



**Meeting held on 12 April 2022 at 7 30pm
Unapproved Minutes**

Attendees (in person and via Zoom)

Councillors: David Richmond (DR) (Chair), Peter Cailey (PC), Robert Dodds (RD), Ruaridh Hesketh (RH), Helen Keating (HK), Jack Pickthall (JP), Fiona Power (FP), Nigel Scott (NS), Francois Van der Zee (FZ)

Minutes Secretary: Susan Miller (SM)

In attendance: Alison Blacklock(Police Scotland (PS)) (AB), Ivan Hill (IH), Susan Murdoch (SMu)

Apologies: Cllr Pauline Drysdale; Cllr Jane Maitland

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 DR introduced SMu who was standing as a Ward 3 candidate in the local elections on behalf of the Conservative Party. SMu made a brief statement as to her background and reasons for standing. DR explained briefly the arrangements for attendance by ward councillors at Council meetings.

4 Police Report (Agenda item 3)

4.1 AB reported that there had been no locally reported crime. HK referred to 2 incidents which she understood had been reported to PS: damage to a gas meter in Horatio Square and possible anti social behaviour on Garries Park at night. JP referred to an incident of theft of diesel from vehicles which had not been reported. AB stressed the need to report all incidents to 101 and asked the Council to publicise the higher risk of fuel thefts at this time of very high costs.

5 Dumfries and Galloway Report (Agenda item 4)

5.1 No report

6 Minutes of meeting on 8 March 2022 (Agenda item 5)

6.1 Approval was proposed by FP and seconded by NS.

7 Matters Arising (Agenda item 6)

7.1 All issues covered under Item 8.

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

8.1 DR reported that

- (a) following an exchange of e-mails with SMu, he had contacted all election agents via D&G Council inviting candidates for Ward 3 elections to attend the meeting but had received no responses
- (b) he was liaising with SM regarding arrangements for a meeting with the Ward Officer, the Community Centre and the GDI to discuss development of a Local Place Plan
- (c) due to upcoming Bank Holidays, the Mobile Bank would be at the Community Centre on **Wednesday 20 April and 5 May** rather than Monday 18 April and 2 May
- (d) there was nothing further to report on Garries Park at this stage pending receipt of the consultant's report
- (e) he was still in discussion with DGC regarding the drainage works in Ann Street which did not seem to have been carried out as proposed by DGC
- (f) he had submitted comments on the tree felling applications for Pibble Hill and Glen Farm but had received no replies to those submissions
- (g) following a report from Cllr Campbell of an oil leak from a pipe under Fleet Bridge he had inspected the site but could find no evidence; the issue had been reported to SEPA by Cllr Campbell.

9 Planning Applications (Agenda item 8)

9.1 FP reported that since the last meeting:

(a) there had been four decisions:

(i) Permission had been granted conditionally for the erection of a detached domestic studio/workshop outbuilding at Shelterstone, 2 Planetree Park, Gatehouse;

(ii) Permission had been granted unconditionally for the erection of a detached garden room at Silver Trees, Cally Avenue, Gatehouse;

(iii) No objections had been raised to the extension of a 14.5 -metre mast to a height of 20m, the erection of six antennas, two transmission discs and associated works at Mossyard, nr Gatehouse;

(iv) Permission had been granted unconditionally for alterations to form storage areas with existing covered verandah at Fleet Star Pavilion, Garries Park, Gatehouse;

(b) there had been four new planning applications for:

(i) Change of use of agricultural buildings to form two dwellinghouses, alterations and extensions, formation of car parking and turning area and installation of septic tanks and soakaways at Low Barlay, Gatehouse;

(ii) 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 an earlier planning in principle (21/0501/PIP);

(iii) siting of five holiday pods with associated decked and parking areas, formation of access track and water pond and installation of shared sewage treatment plant at Mossyard quarry site, nr. Gatehouse;

(iv) siting of four glamping pods with associated decked areas and parking, formation of internal road and pathways, installation of sewage treatment plant and soakaway, path lighting bollards, electric vehicle charging point, landscaping and associated works adjacent to Court Knowe, nr Gatehouse;

(c) the Flood Risk Management Team were making further enquiries into the planning application for glamping pods submitted by the Masonic Arms

10 Treasurer's Report (Agenda item 9)

10.1 PC reported that the Admin Account remained at £1118 and the Common Good Fund at £1724

11 Jubilee Party (Agenda item 10)

11.1 HK outlined proposals for the event on Saturday 4 June which included a bring your own picnic, entertainment and childrens' races and reported she had ordered 2 portable toilets (£156) and prepared publicity material. Members approved the arrangements.

12 Citizen of the Year (Agenda item 11)

12.1 After discussion it was agreed that for 2022 the award would comprise 3 categories – under 18s, over 18s and town-based groups/organisations. Nominations and voting would take place in June and July with the awards made on Gala Day.

13 Mining Issues (Agenda item 12)

13.1 SM advised the meeting that JDH Exploration/Walkabout Resources had begun a desk top study of the Gatehouse licence area and ground surveys were being done, It was noted that the Gatehouse Licence area covered areas outside of the Gatehouse Community Council boundaries.

14 Cardoness Lights

14.1 DR reported that there had been a useful site meeting with SPEN, HES and Stuart Ross, Electrician after which the following actions had been noted as required

- landowner approval to minor works
- minor works including ducting and fencing
- some changes to the lighting specification
- sign off of the legal agreements

14.2 DR had received a received quote from the electrician and he would now contact the GDI to determine any funding gap and progress the above actions.

15 AOCB (Agenda item 13)

15.1 DR reminded members that HK had indicated that she would be standing down as secretary at the AGM and, in the absence of anyone as yet indicating they would take up the role, he was in contact with the Ward Officer to

explore options.

15.2 DR reported that

- (a) the Community Centre would be providing its facilities free of charge should any Ukrainian families arrive in Gatehouse
- (b) a large hole in Usher Gdns / Markethill and the need to repair the pothole at Cally Gates again had been reported to CCES
- (c) DGC had confirmed that the reported problem at Boreland Wood was a matter for PS and should be reported via 101 if necessary
- (c) he had responded to an enquiry about affordable housing
- (d) he would be making enquiries as to use of electric car charging spaces by non electric vehicles
- (e) the bench at Fleet Bridge had been repaired and returned

15.3 Other issues raised were

- (a) repair of one of the pedestrian lights in the High Street (**DR**)
- (b) investigation of the reasons for the continuing use of temporary lights by the garage site (**DR**)
- (c) establishing if all other benches had been repaired/returned (**NS/HK**)
- (d) closure of Kirkcudbright Bank of Scotland: it was noted that a range of banking services were available at the Gatehouse Stores Post Office. The meeting expressed disquiet at the continuing reduction of face-to-face banking services in the area.

15.4 After discussion of the Chair's availability in May and June it was agreed to cancel the meetings on 10 May and 14 June and replace with a meeting on **31 May**

The meeting ended at 9 05 pm

Next meetings: 31 May, 12 July, 9 August