



**Meeting held on 10 January 2023 at 7 pm**

**Attendees**

**Councillors:** Peter Cailey (PC), Robert Dodds (RD), Gill Hart (GH), Ruaridh Hesketh (RH), Helen Keating (HK), Fiona Power (FP), Francois Van der Zee (FZ)

**Dumfries and Galloway Council:** John Denerley (JD) and signer

**Minutes Secretary:** Susan Miller (SM)

**1 Ivan Hill – Vice Chair**

- 1.1 RH said that everyone had been shocked and saddened to hear that Ivan Hill, the Vice Chair, had died of a heart attack in the early hours of Monday morning and asked GH to lead members in a period of reflection of Ivan's service to the community. GH said that Ivan was a wise, thoughtful and compassionate man who was poised to make a significant contribution to the community. He would be hugely missed by all who knew him but particularly, of course, his family and friends to whom members sent their warmest wishes and thoughts at this very sad time. Members observed a short silence in memory of Ivan. Arrangements for the funeral would be advised in due course.

**2 Apologies (Agenda Item 1)**

- 2.1 Amy McConchie (AM), Nigel Scott (NS), John Brown (JB) Police Scotland

**3 Declarations of Interest (Agenda Item 2)**

None

**4 Public Forum (Agenda Item 3)**

None

**5 Minutes of meeting on 13 December 2022 (Agenda Item 4)**

- 4.1 Approval of the minutes of the meeting on 13 December 2022 was proposed by FZ seconded by HK and agreed unanimously.

**6 Matters arising from the previous meeting (Agenda Item 5)**

**6.1 The Legacy Fund**

Consideration deferred to the next meeting.

**6.2 Defibrillators**

FZ reported that co-ordinated and focused work was in hand to finalise plans for installing defibrillators, including a paediatric defibrillator, with Colin Frame acting as the GDI's agent.

**6.3 Welcome Pack**

GH reported that she was meeting AM on 12 January. After discussion it was agreed that the Pack would comprise a letter to all residents and information on all voluntary groups within the town to be made available in both hard and digital versions.

#### **6.4 Siting of plaque/post for Sustainable Development Goals**

After discussion it was agreed to site either in the car park or in the grounds of the Mill (subject consultation with the Mill trustees).

#### **7 Review of Resilience Planning (Agenda Item 6)**

7.1 Consideration deferred to next meeting.

#### **8 Cycling Events (Agenda Item 7)**

8.1 RH said that with the return of Raiders Gravel in August and the UK's first TREK UCI Gravel World Series event (the Gralloch) in May, the town was becoming a high profile destination for international and prestigious cycling events to the benefit of the town and its economy.

<https://raidersgravel.com/>

<https://www.grallochgravel.com/>

8.2 SM said that at local grassroots level the Community Centre had received funding from Cycling Scotland for a covered bike shelter and a maintenance station and was hosting an event on 17 February promoting e bikes and cycling generally with input from Sustrans and Wheels of Fleet.

<https://www.facebook.com/IBikeCommunities>

#### **9 Chair's report and correspondence (Agenda Item 8)**

9.1 RH referred to recent flooding events and said that a fuller Chair's report would be submitted to the next meeting.

#### **10 Dumfries and Galloway Council Report (Agenda Item 9)**

10.1 JD reported that DGC had been in recess since the last meeting but that the focus remained on working with ScotGov and the 3rd sector to support the community through the costs of living crisis; the recent floods had exacerbated the need for road repairs across the region; and the 2023/4 budget would be considered at the end of February but was likely to require both an increase in council tax and some service cuts/reprioritisation.

10.2 HK asked what the DGC position was on separate council tax arrangements for Airbnb properties. JD said there was a difficult balance to be achieved between the benefits to the local economy from tourism and the year round needs of local residents and DGC had not yet reached a view.

#### **11 Review of Planning Applications (Agenda Item 10)**

11.1 FP reported that since the last meeting permission had been granted conditionally for the erection of an extension to the North-East elevation of the dwelling house at Catriona, 7 Beechwood, Gatehouse and there had been no new planning applications.

#### **12 Police Report (Agenda Item 11)**

12.1 JB submitted a written report as follows

(a) there had been damage to wing mirror of a car in Catherine Street, overnight on 13 December but details of the other vehicle were unknown.

- (b) hens in a rear garden in High Street had been attacked by 2 spaniels with one hen killed and one badly injured. The owners of the dog had not as yet been identified and may have been holidaymakers.
- (c) two men offering to clean guttering had been reported and traced but there had been no financial loss to anyone.

### **13 Report from the Gatehouse Development Initiative (Agenda Item 12)**

13.1 FZ said a full report would be made to the next meeting.

### **14 Treasurer's Report (Agenda Item 13)**

14.1 PC reported that the Admin Fund stood at £480 and the Common Good Fund at £376.

### **15 AOB (Agenda Item 14)**

15.1 HK reported that

- (a) the otter statue by the river was not the responsibility of the CC and no further action was required.
- (b) she and IH had met with a representative of the Banting family regarding the memorial bench

15.2 FZ reported an incident over Christmas when a visitor's hire car had been damaged and the owners had felt threatened by the presence of someone with a metal pole. It was noted that Police Scotland advice was to report all incidents to 101.

15.3 RD reported that a light at the recycling centre in the car park was not working.

**Action: GH to report to CCEs**

15.4 GH had been unable to attend the DGC/SPEN/Energy Saving Trust Net Zero Transport Workshop and had been asked to provide the following information

- (a) **the most pressing transport need in the community**  
after discussion agreed as a better bus service co-ordinating with the train timetable in Dumfries with buses running later in the evenings especially in the summer months to support local workers
- (b) **the groups with greatest transport needs**  
after discussion agreed as young people and people with disabilities
- (c) **new/additional transport provision**  
after discussion agreed as a better local bus service with better links to national bus/train network

15.5 It was agreed that consideration would be given to an article for Galloway News on IH following consultation with his family at an appropriate time

The meeting ended at 8 01pm

Next meetings 14 February, 14 March, 11 April