



Meeting held on Tuesday August 9th 2022 at 7.30 pm
Approved Minutes

1. Present: David Richmond (DR) Chair, Peter Cailey (PC), Robert Dodds (RD), Gill Hart (GH), Ivan Hill (IH), Helen Keating (HK) Secretary, Jack Pickthall (JP), Fiona Power (FP), Cllr John Denerley (JD) and Winston Denerley (deaf signer.)

Apologies were received from Francois van der Zee, Nigel Scott, John Brown, Andy McFarlane.

2. Co-option of new member: it was proposed by HK, seconded by DR and unanimously agreed that Mrs Gill Hart should be co-opted as a member of the Community Council.

3. Police Report: in the absence of a representative the report had been forwarded to members. It was also reported that the person who had thrown the chair from the Crafty Crow into the river, had subsequently been identified and had retrieved and returned the chair.

4. Dumfries and Galloway report: JD reported that he had been attending various committee meetings but as the Council is at present in recess until August 22nd there were no important decisions to report. Concern about winter costs for local people has been discussed and it was reported that the Community Centre committee has been discussing how they could help in cold weather.

5. Minutes of the previous meeting: with amended spellings (apologies from HK!) and in item 11, Mining Issues, the alteration of 'only 4 people attended the mining Drop-in sessions' to 'unknown number', the adoption of the minutes was proposed by FP and seconded by PC.

6. Matters arising: DR reported that there had been no response from D&G Council about the renovation of the War Memorial railings. DR will follow up again.

7. Chairman's Report: (i) DR wished to extend thanks and congratulations to the Chair, committee and supporters of the Gala for their very successful Gala Week events. (ii) The meeting with Scottish Water about the installation of a top-up water tap seems to have resulted in a positive outlook, with a suggested siting for one on the edge of the car park, near the cycle racks (to be confirmed) and we await the report at the end of August. (iii) The state of the pavements and gutters has been reported by a resident and a request has also been passed on to the CC by the D&G Council workmen, who have been unable to clear the gutters with their machine because of parked cars. They suggested that householders should be asked to remove grass and weeds growing in the pavements/gutters outside their own houses. We hope that citizens will be minded to do so. (iv) The CC has been asked to speak to the children at Gatehouse School about the role of the Community Council. DR has offered to do so and HK has offered to help (having had recent experience with the children.) (v) The GDI and CC have been discussing the removal of the decaying wooden figure by the river in Campbell's field (behind the kiosk) and moving it to somewhere in the grounds of the Mill. (vi) The replacement of the Cardoness Castle lights seems to be getting closer – see Agenda item 11. (vii) The cost of fuel for the winter was discussed and there are notices on the CC board about the provision of free logs from The Hub. The Hub is also managing a fuel subsidy scheme and applications should be submitted by email with all the information required to info@thehubdg.org.uk. Alternatively, telephone 01387 269161 for further information. More details on the scheme are also on the Community Council News Page <https://www.gatehouse-of-fleet.co.uk/index.php/community/community-council/482-community-council-news>. (21 July

update) Residents are also reminded that they may collect any wood left in piles for collection in Garries Park woods.

8. Planning applications: (a) There have been four decisions made since our last meeting:

(i) Permission has been granted unconditionally for the installation of insulated render to houses at 1-7 Birtwhistle Gardens, Gatehouse; (ii) Permission has been granted unconditionally for the erection of a retractable canopy to the front elevation at 49 High Street, Gatehouse; (iii) Permission has been granted unconditionally for the installation of replacement roof covering at Fleetbank, Gatehouse; and (iv) Permission has been granted unconditionally for the installation of four replacement windows with UPVC double-glazed windows at 9A Digby Street, Gatehouse; and (v) Permission has been granted conditionally for the siting or erection of up to six holiday accommodation units/chalets 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 at Drumwall Farm, nr. Gatehouse. (Post-approval of 21/0501/PIP)

(b) There have been no new planning applications.

9. Treasurer's report: PC reported that we have £1,243 in the Common Good Fund and £746 in the Admin. account. It was agreed that we might be able to help the Community Centre committee with their expense of winter provisions.

10. Cycling event: members were reminded of the Cycling event that will be starting on August 25th with the arrival of cyclists pitching their tents in Garries Park, with a welcome event on the Thursday evening. Cycling events will take place on Friday and Saturday. HK hoped that members would come and support it.

11. Cardoness Lights: DR met with Cavers & Co and received helpful comments regarding the wording on the required legal agreement and supporting schedule sent to us by HES. Paul Cavers was thanked by the CC for his assistance. DR reported that we are not covered by the D&G Council blanket Public Liability insurance policy and that a separate policy will be required. He has had a quote for £47.97 and the CC approved that this be accepted. Regular maintenance, yearly inspections, a five-yearly electricity report and replacement of the lights after 15 years will also be required.

12. Hamish McInnes. The proposed memorial plaque was discussed. The owner of the house where he lived would be very happy to have a plaque outside. The need for planning permission will be raised with D&G Council.

13. Mining Issues: there has been no further news about future exploratory drilling.

14. Forestry A notification about harvesting and re-planting of trees in the Clints of Dromore area was discussed briefly. The view of the meeting was that there was no need for CC involvement as both D&G Roads and Kirkmabreck CC (both of whom might be more directly impacted) had been copied in on the proposal.

15. AOB: (i) JP reported that there was some concern among residents in the Riverbank area over the felling and burning of trees around the former RC Church site and the area of the development. FP was asked to contact D&G planning department for clarification of the situation.

(ii) IH reported that the seat alongside the football pitch in Garries Park has been broken. HK will send a CCES to D&G Council to report this.

(iii) JD asked if he could have some means of local constituents contacting him. Some councillors offer surgeries (cf Dougie Campbell has a notice on the CC notice board) and it was suggested that our three local ward councillors might discuss this together to organise a tri-partite approach to the provision of surgeries. In the absence of that, JD could have a similar notice on the board offering e-mail contact details.

(iv) HK reported that concern has been expressed by several resident about the parking spaces in the town car park. The electric car charging points are awaiting their charging posts (meanwhile the provision of electricity is free!) and the loss of previous general parking spaces is putting real pressure on the rest of the car park. HK will consult D&G Council about how this could be ameliorated.

(v) HK also reported on posters, received that day, about free school uniforms. These may be donated at Stepping Stones Foodbank at 198 King Street, Castle Douglas, and may be collected at Castle Douglas Community Centre on Sunday August 14th between 11 am and 3 pm. The Committee discussed whether Gatehouse School parents could organise a uniform shop under the auspices of the school. HK will mention the suggestion to the headmaster.

(vi) PC asked about progress on the defibrillator issue – DR will refresh this with the GDI.

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm, with thanks to Winston for his signing and good wishes for his new job.

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