



Community Council (CC) Minutes

Minutes of the Community Council Meeting held on Tuesday 8th May 2018

Present: Tony Fowler (TF), Paula Hamilton (PH), Helen Keating (HK), Jack Pickthall (JP),
Fiona Power (FP), David Richmond (DR), Nigel Scott (NS), Alison Veitch (AV),
Councillor Patsy Gilroy (PG)

Also present: Anna Johnson (D&G Council), Ron Forster (RF), Brian Power, PC Blacklock, PC Tyson,
Stephen Norris (Galloway News.)

1. **Apologies** were received from Peter Cailey and Danny Alderslowe.
2. **Police Report:** PC Blacklock reported that (i) investigations into the fire in the public toilets are ongoing. (ii) antisocial behaviour at the new house being built on the road from Ann Street to the Cally Drive resulted in paint being sprayed onto the roof. (iii) a bicycle was stolen from a house – the youths involved have been traced. (iv) Damage has been done to the veranda of the football pavilion.

She then reported that the Bank of Ireland £50 notes have been changed from green to purple and the former are no longer legal tender and, meanwhile, counterfeit notes have been passed in Annan, Castle Douglas and Dumfries. (Advice is posted on the notice board to show security features, along with a leaflet about Scottish Partnership against Rural Crime, with particular reference to Fuel Tank thefts.) Operation Monarda is in operation, about doorstep crimes, offering work. RF reported that the picnic bench by the Jubilee carving by the car park has been smashed and the information board at the Motte damaged. SB will speak to PC John Brown when he returns from holiday. Parking at the zebra crossing was again brought to the attention of the police, with a photograph of the offender handed to PC Blacklock. The reluctance of local victims to report damage and assaults (for fear of reprisals) was discussed with some sadness.

3. **D&G Council report:** (i) PG reported that the Kirkcudbright Gallery will open on June 10th. It was noted that 2018 is the Year of Young People, with an event to mark it planned in Gatehouse. SB asked if there was any news about the provision of school meals in holiday times, in view of the report that school meal staff had been asked if they would provide them on a voluntary basis. DR asked about the planned reduction of staff at the primary school since numbers have dropped. PG assured members that the staffing ratio would be restored as soon as the numbers rose again. PH asked about the problems of training possible volunteers to join the First Responders group since, at the moment, the training weekends are held in Johnstone. It was suggested that SB should talk to the group leader to look into the possibility of arranging training weekends closer to home, with the possible addition of interested members from other local towns, with funding to be found if need be.
4. **Anna Johnson** then reported on the problems of fly-tipping in Garries Park along the banks of the lade behind High Street houses. RF has been monitoring the question for some time and worries about inappropriate plants being introduced into the wild section of the flora and fauna. It is suggested that a letter should be sent to householders along the street to advise them that even garden waste should not be dumped there. Meanwhile the team of volunteers will be having a clear-up effort so that the young trees already planted there can flourish. The support of the community in reporting any fly-tipping is requested.
5. **Community Safety Team:** the team's remit was described with the aid of a visual presentation. The question of dog-fouling was discussed at length and bio-degradable bags were handed out. Discussion with the school children has taken place and residents are reminded that dog bags may

be dropped into any refuse bin, not just the special green ones. Dogs are also to be kept on a lead in burial grounds.

6. **Minutes of the previous Meeting:** the minutes of the previous meeting were approved, proposed by AV, seconded FP.
7. **Matters arising:** (i) The Gatehouse Store has received permission from the Post Office to install an ATM at the shop. (ii) SB and NS had a meeting with D&G Council about the proposed parking limitations outside the school, but their suggestions were ruled out. (iii) There is still unauthorized camping on the beach at Newton Farm and a solution to the problem is continuing to be investigated. (iv) It was reported that some pot-holes in Castramont Road have been filled in but there are still many holes around the town to be attended to.
8. **Provost's Report:** (i) SB reported that the Meals on Wheels service at present organised by the RVS will continue until September. After that it is not clear where meals could be resourced and SB suggested that the volunteers who deliver them could be made associate members of the CC, (subject to official approval) so that they could be covered for liability insurance, which proposal was agreed.
(ii) Representation had been made by parents about the reduction in school teacher numbers but it was agreed that any appeal by the Community Council would be futile. (iii) Following the request for a flower bed to commemorate the RAF Centenary a site of the bed in the Car Park has been marked out and JP will prepare it for planting. There is an amount left of the generous donation by American friends (for the Town Hall garden planting) which will be used to buy red, white and blue plants.
(iv) SB will investigate a source of repairs for the metal work of the Gatehouse sign at the town entrance above the mill pond.
9. **Dean of Guild:** Littleton Farm has applied for the erection of an agricultural building and an extension. Permission has been granted for the Parish Church to have new doors.
10. **Treasurer's Report:** The Footpath account is still not closed; the Common Good Fund stands at £954 and the Admin Fund at £505.06.
11. **Data Protection Act:** the matter has been dealt with and the necessary forms recorded.
12. **AOB:** (i) DR reported that there is a street light missing outside the chemists. (ii) JP reported that there is a lorry parked in a difficult place but discussion revealed that there is really no suitable place for an overnight parking for such a vehicle. SB will discuss this with PC Brown. JP also complained that there is still no sign to Garries Park at the Bobbin entry to the park. (iii) NS reported that the Car Park sign needs to be re-sited as at present visitors take the turning down to the Spar by mistake.
(iv) It was with great sadness that we learned that PH wishes to resign as Treasurer of the CC after unpleasant, uncalled for comments in the town. Similarly we regretfully accept AV's resignation as Dean of Guild because of the same treatment. Both will be missed and were thanked for their service to the town.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.55pm.

Next meetings June 12th, July 10th in the **Community Centre**