



**Minutes of the Community Council Meeting held on 11th October 2022 in the Community Centre, Gatehouse of Fleet.
APPROVED**

1. Attendees

Councillors: Nigel Scott (NS), Francois van de Zee (FZ), Peter Cailey (PC), Helen Keating (HK), Ivan Hill (IH), Robert Dodds (RD), Ruaridh Hesketh (RC), Gill Hart (GH) Amy McConchie (AM).

Apologies: There were no apologies received.

- 1.1** (AM) expressed an interest in serving on the Community Council. (RH) proposed that she should be co-opted onto the Council, (FZ) seconded the proposal and (AM) was unanimously elected. (AM) was warmly welcomed.

2. Casual Vacancy Election: After consulting the Amended Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils it was decided there was no need to hold a Casual Vacancy Election as the Co-opted Members already had voting rights.

3. Public Forum: There were no issues submitted to the Public Forum this month.

4. Police Report: Two items on the Crime Update this month.

Elderly male from Riverbank appears to have become involved with a romance scam via the internet. Male has sent a substantial amount of money to this female in what he believes will assist her to come to the UK. Crime enquiries are continuing.

Report of a theft by shoplifting from Spar by a local youth. Positive lines of enquiry in identifying the male.

5. D&G report: There was no D&G report as Councillors were unable to attend.

6. Minutes of Previous Meeting: The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as a true account.

7. Matters Arising

Memorial Railings. (HK) has been assured the restoration work would begin soon. (RD) expressed concern that the work should not be undertaken at a time that would conflict with the Remembrance Day Gathering. (HK) agreed to pass this stipulation on to the DGC.

Catholic Church Development Site. (HK) Said there had been concerns that the road outside the site was being damaged and that there were a number of potholes. She has been assured by DGC that this would be dealt with.

(GH) offered to invite Jenna Cains, Community and Education Lead of The Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere Partnership to the December meeting to talk about the implications for the town of being part of a Biosphere.

It is expected that this year's successful Gravel Event will be repeated next May.

(RH) mentioned his hope that the local group Galloway Hillbillies will be involved.

8. Chair's Report

There was no Chair's Report due to the family bereavement and consequent resignation of David Richmond. Ruaridh Hesketh was appointed as the new Chair of the CC at the AGM prior to this meeting. The AGM formally expressed its condolences to David and thanked him for his service as Chair of CC. David's wife Lesley had energetically served the community in a number of capacities and is sadly missed by her many friends and colleagues in the town.

9. Planning Report - Dean of Guild

There have been no decisions made since our last meeting.

There has been one planning application – for the erection of a dwelling house with roof-mounted solar panels, installation of an air-source heat pump, formation of access, temporary siting of a caravan and the erection of a boundary fence at Plot 1, Former Church Of Resurrection Site, Riverbank, Gatehouse.

10. Treasurer's Report

(PC) reported to the AGM prior to this meeting that to date the balance of CC funds stood at:

The Common Good Fund	£439
The Admin Account	£746
The Legacy	£19,414

There was a discussion as to whether Community groups should be invited to apply for funding for specific projects now or whether this should be delayed until after our meeting next month. It was decided to wait. Members were encouraged to come to the next meeting prepared to discuss the management of this legacy for the benefit of the town. Time will be set aside to do so.

11. CC Donations: Prior to his resignation David Richmond had been writing an article for the Gatehouse News explains the work of the CC and the Common Good Fund.

This needs following up.

(HK) said the Bike Racks purchased for the school had been well received, and there was now a need for covers to protect them from the rain. (NS) expressed concern that the racks were not sited in the most convenient place for them to be readily used. This will be investigated before further investment is made.

12. Suggested Memorials

The memorial bush for Lesley Richmond

The Hamish McInnes Memorial Plaque - (HK) had asked DGC if planning permission was required for this and not received a reply. As the householder is willing the meeting was mindful to consult with Ken Smyth and go ahead with its erection.

13. AOB

(RH) Requested we begin our meetings at 7pm in future, this was agreed.

The Defibrillator - (FZ) reported that he was making progress with arranging for planning permission to fix a defibrillator on the external wall of his property. It was recognised that this was a matter of urgency where there might be a case for retrospective permission to be sought. Members thought it would be helpful to increase the accessibility of these aids by having one in the vicinity of the clock tower and another on the external wall of the Community Centre. These issues to be explored further.

(IH) requested we explore ways of recruiting new members.

(HK) reported that the Gatehouse Development Initiative had agreed to take over the installation and maintenance of the Castle Lights. Members expressed the hope that communication between the CC and the GDI could be improved with reports appearing as a regular item on the CC agenda. More widely the meeting recognised that we needed to consider how we can effectively communicate with the community and facilitate how groups within the community communicate with one another. It was agreed to set time aside in the November meeting to do this.

(HK) read a letter from a resident of Memory Lane asking the CC to consider supporting her request to lower the speed limit to 20 miles/hour on the High Street. The secretary will write and assure the correspondent that we are sympathetic to her idea and we will inquire for her.

Meeting closed at 8.48pm.

Future meetings will be held on November the 8th and December 13th 2022

Please note the new time of 7.00pm.