 Treasurer's Report (Agenda item 9)

- 10.1 PC reported that the Admin Account stood at £575 and the Common Good Fund at £324.

11 Cardoness Lights (Agenda item 10)

- 11.1 DR reported that £2900 out of the required £3000 had been raised and that Scottish Power had agreed to meet some of the electrical installation costs which would reduce the overall sum required. **PD** suggested that SPEN might be willing to provide some funding and she would contact DR to ensure their respective SPEN contacts liaised with each other.

12 Memorial Tree (Agenda item 11)

- 12.1 DR reported that D and G Council had now approved planting of a silver birch. **NS** said he would advise Nigel Barrass and ask him to also carry out a soil sample of the rowan planting area. DR gave **HK** some revised wording for the plaque and she would now instruct work to go ahead.

13 Remembrance Day

- 13.1 Members noted that the Council's role was not to organise the event but to pay tribute by way of laying a wreath on behalf of the town. It was also noted that although the Church of Scotland had issued advice, advice was still awaited from the Scottish Government and the Royal British Legion. The situation though remained fluid. Other initiatives to mark the event were being publicised on the local Covid19 Facebook page.

14.1 AOCB (Agenda item 12)

- 14.1 Members agreed to the request from Galloway Against Pylons to support their objections to the proposed arrangements for the installation of pylons between Glenlee and Tongland.
- 14.2 PC suggested that Christmas Lights be placed in the Town Hall Gardens and **HK** undertook to contact the Gala Committee.
- 14.3 A complaint had been received about the bins outside the Bank of Fleet. Although this was not a matter for the Council and difficulties for residents and businesses without rear access were noted, it was hoped that all bins would be removed from the street after each waste collection. **PD** said that there would be alternatives to bins under the revised waste management arrangements to be introduced in 2021.

- 14.4 DR summarised recent referrals to CCES as follows
- (a) Victoria Street potholes had been repaired but in the longer-term resurfacing would in his opinion, be required
 - (b) No further action would be taken by D and G Council on a revised speed limit on the B796
 - (c) Further action was required in respect of the restricted access on the pathway between the War Memorial and the tennis courts. RF said that the Fleet Valley Volunteers were prepared to do the hedge works. PD stressed the importance of getting the landowner's permission.
 - (d) Ann Street flooding (see 7.4 above)
- 14.5 DR said that a large number of rubbish bags had been left at Cally Ave /Ann Street road end but D and G Council had removed them very quickly once notified.
- 14.6 NS raised the poor state of the pavement in front of Gatehouse Stores and **HK** undertook to chase CCES.
- 14.7 SH said that she was resigning from the Council with immediate effect. DR thanked SH for her contribution to the CC over many years.

The meeting ended at 9 10 pm

Next meetings: 10 November, 8 December, 12 January