



**Meeting held on 8 February 2022 at 7 30pm
Unapproved Minutes**

Attendees (in person and via Zoom)

Councillors: David Richmond (DR) (Chair), Peter Cailey (PC), Francois Van der Zee (FZ), Helen Keating (HK), Fiona Power (FP), Cllr J Maitland (JM)

Minutes Secretary: Susan Miller (SM)

Apologies: Robert Dodds (RD), Ruairidh Hesketh (RH), Nigel Scott (NS), John Brown (Police Scotland) (JB)

In Attendance: Danny Alderslowe (DA), Julia Weston (JW)

2 Conflicts of Interest

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

3 Public Forum (Agenda item 2)

3.1 **Woodside Garage Site:** JW gave an update on the proposed development: The site had been bought in early 2020 in the knowledge it was earmarked for development but with a difficult planning history. It was proposed to build 8 houses one for private use, plus 7 affordable homes for rent to local people/key workers. The latter would remain in community ownership with temporary, and if possible, permanent restrictions, on sale as 2nd homes. The houses would be sympathetic to the local environment being single storey, white rendered with slate roofs. JW advised advanced talks with various agencies regarding funding and transfer to community ownership were proceeding. JW concluded by saying that having made good progress there was still some significant issues to address but she was fully committed to the project and the town.

3.2 **Bike shelters and public transport:** DA raised 2 issues

(a) Despite vigorous efforts over the last 5 or 6 years, and detailed discussions with D and G Council, officers he was no nearer to getting bike shelters installed in the town. He felt that D And G Council were not engaging, despite recently promoting an Active Travel Strategy.

(b) Despite active campaigning in recent years, the bus service had suffered further cuts leading to a significant deterioration in terms of timetable, reliability and comfort. The service was heavily subsidised by D and G Council but there seemed to be little attention paid to what local people needed and wanted, and what the service provider actually delivered. For example, the 500 service had been reduced to peak times, to the detriment of people attending appointments in Dumfries and there was no co-ordination with the rail service.

3.3 Both DR and JM offered their support to try and progress both issues. **DA** said he would write to them with more detailed information including correspondence with D and G Council. **HK** mentioned the patient transport service for those attending hospital appointments and **DR** said he would investigate the current arrangements for that service.

4 Police Report (Agenda item 3)

4.1 **JB** reported by email that youths had been involved in minor anti-social behaviour such as:

- throwing eggs at the school and other areas within the town. Those involved had been identified and warned in the presence of their parents;
- a national increase in instances of impersonation fraud including claims to be a police officer and tricking people into disclosing bank details etc. Full details of the advice will be posted on the CC website

<http://www.gatehouse-of-fleet.co.uk/index.php/community/community-council>

A Crime Prevention video from the Metropolitan Police is available here <https://vimeo.com/547456268> with advice on checking a police officer's identity

5 Dumfries and Galloway Report (Agenda item 4)

5.1 **JM** reported that

(a) budget preparation was underway and was likely to lead to significant cuts to meet a large funding gap.

- (b) adult protection services had been inspected and shown very significant improvement.
- (c) people could engage in ‘conversation’ on the Active Travel Strategy referred to at 3.2 (a) via D and G Council’s website
- (d) good results were being achieved from support for young people with low level mental health issues

6 Minutes of meeting on 11 January 2022 (Agenda item 5)

- 6.1 The minutes of the meeting on 11 January 2022 were agreed. Approval was proposed by **PC** and seconded by **HK**.

7 Matters Arising (Agenda item 6)

- 7.1 **DR** reported as follows

- (a) works to reopen/widen the route from Boatgreen to the river for emergency service access had halted pending discussions between local residents and the emergency services.
- (b) he had not yet received publicity material for the 2022 Census from National Records of Scotland
- (c) work to repair storm damage in Garries Wood was progressing well
- (d) following investigation of the water leak by the garage site, Scottish Water had confirmed repairs would be carried out;
- (e) no reply had been received from Tilhill Ltd, the agents, regarding the CC’s response on forestation proposals at Glen Farm.

