



Meeting held on 14 November 2023 at 7 00 pm

Attendees

Councillors: Peter Cailey (PC), Robert Dodds (RD), Ruaridh Hesketh (RH), Helen Keating (HK), Mark Laird (ML), Amy McCreath (AM), Fiona Power (FP), Nigel Scott (NS), Francois van der Zee (FZ)

Associate Member: Susan Miller (SM)

In attendance: Suzette Harris (SH), James Harvey (JH)

1 Welcome and apologies

1.1 Post meeting apologies were received from Cllr Dougie Campbell. RH welcomed SH and JH.

2 Declarations of Interest

2.1 AM declared an interest in item 10

3 Public Forum

3.1 No items

4 Appointment of co-opted member

4.1 The co-option of Edward Mark Laird (ML), 10 Bakers Dozen, Gatehouse of Fleet, Castle Douglas, DG7 2LA was proposed by NS, seconded by HK and agreed unanimously.

4.2 NS said that JH had expressed interest in joining the Council as a co-opted member. SM said she would put arrangements in place to effect this at the next meeting.

5 Request to DGC to hold Casual Vacancy Election

5.1 A request to DGC to hold a Casual Vacancy Election was proposed by FP seconded by FZ and agreed unanimously.

6 Minutes of meeting on 10 October 2023

6.1 Approval of the minutes of the meeting on 10 October was proposed by PC seconded by FZ and agreed unanimously.

7 Matters arising from the previous meeting

7.1 The following repairs effected though CCES were noted

(a) the plinth by the noticeboard adjoining the Spar car had been removed and the pavement repaired by DGC

(b) the 30 mph sign at the west entrance to the town had been replaced by DGC

(c) the drain cover in the High Street had been replaced by Scottish Water

7.2 RH asked SM to circulate the contact email for the CCES service so that all members could raise matters

8 Dumfries and Galloway Council Report

8.1 There was no DGC representative in attendance but information had been received by email that throughout November and December, DGC would be running events to provide free warm winter clothes to families and individuals with a wide range of coats, jackets, jumpers, cardigans, hats, gloves and scarves for adults and children including Sunday 19 November 11am – 3pm – Castle Douglas Community Centre, Cotton Street, Castle Douglas

9 Police Report

Police Scotland reported via email

9.1 speeding on A75 on 11 and 21 October and 8 November

- 9.2 careless driving and collision with road sign on A75
- 9.3 break in at Spar Store and enquiries being progressed by CID
- 9.4 Stewartry Community Drop in at Kirkcudbright Fire Station on 28 November 11 30-1230
- 9.5 information on After Dark Home Security Campaign available from [Police Scotland Security Scotland](#)
- 9.6 The priorities for this area which are decided by data from our strategic assessment which details threats and risks, and also from feedback from local authorities, partners, and residents and are
- Violent crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour
 - Crimes of theft and dishonesty
 - Substance misuse
 - Road safety and road crime
 - [Protecting vulnerable people.](#)
- 9.7 The local Community Policing Team can be contacted at StewartryCPT@Scotland.police.uk or via 101; in an emergency always call 999.

10 Review of Planning Applications

FP reported that since the last meeting:

