



**Meeting held on 13 September 2022 at 7 30pm
Approved Minutes**

Attendees (in person and via Zoom)

Councillors: David Richmond (DR) (Chair), Peter Cailey (PC), Robert Dodds (RD), Gill Hart (GH), Ruaridh Hesketh (RH), Ivan Hill (IH), Helen Keating (HK), Nigel Scott (NS), Francois Van der Zee (FZ), Cllr Dougie Campbell (DC)

Minutes Secretary: Susan Miller (SM)

Apologies: Fiona Power (FP), PC J Brown (JB) Police Scotland

2 Announcements/Notices

2.1 DR

- (a) placed on record the Council's sadness at the death of Queen Elizabeth II and, on behalf of the Town, conveyed their condolences to the Royal Family
- (b) HK said that the Lord Lieutenant would place a wreath at the War Memorial on 16 September at 2:00pm; everyone was welcome to attend; and a book of condolence was available for signing in the library
- (d) reported that Jack Pickthall had resigned from the Community Council as of 8 September. DR said he was sorry to hear of Jack's decision and thanked him on behalf of the Community Council for his many years of service and said that his store of local knowledge would be greatly missed.

3 Conflicts of Interest

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

4 Public Forum (Agenda item 2)

- 4.1 None

5 Police Report (Agenda item 3)

- 5.1 JB submitted a written report as follows

- (a) minor crash in the car park involving an elderly driver but with no-one injured.
- (b) man camping near Gatehouse Viaduct reported for threatening and abusive behaviour.
- (c) theft from a handbag on a Stagecoach bus travelling from Newton Stewart to Creetown; CCTV showed 2 women suspects leaving the bus in Gatehouse; enquiries were continuing.
- (d) apparently abandoned car in Fleet Street unmoved for 3 weeks subsequently confirmed as owned by nearby resident.
- (e) black Corsa hit by another vehicle when parked in High Street resulting in minor damage but no-one injured; driver identified.
- (f) quad bikes used in Cally Forest; registration number of vehicle used to transport them known and those involved will be warned.
- (g) monthly drop-in sessions will be held on 1 October at Castle Douglas (3- 6.30 pm), Dalry (1 – 2.30 pm) and Kirkcudbright (10 – 11 30 am) police stations
- (h) work was continuing to increase awareness of the risk of drink spiking, to tackle it and to protect people on a night out. Anyone who believes they have had their drink spiked or who knows someone who may have been spiked should contact Police Scotland on 101 or in an emergency 999.
- (i) advice on identity theft was available at <https://www.scotland.police.uk/advice-and-information/scams-and-frauds/identity-theft/>
- (j) Trading Standards Scotland had launched a month-long campaign aimed at raising awareness

of scams linked to the ongoing cost of living crisis .Further information was available at <https://www.tsscot.co.uk/cost-of-living-scams/> and incidents should be reported to to Police Scotland on 101 or Advice Direct Scotland on 0808 164 6000 or via their website www.consumeradvice.scot.

- (k) PPCW Cyber Harm Prevention had produced a Student Safety Guide which was available at PPCWCyberHarmPrevention@scotland.police.uk
- (l) members of a local community council group had been emailed from someone using the same name as the secretary asking recipients to purchase iTunes gift cards on their behalf for which they would be reimbursed later. Enquiries were continuing.

6 Dumfries and Galloway Report (Agenda item 4)

6.1 DC reported that

- (a) all non-essential work had been postponed during the period of national mourning, but the full council had met that morning to reflect on the Queen's death and the King's accession
- (b) all political groups working together had identified the cost of living crisis as the key priority and were now preparing a new 5-year plan which would reflect this
- (c) the rate of inflation and national pay awards would impact on budgets in 2023/4 and beyond although this would be mitigated by fiscal prudence in previous years which had enabled reserves to be built up

6.2 FZ queried the planning restrictions requiring residents in conservation areas to replace sash windows with wood rather than better insulating materials e.g. uPVC. **DC** said that this matter was currently under consideration with a view to introducing a more flexible policy and he would report back on the outcome.

7 Minutes of meeting on 9 August 2022 (Agenda item 5)

7.1 Approval was proposed by PC and seconded by IH.

8 Matters Arising (Agenda item 6)

8.1 DR reported that

- (a) he was still awaiting a reply from DGC on works to the memorial railings. **DC** offered to follow this up;
- (b) there had been no further developments as yet with regard to the top-up tap
- (c) information on assistance available with regard to the cost of fuel bills and the cost of living crisis is available on the Council's news webpage <https://gatehouse-of-fleet.co.uk/index.php/community/community-council/482-community-council-news>
- (d) FP had investigated issues raised with regard to the development former catholic church site and confirmed that the development was in line with the planning approval and that no property boundaries had been breached. He therefore considered the matter closed.

