



Meeting held on 19 September 2023 at 7 pm

Attendees

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

Dumfries and Galloway Council: Cllr John Denerly (JD) and signer

Associate Member: Susan Miller (SM)

In Attendance: Suzette Harris (SH), Chris Jamieson (CJ)

1 Welcome and apologies

1.1 RH welcomed SH and CJ. Apologies were received from Cllr Dougie Campbell

2 Declarations of Interest

2.1 None

3 Public Forum

3.1 No items

4 Minutes of meeting on 25 July 2023

4.1 Approval of the minutes of the meeting on 25 July was proposed by PC seconded by HK and agreed unanimously.

5 Matters arising from the previous meeting

5.1 12.1 and 12.2

RH reported that DGC had confirmed that Community Council elections would be held in September **2024** not 2023, the AGM would be held on 10 October 2023 and arrangements would be made for DGC to attend to discuss the Local Place Plan over the next couple of months.

6 Dumfries and Galloway Council Report

6.1 JD reported that the £30m programme of road repairs and improvements was now in progress.

7 Police Report

7.1 No report received

8 Review of Planning Applications

FP reported that since the last meeting

8.1 there had been 1 decision to grant permission conditionally for the erection of a dwellinghouse and 1.8-metre-high fence and installation of an air-source heat pump at Fleetbank, Gatehouse.

8.2 two applications had been withdrawn:

(a) for the siting of a chalet for use as permanent dwelling (partially retrospective) on land to the rear of the Murray Arms Hotel & Clermiston, High Street, Gatehouse; and

(b) for the erection of a two-storey extension to the rear elevation of the dwellinghouse and erection of a replacement domestic garage at Newton Bungalow, near

Gatehouse.

8.3 there had been three new planning applications:

(a) 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) for the erection of a 35-metre-high lattice mast and a 1.8-metre-high security fence, installation of three antennas, two transmission dishes, two equipment cabinets, one

generator, one GPS, formation of an access track and associated works on land at Murrayton Farm, Gatehouse; and

(c) for the erection of a general -purpose agricultural storage building (retrospective) at Culreoch Farm, Gatehouse

9 Treasurer's Report

9.1 PC reported that the Admin Fund stood at £473, the Common Good Fund (CGF) at £848 and the Legacy Fund at £19,414. It was agreed to donate £250 from the CGF to meet the hardware and installation costs of the 3 defibrillators. RH advised he had a spare unit in the event of breakdown of an installed unit.

10 Report from Gatehouse Development Initiative

10.1 **Cardoness Lights** - awaiting a site visit by the electrician

10.2 **A75 Cycle Route** - consultation sessions with the community and key stakeholders including landowners had been well attended

10.3 **Community Housing at Woodside** - £35k funding had been awarded to meet the costs of a flood risk assessment

10.4 **The Mill** - eligible to apply to the CARES Fund for funding to carry out the energy related improvements subject to lease renewal

10.5 **Garries Park improvements** - work was progressing in accordance with the DGC scope and conditions taking on board community views as to suitable facilities and equipment

11 Correspondence

11.1 The organisers of BigLit had written to express thanks for financial support.

11.2 DGC had begun a consultation on a Regional Parking Strategy with drop in sessions at various locations and an online survey. Further information was available from networkstrategyteam@dumgal.gov.uk and survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Dumfriesparking>

12 Lairdmanoch Energy Park

12.1 It was agreed that it was not appropriate to comment on the proposals at this stage.

13 Offer of holiday accommodation for school holiday periods

13.1 RH reported that owners of a holiday cottage on Carrick had offered accommodation at peak holiday times on a cost recovery basis to any local family who would like to accommodate relatives and friends at peak times but either lacked suitable facilities to meet specific needs or would struggle to meet peak prices.

13.2 It was agreed to support this generous offer by promoting it across the community but that arrangements for the accommodation would need to be made directly between the owners and individual hirers.

14 AOB

14.1 RH reported that the Hamish MacInnes plaque was now available and he was making arrangements for its installation.

14.2 RD reported that Boots might be planning to relocate. Members expressed regret should this go ahead without the business continuing as a pharmacy

14.3 RD suggested that given the number of cycling initiatives within the town, the scope to develop Gatehouse as the Bike Town should be explored; members supported this working in partnership with the GDI.

14.4 SM was asked to recirculate the Legacy Fund application form to all members to encourage applications.

14.5 FZ reported an unsuccessful attempt to pass off fake bank notes at the Post Office.

14.6 HK reported overhanging branches obscuring the 30 mph sign on the B796; raised the need for suitable rental accommodation in particular for families; and suggested Ron Forster and Tony Parker be thanked for their work on the town's floral displays

14.7 NS raised problems with securing repairs to the clock (it was noted that the contract was with DGC and the contractor would attend under its terms); and reported that the footbridge into Garries Park needed to be repaired; SM advised that this had been reported and works should

have been completed. NS said he would check and update SM if necessary. It was agreed that NS would ask Mark Grieve to make necessary repairs to the noticeboard.

The meeting ended at 8 02 pm

Next meetings 10 October (AGM) 14 November, 12 December