



Community Council (CC) Minutes

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday July 14th 2015

Present: Sue Best (SB), Mike Edwards (ME), Ron Forster (RF), Kathleen Hamblin (KH), Paula Hamilton (PH) Helen Keating (HK), Councillor Patsy Gilroy (PG), Alison Veitch (AV), Also Drs Corrie, Locke and Maclean and Mrs S Harris

1. **Apologies** were received from PC John Brown, Gerard Macnamara, and Councillor Jane Maitland.
2. **Dr Locke** was invited to explain the forthcoming situation in the Kirkcudbright and Gatehouse practice: by the end of the year they will be three doctors short, one by moving elsewhere and two by retirement. There are great national difficulties in recruiting more doctors, in spite of widespread advertisement. The practice will shortly be taking on three locum doctors (part-time) and it is proposed to appoint nurse practitioners for minor ailments and procedures. The practice is trying hard to minimize any disruption and asks for the public's assistance, by not requiring appointments for things that could be asked for over the phone, by having phone appointments etc. They will keep us all informed by website and newsletter. They were thanked for their efforts and gratitude was expressed for their service to the community.
3. **Police Report:** in the absence of PC Brown HK reported that the damage to the flooring of the swings in Burgher Park has been reported to the police, with the names of the culprits. The damage to the flooring beneath the swings in Garries Park has been repaired.
4. **D&G Report:** PG reported that the fence on the road between Fleuchlarch and Low Barlay has been repaired, for which AV expressed great satisfaction.
5. **The minutes of the meeting** on May 12th 2015 were approved (proposed by AV and seconded by ME) and signed.
6. **Matters arising:** (i) (ii) Two quotations have been received for a new town noticeboard (£2,235 and £2,400 inc VAT) and a third will be invited from Sam Hannah. The Area Committee will be approached for funding.
(iii) Graham Wright has agreed to act as Returning Officer for the Council elections on October 22nd.
7. **GDI Report:** (i) The Town Bridge is having large boulders placed at the north-west abutment to prevent erosion.
(ii) The Gala equipment has still not been removed from the stream in Garries Park.
(iii) Removal of fallen trees from the watercourse in the Park has been discussed on site with D&G Council. As there is no prospect of obtaining the services of a Council ranger to do this work it was suggested by D&G Council that an estimate should be obtained from a contractor. This is awaited.
(iv) The wild flower meadow has been seeded again this year – those sown last year have flowered.
(v) Brickworks Nature Reserve: the boardwalk has been trimmed so it is now safe to walk on.
(vi) The volunteer group continues to work at Syllodioch. Drystane dyking training has been taking place recently.
(vii) The GDI recently held a 'Celebrating Cally' event to inform funders, volunteers and the public of work undertaken in the 'Design Landscape of Cally' under the management plan with particular emphasis on the Temple project.
(viii) Japanese Knotweed: A meeting has been held with D&G Council, the Galloway Fisheries Trust and volunteers to discuss this year's spraying programme which will take place in August.
(ix) Community Resilience Plan: a draft plan has now been compiled and is actively being discussed.

8. **Provost's Report:** (i) SB has received a request from Banks Renewables to attend a future Council meeting to explain the new changes to the plan. After much discussion it was agreed that we should invite them to speak at a public meeting.
9. **Dean of Guild's report:** No applications have been received.
10. **Treasurer's Report:** PH reported that the Common Good funds will not be available until October. A new Town flag has been received. It was agreed that the Gala Committee should be asked for half the cost and the rest would come out of the Common Good Fund. ME asked if the tourist map board at the Station could be replaced and it was suggested that the Town Sign at the entrance might be cleaned rather than replaced. (GM to be asked.)
11. **AOCB:** (i) HK reported that she had received a very nice email from a visitor from Wigan, asking for compliments to be passed on to whoever looks after the Town Hall garden. While she was doing that she asked D&G Council gardens department if it would be possible to reinstate the fountain in the garden. While reservations about vandalism were expressed it was agreed that HK should ask the Council for quotation of the cost (which would be borne by the CC.)
(ii) PH drew members' attention to the current groups of youngsters spending nights on the foreshore between Newton Farm and Mossyard, leaving rubbish and inebriated youngsters afterwards. To be reported to PC Brown.
(iii) ME reported dissatisfaction at the apparent inability to get things done under the current democratic D&G Council system. The cattle grid near the station is now in a dangerous condition and the replacement has been promised for years but not materialised.
(iv) GM asked to have reported the continued speeding along the Cape road, which resulted recently in Jimmy Girgan being apparently hit by a car. Hope was expressed that he had reported this to the police.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.40 pm

Next meetings: September 8th, October 13th.