- 10.1 there had been four decisions made since our last meeting:
- (a) permission had been granted conditionally for the erection of an extension to the rear elevation and replacement of four existing windows with four timber sash and case windows at 6 Bridge Terrace, Gatehouse;
- (b) permission had been granted conditionally for change of use, alterations and an extension to an agricultural steading building to form a dwellinghouse, installation of a septic tank and soakaway, roof-mounted solar panels, ground-mounted air-source heat pump and formation of parking and turning area at Low Barlay, Gatehouse;
- (c) permission had been granted conditionally for the erection of a dwellinghouse with roof-mounted solar panels and installation of a septic tank and soakaway at Dalavan, Bush Moss, Gatehouse.
- (d) permission had been granted conditionally for the erection of an extension to the south-west elevation of the dwellinghouse at Marchfield, 14 Garden Street, Gatehouse.
- 10.2 there had been four new planning applications:
- (a) for the siting of a chalet for use as holiday accommodation on land to the rear of the Murray Arms Hotel & Clermiston, High Street, Gatehouse (retrospective);
- (b) for alterations and the erection of an extension to the south elevation of the dwellinghouse at Newton Bungalow, near Gatehouse.
- (c) for alterations including formation of a new window opening on the southeast elevation, enlargement of a window opening to form a French door opening to the southwest elevation and the building up of a garage door opening to form a window opening on the northeast elevation of the dwellinghouse Shennah Thie, Old Ford Road, Gatehouse; and
- (d) for the erection of a farm shop (27 m²) and formation of an outdoor seating area, car parking area and associated landscaping at Mossyard Farm, nr Gatehouse (retrospective).
- 10.3 RH said he would circulate a pre-application consultation letter for upgrade of a base station at Disdow Farm.

11 Treasurer's Report

- 9.1 PC reported that the Admin Account stood at £335, the Common Good Fund at £598 and the Legacy Fund at £19,414

12 Gatehouse Development Initiative update

- 12.1 There had not not been a GDI meeting since the last CC meeting

13 Correspondence

- 13.1 None

14 Recycling Area

- 14.1 RH reported that the former Smiling Sweepers were willing to keep the area clean and tidy. He suggested they approach PC direct for funding for bin bags/gloves etc. FZ offered to donate gloves from Gatehouse Store.

15 Legacy Fund

15.1 AM said that an application had been received and would be reported to the next meeting. RH asked all members to promote the Fund with groups across the town.

16 Potential loss of pharmacy/chemist

16.1 RD reported that appeared to be some interest in sale as a going concern. ML offered to draft a letter to Boots stressing the importance to the community of a dispensing chemist and the need for the business to remain open pending sale.

17 Gralloch Community Engagement Sessions

17.1 RH reported that community engagement drop in sessions for the 2024 Gralloch event had been booked for 5 December 12 – 8 and 6 December 10 - 12 in the Community Centre and he would contact the organisers to stress the importance of publicising the events within the community. He encouraged all CC members to attend

18 AOB

18.1 RH reported that

(a) he had initiated informal discussions around the **bike town** concept and suggested that a working group be established including key stakeholders to consult the community and develop a plan

(b) SPEN had agreed to meet the £1500 costs of **repairs to the war memorial railings**

(c) the GDI had advised that sufficient funds had been raised for the **MUGA** and procurement and installation at the school now lay with DGC who would meet with local residents once all the details had been worked out. RH stressed the importance of all parties listening to each other and working together.

(d) a new **defibrillator**, suitable for adults and children, and an external cabinet and the one remaining working unit and an external cabinet would be installed free of charge at Gatehouse Store and the Kiosk respectively; 2 older units were now obsolete and the CC therefore agreed to meet the costs of a further new unit pending applications to funders including the Murray Usher Foundation, British Heart Foundation and the GDI; the need for ongoing arrangements within the community for management, repair and maintenance etc was noted.

(e) Tony Parker would attend the December meeting to update on the **Resilience Team**

18.2 PC asked for an update on the **Garries Park play project**. RD said he would contact the GDI.

18.3 HK asked for an update on installation of the **Hamish MacInnes plaque**. RH advised that the arrangements were in progress.

18.4 HK raised the need to increase the **CC's profile**. RH agreed that it was important to find ways to connect with the community and opportunities should be sought that would do so inclusively.

18.5 NS raised

(a) the status of the **Galloway National Park** application; it was agreed to invite a representative to give a presentation at a future meeting.

(b) the arrangements for **attendance by DGC councillors**. RH said they were on a rota and he would query why there had been a number of meetings with no representative in attendance.

The meeting ended at 8 35

Next meetings: 12 December, 9 January 2024, 13 February 2024