



**Meeting held on 8 November 2022 at 7 pm
Approved Minutes**

Attendees

Councillors: Ruaridh Hesketh (Chair), Peter Cailey (PC), Robert Dodds (RD), Gill Hart (GH), Ivan Hill (IH), Helen Keating (HK), Amy McConchie (AM), Fiona Power (FP), Francois Van der Zee (FZ), Nigel Scott (NS)

Dumfries and Galloway Council: John Denerley (JD) and Winston Denerley (Deaf Signer)

Minutes Secretary: Susan Miller (SM)

1 Apologies

None

2 Elections

- 2.1 The appointment of Amy McConchie of Craignesket, Gatehouse of Fleet, DG7 2ET as a Co-opted Member was proposed by RH, seconded by PC and approved unanimously.
- 2.2 The appointment of Susan Miller of Cuddyfield Carsluith DG8 7DS as an Associate Member was proposed by FZ, seconded by HK and approved unanimously.
- 2.3 Both new members agreed to adhere to the Scheme of Establishment.

3 Conflicts of Interest

None

4 Public Forum

- 4.1 Mrs Shaunna Wilgose presented a proposed planning application for development at Dalavan, Cally Park. RH and FP indicated that support for the application would be considered once the formal application had been submitted.

5 Minutes of meeting on 11 October 2022 and Matters Arising

- 5.1 Approval of the minutes of the meeting on 11 October was proposed by FZ, seconded by PC and unanimously agreed.
- 5.2 GH reported back on discussions with DGC on the need and arrangements for a casual vacancy election (CVE). These had clarified that the process would be beneficial by increasing the number of elected councillors from 7 (from a minimum requirement of 5 and a maximum of 14). The CVE would be managed by DGC on behalf of the Council. It was agreed to consider the matter again early in 2023 following efforts to try and recruit new members from across the community.
- 5.3 It was agreed that a representative from the Biosphere would attend the December meeting to brief the Council on its role and activities and possible ways they could work more closely together.
- 5.4 There was some uncertainty as to the suitability of the newly provided bike racks at the school and RH undertook to follow this up with the headteacher.
- 5.5 There remained some doubt as to the requirement for planning permission for the proposed plaque for Hamish MacInnes and JD agreed to follow this up with DGC planning officers. In the meantime further consideration would be given to the wording of the plaque.

5.6 FZ reported that GDI led work was now in hand to apply for any necessary planning permissions for defibrillators to be sited at the Community Centre, Gatehouse Store and the Murray Arms and would report back. AM raised the issue of the possible need for a separate paediatric defibrillator and said she would provide FZ with a contact with whom the GDI could liaise.

6 The Legacy Fund/Communication

6.1 RH proposed that allocation of the Legacy Fund fund should await the outcome of a community conversation as to how to maximise the benefit in particular across underfunded and under represented groups within the town. He also suggested applying a small sum to a feasibility study for a minor capital project such as a footbridge across the river. RH asked all members to consider possibilities for further discussion. It was noted that this approach was likely to have the added benefit of encouraging further legacies to the town.

6.2 RH suggested possible improvements to the way the Council communicated building on current channels including the use of a software based GDPR compliant mail shot to circulate minutes, information etc. GH advised that clauses 2.4 and 2.5 Scheme of Establishment made clear the role of the Council in two way communication with, and on behalf of, all sectors of the community.
<https://www.dumgal.gov.uk/media/23563/CC-Amended-Scheme-for-the-Establishment-of-Community-Councils-effective-1-October-2020-/pdf/>

6.3 IH said there was scope for more effective joined up working with groups across the community and suggested holding regular, perhaps quarterly, meetings with these groups. This was agreed.

7 Chair's report and correspondence

7.1 RH thanked GH and IH for their support as he took up the role of chair.

8 Dumfries and Galloway Council Report

8.1 JD reported that DGC were focusing on work to address poverty, inequality and the cost of living crisis and said that funding was available to support initiatives in these areas. SM confirmed that the Community Centre had already set up twice weekly Winter Open House sessions which had been funded through DGC, the Council, the Community Church and the GDI. JD asked SM to provide further details and said further DGC support was likely to be available in the short and long term

9 Review of Planning Applications

FP reported that since the last meeting permission had been granted conditionally for
9.1 (a) change of use of land to form an extension to the holiday park to provide 30 additional static caravans and access improvements without compliance with conditions 5, 6 and 7 of planning permission 19/0307/FUL Section 42 at Auchenlarie, Gatehouse; and

(b) the siting of five timber pods to act as an extension to hotel guest accommodation on land to the rear of the Masonic Arms Hotel, Gatehouse.
9.2 there had been four new planning applications, for:
(a) the erection of an extension to the rear elevation of the dwellinghouse at Craignesket, Mossyard, Gatehouse;
(b) the formation of an outdoor seating area at the existing restaurant/cafe and associated landscaping works (retrospective) at Laggan, Gatehouse;

- (c) the installation of powder-coated aluminium cladding over existing coping on the roof and inline roof vents at 1-7 Birtwhistle Gardens, Gatehouse; and
- (d) the installation of 12 replacement windows with UPVC windows at Bengray, Woodside Terrace, Gatehouse.

10 Police Report

10.1 None received

11 Report from the Gatehouse Development Initiative

11.1 RH said he would approach the GDI to suggest a closer working relationship which would involve regular updates from the GDI to the Council.

12 Treasurer's Report

12.1 PC reported that the Admin Fund stood at £480 and the Common Good Fund at £401. He stressed that there had been no increase in the Admin Fund allocation for 7 years and that resources were now stretched. JD said he would raise this with DGC.

13 Citizen of the Year Award

13.1 Following discussion of the value of the award and the process for managing nominations, it was agreed to postpone the award for 2022 and consider ways of improving both for possible reintroduction in 2023.

14 AOB

14.1 GH reported that

- (a) IH would be the Council's representative on the Stewartry Community Council Network
- (b) the Council had been invited to a SPEN workshop on improving energy efficiency. HK said she would attend
- (c) Mark Grieve had thanked the Council for its donation of £250
- (d) Finlay Carson MSP had contacted the Council regarding the proposed Dog Abduction Bill

14.2 It was noted that attendance at the Remembrance Day event would include IH, HK and FZ

14.3 HK raised the issue of speeding both within and without the 30 mph limit on the western approach to the town. It was noted that problems outside the limit had been previously explored with DGC but that it was open to any individual to raise the issue again; and that HK had spoken informally to Police Scotland about problems within the limit and would now do so formally.

Next meetings 13 December, 10 January, 14 February

Approval of the minutes of the meeting on 8 November amended by

(a) inclusion of Nigel Scott in the list of attendees

(b) the substitution of 'JD' for 'JH' in line 1 of paragraph 8.1

was proposed by Fiona Power

seconded by Peter Cailey

and unanimously agreed.