



**Meeting held on 14 March 2023 at 7 pm**

**Attendees**

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

**Dumfries and Galloway Council:** Cllr A MacFarlane (AM) to 7 20pm

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

**1 Apologies**

1.1 John Brown (JB) Police Scotland

**2 Declarations of Interest**

2.1 None

**3 Public Forum**

3.1 None

**4 Local Place Planning**

4.1 Deferred.

**5 Minutes of meeting on 14 February 2023**

5.1 Approval of the minutes of the meeting on 14 February 2023 was proposed by FZ seconded by NS and agreed unanimously.

**6 Matters arising from the previous meeting**

**Review of Resilience Plan**

6.1 NS reported that an initial approach had been made to someone who might be interested. RH and NS would report back to the next meeting.

**Action: RH/NS to report back to next meeting**

**Launch of Legacy Fund at the Community Liaison Meeting**

6.2 GH advised that proposals for operation of the Legacy Fund were being developed and that a community liaison meeting at which the Fund would be launched was planned for 13 May. Members noted the need to make sure the Fund was operated transparently and accessible to all.

**Hamish MacInnes Plaque**

6.3 RH reported that the final design was agreed and asked HK to resend supplier details.

**Action: HK to resend supplier details to RH**

**Community Map Scotland software**

6.4 RH reported that the software was now available free of charge for 12 months and, in providing multi layered information, would be an invaluable tool in producing the LPP. He would circulate user information to all members. It was noted that use was confined to Community Council members for Council business

**Action: RH to circulate user details to all members**

## **7 Chair's report and correspondence**

7.1 RH reported that the organisers of The Gralloch gravel bike race had held a community engagement meeting and were making comprehensive plans to manage impacts on the community.

## **8 Dumfries and Galloway Council Report**

8.1 AM reported that

(a) the Economy and Resources Committee had considered LPPs at their meeting that day and a more structured process would now be introduced to support community councils. Further information is available at <https://dumfriesgalloway.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s47073/Local%20Place%20Plan.pdf>  
<https://dumfriesgalloway.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s47074/Local%20Place%20Plan%20-%20Appendix.pdf>

RH said that there were plans to develop a LPP and this information would be helpful.

(b) the budget had now been set

(c) in response to concerns about Airbnb properties raised at the last meeting, all short term lets, including Airbnb, will need to apply for a licence by October 2023 and will then be included on a public register; failure to register or to comply with licencing requirements could lead to enforcement action. Members recognised the benefits of a thriving tourist economy but stressed the distortions on the local housing market especially for smaller properties caused by short term lets.

## **9 Review of Planning Applications**

9.1 FP reported that since the last meeting

(a) there had been 3 decisions since the last meeting:

(i) permission had been granted conditionally for the installation of replacement windows and front door, alterations to the existing window and door opening to form a French-door opening and formation of a new window opening on the south elevation of Fleetbank, Gatehouse;

(ii) permission had been refused for the erection of a dwellinghouse with roof-mounted solar panels, installation of an air-source heat pump, formation of access, temporary siting of a caravan and the erection of a boundary fence at Plot 1, Former Church Of Resurrection Site, Riverbank, Gatehouse; and

(iii) permission had been granted unconditionally for the installation of one replacement window, one rooflight and two slate vents and widening of internal opening at Cally High Lodge, Gatehouse.

(b) there had been 7 new planning applications for:

(i) the installation of a top-up tap, High Street, Gatehouse;

(ii) the erection of a detached domestic garage and boundary fence at Medstead, Garden Street, Gatehouse;

(iii) the installation of defibrillators at Murray Arms Hotel, 52 High Street and car park kiosk, Gatehouse\*.

(iv) the installation of a flue at the rear elevation of 29 Fleet Street, Gatehouse; and

- (v) alterations to attached garage including enlargement of window opening to form bi-fold door opening and installation of new window on front elevation, formation of two window openings and installation of two rooflights on side elevation, installation of new door and building up of garage door opening to form two window openings on rear elevation, replacement of flat roof, repainting of exterior and internal alterations to enable garage to be used as habitable domestic accommodation at Boreland Of Anwoth, Gatehouse.
- (c) a planning consultation request had been received from Cornerstone regarding upgrade of a telecom mast at Lanefoot, Skyreburn. This mast and associated structures are to be at the same site as the existing hardware and similar in design and height.
- 9.2 \* FZ said that pending installation of the defibrillators, a unit was available in Gatehouse Store during opening hours.

## **10 Coronation celebrations**

10.1 HK to progress proposals and report back to the next meeting.

**Action: HK to progress proposals and report back to the next meeting**

## **11 Police Report**

12.1 JB submitted a written report as follows

- (a) report of the theft of 2 tree logs felled for firewood from an area of Skyreburn between 1 and 2 March; enquiries were continuing
- (b) Drop In sessions would be held at Castle Douglas Police Office 11am – 1230pm and Kirkcudbright Police Office 3pm – 430pm both on 20 March
- (c) Important information on Doorstep Crime and also on recruitment to Police Scotland was available <https://www.scotland.police.uk>
- (d) Information on a Scottish Health Survey was available on <https://www.gov.scot/collections/scottish-health-survey/>

## **12 Report from the Gatehouse Development Initiative**

12.1 FZ said that there had not been a meeting since 14 February, that the GDI would be represented at the HES Engagement Session on 31 March and that RD would instal the plinth for the Cardoness Lights.

12.2 He confirmed that the Saturday Market in the car park would not be reinstated and consideration was being given to starting up an arts/crafts/country market type event in the Mill.

## **13 Treasurer's Report**

13.1 PC reported that the Admin Fund stood at £817, the Common Good Fund at £186 and the Legacy Fund at £19414.

## **14 Correspondence**

14.1 GH reported

- (a) a location for the bench commemorating Nicholas Banting had been chosen
- (b) the steps at the War Memorial would be repaired to level them
- (c) a productive meeting had been held with the GDI with interest shown in involvement in the LPP and improved communications across the town
- (c) old financial records were being sent to the archivist
- (d) a request had been received from the GDI to share the cost of repairs to part of the Cally Park boundary wall. FZ suggested that the request be considered further by the GDI at its next meeting.

14.2 GH said that she would be taking up the post of Interim Priest for Greyfriars Kirkcudbright and St Mary's Gatehouse as of 1 April 2023 and therefore felt she could no longer

act as secretary. Members thanked her for significant contribution at a very difficult time for the Council. RH asked anyone interested in taking up the role to let him know.

## **15 AOB**

15.1 Members were concerned at delays in installing the defibrillators as a result of the need for full planning applications for each unit as they were to be sited in a conservation area and in 1 case on a listed building. The individual applications had taken considerable time to finalise and would now take time to be approved. It was considered that this onerous process was in stark contrast to the recent High Street pavement repairs which seemed to take no account of the local environment. It was agreed to raise these concerns with the Leader of DGC. Colin Frame was thanked for all his work in producing the plans and drawings.

**Action: RH to raise concerns about differing approaches to works etc in the conservation area by different DGC departments with the Leader of DGC**

15.2 NS raised various instances of poor workmanship including the area around the noticeboard and the footbridge and the need for potholes to be repaired quickly and effectively to avoid accidents to cyclists in particular. HK suggested all such matters should be raised via CCES in the 1<sup>st</sup> instance.

The meeting ended at 20 11

Next meetings 11 April, 9 May, 13 June