



Community Council (CC) Minutes

Minutes of the Community Council Meeting

held on Tuesday 13th November 2018

Present: Provost Sue Best (SB), Danny Alderslowe (DA), Peter Cailey (PC), Suzette Harris (SH), Helen Keating (HK), Fiona Power (FP), David Richmond (DR), Francois Van der Zee (FZ), PC Chloe Ellis, Councillor Jane Maitland.

Also present: Mandy Patterson

1. **Apologies** were received from Tony Fowler, Nigel Scott and Jack Pickthall.
2. **Household Resilience Team.** The Provost welcomed Mandy Patterson who came to tell us about D&G Council's newly appointed Household Resilience Team and its activities, (in conjunction with her colleague Diane Irving-Davidson), leaving us copies of several appropriate leaflets. In return we were able to give her a copy of the notice our group had prepared a few years ago. SB suggested that perhaps we should revive our group.
3. **Police Report:** PC Ellis reported a very quiet month in Gatehouse! She gave us copies of cards being issued for the current police campaign against telephone scams, one of which will be displayed on the CC's notice board.
4. **D&G Council:** (i) JM reported that the election for a Councillor to replace Patsy Gilroy, (after her elevation to be Lord Lieutenant of the Stewartry) will take place on December 13th, (voting station in the Community Centre.) There will be five candidates and all those 16 and over **who have registered** will be entitled to vote. It was suggested that we should organise a hustings for the candidates to take place before our next meeting. SB will contact the candidates and try to find a suitable date.
(ii) JM reminded us that details of D&G Council budget cuts can be found on the website. (iii) The revised Constitution document, agreed at our AGM, will be signed and sent in. (iv) JM reported that the multi-bin collections should start next summer – legally required by 2020.
5. **Minutes of the previous Meeting:** the minutes of the previous meeting were approved, proposed by PC, seconded FP.
6. **Matters arising:** (i) FP and HK had met with Robert Lowther and Ingrid Gemmell to look at the trees alongside Garries Park. He agreed that they are in a terrible state and said that, subject to finance being available, he would ask Richard Gauld to survey the trees with a view to management of the area, with the assistance of the GDI volunteer team. It was suggested that David Steel should be asked to contact Robert Lowther to discuss this. (ii) FP, PC and HK had visited Laggan again to look at the alternative site suggested by D&G Council Planning department for the siting of new cabins for guests. Duncan McConchie hopes to attend our next meeting to bring us up to date with the revised application. (iii) SH reported that she is working with Councillor Dougie Campbell on the reinstatement of the drinking trough at the Clock Tower.
7. **Provost's Report:** SB reported no progress on the provision of a toilet block at Newton Farm. (ii) it was agreed that the flower troughs in the town need to be refurbished and planted over the winter. It was suggested that the Men's Shed might be able to help when the shed is re-sited at the Mill on the Fleet. (iii) SB reported that the Meals on Wheels service was working well (and it had been mentioned in The Guardian letters as an example of how it can be run locally without the RVS involvement.) (iv) SB thanked all those who attended the Remembrance Day parade with her. (v) It was agreed that SB should contact Ingrid Gemmell about the possibility of arranging a meeting

before December 10th to give the whole community the opportunity to discuss budget cuts, an information pack about which can be obtained from Ingrid. (vi) SB reported that there is to be a Visit SW Scotland conference at Laggan on November 14th (11am) if anyone would like to attend. (vii) Since it is four years since we held a Community survey it was suggested we should discuss this in the New Year, with the possibility of copies going out with a Gatehouse Newsletter to facilitate distribution.

8. **Dean of Guild:** (i) The erection of a dwelling house at 6, Memory Lane was granted conditionally, as was the erection of 2 holiday chalets at Drumwall farm. The alterations to 8 Bridge Terrace were also granted conditionally. (ii) The concerns about the difficulties of parking around the house and in Birtwhistle Street have been looked into again by D&C Council officers and the application will now go to the full Planning Committee.
9. **Treasurer's report:** the Admin account stands at £378 and the Common Good Fund at £398
10. **Citizen of the Year:** voting numbers have again been disappointing. It was agreed that the top three nominated should be listed on voting forms, to be put out in the town again, for the final choice.
11. **AOB:** (i) FP reported on the conference held about the Galloway National Parks Association held at Laggan, at which many fears were allayed in the question and answer session, with overwhelming support for the proposal. Application will now go on to the Scottish Government. (ii) SH reported that there is still no road sign for Dromore Road, previously sited on the side of the Ship Hotel. She also asked if the notice board erected alongside the CC board is to be permanent but we understand it is only temporary. The possible replacement of the notice board on the Clock Tower will also be investigated. (SB)

FZ reported that the poor state of the pavement along the High Street has still not been mended, in spite of inspection by D&G Council. The question of parking in the High Street was also discussed at length, with especial reference to the difficulties of parking for the Post Office vans. It was agreed that there is no easy solution. The revision of the members' contact details was agreed and will be circulated. (HK) SB will also ask Ken Smyth if we can have access to updating our website. (iii) DA reported on a good orchard harvest at the school. He also asked if the same arrangements may be made for the Clock Tower celebrations on New Year's Eve. Help will also be needed at the Christmas Fair at the Mill on the Fleet on December 2nd (town lights will be switched on the day before) especially with the installation of the large Christmas tree inside! DA also reported on the appalling bus service, with late arrivals, uncertainty of even coming and lack of linking up with connections in Dumfries. SB suggested that an information board could be erected in the bus shelters and will contact Sustrans.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.25 pm.

Next meetings:

December 11th, January 8th, February 12th and March 12th

in the **Community Centre**