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

9.1 DR reported that

- (a) he had received a written complaint about a member of the Council but had spoken with the complainant and the member concerned; he hoped the matter was now satisfactorily resolved.
- (b) following the incident referred to at 5.1 (l) above, it had been agreed with DGC that only contact details for the Chair and Communications Secretary would be publicly available
- (c) the annual Flower Show took place on 27 August, after a 2-year absence, and he congratulated all involved on its success.
- (d) he had given a talk at the school on citizenship and the community council. An invitation had been made to the relevant teachers to visit a CC meeting in future with selected pupils if they wished to observe a meeting in progress.
- (e) there had been some complaints about the short delay in putting the flag on the clock tower following the death of the Queen. This had been as result of problems in sourcing a key for the tower. It was agreed that arrangements for a deputy custodian were required, and NS offered to take on this role. Members placed on record their thanks to Robert Lowther for D&G assistance in initially resolving the matter and also to our long serving custodian for carrying out the additional duties that arose on the weekend of 10/11 September.
- (f) the Council had received a bequest from the estate of a resident, and it was agreed that advice

would be sought from DGC as to its management pending decisions as potential uses. **DC** offered to assist in seeking advice. The Council placed on record its thanks to the donor's family.

10 Planning Applications (Agenda item 8)

10.1 FP reported by email that since the last meeting

- (a) there had been three decisions made since our last meeting:
 - (i) permission has been granted unconditionally for the erection of an extension to the east elevation of the wedding venue at Laggan, near Gatehouse;
 - (ii) permission had been granted conditionally for the erection of a dwelling house with detached garage with roof-mounted photo-voltaic panels and installation of an air-source heat pump at Plot 15 Bracken Wood, Gatehouse; and
 - (iii) permission had been granted conditionally for the siting or erection of Units 1 and 2 of the proposed six holiday accommodation units/chalets at Drumwall Farm, nr Gatehouse, with details of associated infrastructure including new access track, storage building, amenity/recreational pond, changing/facilities pavilion, landscaping and installation of shared septic tank and soakaway (post-approval of an earlier planning in principle #21/0501/PIP)
- (b) there had been one new planning application for the erection of two dwelling houses and a 1.8-metre-high timber boundary fence and installation of air-source heat pumps at 6-8 Roseberry Terrace, Birtwhistle Street, Gatehouse;

11 Treasurer's Report (Agenda item 9)

11.1 PC reported that the Admin Account stood at £902 and the Common Good Fund (CGF) at £588. Several possible projects for the use of CGF Account funds before 31 October were discussed and it was agreed that **HK** would discuss with the school ways in which the Council could provide financial support – e.g., bike racks.

12 Cycling event (Agenda item 10)

12.1 The event had been very successful and well managed although it was felt that there were some noise related issues to be addressed e.g., volume of PA system when cyclists were on the course and music late in the evening. The organisers were keen to run the event next year probably in May and had expressed their thanks to the town for its support and to David McNichol and Danny Alderslowe in particular.

13 Cardoness Lights (Agenda item 11)

13.1 DR reported that he was still awaiting a reply from HES and that consideration might need to be given to an alternative arrangement to carry out the necessary minor works.

14 Hamish MacInnes Memorial Plaque (Agenda Item 12)

14.1 HK reported that this was progressing, and funds were likely to be available in 2023. In the meantime, she would investigate the need for planning permission and appropriate wording.

15 AOCB (Agenda item 13)

- 15.1 IH said a seat in Garries Park required repair. DR confirmed DGC would be undertaking this.
- 15.2 DR said that local businesses would make their own decisions as to whether or not to open on 19 September.
- 15.3 HK said that the Galloway and South Ayrshire Biosphere had offered to give a presentation to the Council, and she would make the necessary arrangements.
- 15.4 It was agreed not to make a donation to Galloway Against Pylons as the Council did not fall within the area affected. Individual members were free to donate if they wished in a private capacity.
- 15.5 DR reported some uncertainty as to the date of the next Community Council election and confirmation was awaited from DGC.
- 15.6 DR reported that there had been no further progress on siting the defibrillator and he would discuss the issue at the next meeting of the GDI in October to finalise a way forward.
- 15.7 An issue had arisen on 13 Sept regarding the lack of pricing details on the EV charging points in the main car park. DR has referred the matter to D&G Council who will rectify the situation

The meeting ended at 8 50 pm

Next meetings: 11 October (AGM), 8 November, 13 December