8 Chair’s report and Correspondence (Agenda item 7)

- 8.1 **DR** reported that

- (a) he had received an email from a resident seeking information on (i) the sale of the RC church and (ii) mining proposals in the area; he would reply to confirm that the sale to Loreburn did not proceed and with a summary of the situation regarding the mining activity (see also 8.1 (d) below
- (b) he had been contacted by a resident concerned about dog fouling; despite most dog owners acting responsibly this was an ongoing issue and he asked that anyone who became aware of an incident to speak to the dog owner concerned and/or report it to D and G Council’s Community Safety Team at <https://www.dumgal.gov.uk/article/15204/Dog-fouling> . He reminded owners to clean up after their dogs.
- (c) he had received an email from a resident regarding concerns about the condition of and course of the Fleet As this was strictly not a matter for the CC, **DR** would respond with details of the Galloway Fisheries Trust and SEPA. **HK** added there were also instances of sewage overflow after heavy rain; Again this was a matter for SEPA.
- (d) **DR** referred to a meeting to be held at the Mill on 2 March by South of Scotland Enterprise and confirmed his intention to attend.
- (d) he had received an email from JDH Exploration, a subsidiary of Walkabout Resources, regarding mining activities on licences in the Newton Stewart and Dalry areas and the possibility of future activity in the Gatehouse area. Exploratory drilling was currently taking place at Newton Stewart. JDH Exploration had held a meeting on 19 January and in response an action group had been set up with the aim of protecting Galloway from irresponsible mining, prospecting and development and had held a public meeting on 4 February. Although no mining activity was currently scheduled for the Gatehouse area the matter would now be a standing item on the agenda so that it could be kept under close review.
- (e) the box hedges in the Town Hall Gardens were suffering from box blight and following a meeting with those who maintain the garden, the recommendation was that they be removed and the area replanted. This was agreed and **DR** asked **FZ** to notify neighbours
- (f) the wood carving at the entrance to Garries Park needed to be refurbished/replaced options would be reviewed
- (g) he had been advised by D and G Council that repair of the war memorial railings would need input from conservators to best decide how to retain the character of the railings. HES was mentioned as the relevant body to be consulted.

9 Planning Applications (Agenda item 8)

- 9.1 **FP** reported that since the last meeting:

- (a) there had been two decisions made
- (i) permission has been granted unconditionally for the siting of two staff accommodation pods for a temporary period of 2 years and installation of underground foul-water pipework connecting to an existing septic tank at Laggan, Gatehouse; and
- (ii) the application for the installation of replacement windows with UPVC double-glazed windows at 9A Digby Street, Gatehouse has been withdrawn
- (b) there had been four new planning applications, for:

- (i) alterations including replacement of copper-clad roof with hipped slated roof and erection of single-storey extension to the rear elevation of the flat at 15 Fleet Street, Gatehouse;
 - (ii) installation of a ramp at 14 Pennywell, Gatehouse;
 - (iii) erection of two houses at the Former Church of the Resurrection, Riverbank, Gatehouse (in principle); and
 - (iv) change of use of an agricultural building to form a dwellinghouse at Syllodioch Barn, Rainton, Gatehouse.
- 9.2 **JP** raised a planning matter but was advised that as he had a personal interest the matter should not be considered by the Community Council.

10 Treasurer's Report (Agenda item 9)

- 10.1 **PC** reported that the Admin Account stood at £1118 and the Common Good Fund at £1724

11 Cardoness Lights (Agenda item 10)

- 11.1 **DR** had spoken with HSE and was now expecting email confirmation of what was agreed with them as outstanding; he would circulate the email on receipt.

12 Jubilee Celebrations (Agenda item 11)

- 12.1 **HK** reported that arrangements were in hand to distribute the trees to organisations across the town including the school, the churches, the Mill and the Community Centre and it was proposed that the 1st planting be attended by the Gala Queen and the Citizen of the Year; she was liaising with Sara-Leigh Cain regarding the picnic in the park planned for 4 June.

13 CC Archives (Agenda item 12)

- 13.1 It was agreed that **HK** would liaise with the archivist at the Stewarty Museum regarding the archives recently retrieved from the Community Centre

14 AOCB (Agenda item 13)

- 14.1 **DR** reported on the following CCES matters
- (a) repair work to the drains in Ann Street would take place by the end of March 2022
 - (b) repair works in Victoria Street, Castramon Road and Fleetside were in the planned works programme but delayed by supply chain problems
 - (c) repairs to the B796 outside the fire station would be included in a future works programme
 - (d) Outstanding repairs to the footpath in the High St would be included in the 2022/23 work programme
- 14.2 **JM** congratulated the CC on its use of hybrid equipment and being the only CC currently offering the facility.

The meeting ended at 9 25 pm

Next meetings: 8 March, 12 April, 10 May