



Community Council (CC) Minutes

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday July 8th 2014 In Gatehouse Community Centre

Present: Pat Jacques (PJ), Sue Best (SB), Mike Edwards (ME), Paula Hamilton (PH), Helen Keating (HK), Alan Lowden (AL), Gerrard Macnamara (GM)

Councillor Patsy Gilroy (PG)

Absent Mick Fairnie, Cecilia Franklin,

In attendance: PC J Brown, Sheena McCurrach.

1. **Apologies** were received from Ron Forster, Kathleen Hamblin, Stephen Hodgson, Councillors Jane Maitland and Colin Wyper.
2. **Public Forum:** Mrs Sheena McCurrach of Girthon Kirk House, (the Clachan) outlined her concern about the planning application to build two houses (instead of the original application's four) at the Clachan, without having been sent the customary notification, and asked for the Community Council's support in her objection. SB will contact Judith Turnbull for clarification.
3. **Police report:** before PC Brown's report PJ read out an email of farewell and thanks from PC Steele Johnston, who is moving to Dalbeattie after serving Gatehouse for ten and a half years. PC Brown reported that there has only been one incident, a domestic one, since the last CC meeting, but there is still concern about the thefts from empty houses around the area.
4. The **Minutes of the previous Meeting** were signed as correct.
5. **Matters arising:** (i) No reply has been received from the D&G Planning department about the plans for the new notice board on the clock tower. SB to contact the Department.
(ii) Warmest thanks have been received from Mrs Annie Mackay over the replanting of the barrels at the War Memorial.
(iii) There has been no suggestions yet from the GDI about the provision of banner space in the town. Concern has been expressed by residents about the free-standing banners outside the Rutherford Hall, which obstruct the pavement, and about the display boards dotted around the town on public land. SB will ask D&G Council for guidance on the permissions necessary for such positioning and also on the attachment of flagpoles to a listed building (as at the Bank of Fleet) and the banner at the Cally Hotel entrance on the main road into the town.
6. **GDI Report:** (i) the GDI has now received the grant to repair and restore the Temple.
(ii) The old photos on display in the Mill on the Fleet and in the Community Centre have proved very interesting. There are more to come when Margaret and Graham Wright provide a display in the Mill re World War 1 with particular reference to Gatehouse.
(iii) Community Response Team: RF is to attend a training session.
7. **D&G Council report:** (i) Councillor Gilroy reported that the Shop Front Improvement Scheme still has funding available and encourages applications. (Contact Jason Syres.)
(ii) The Full Council Meeting on Wednesday will discuss the Gatehouse Development plan, with reference to applications on East Meadowside and for land opposite Fleet Valley Home.
(iii) PH asked PG to draw the attention of the appropriate authority to the state of the trees at the lower end of the town's access road onto the A75, which make turning difficult for large and articulated vehicles.

- (iv) PJ also asked if the bollard at that junction could be replaced.
8. **Provost's Report:** (i) She has received an email about a proposed vigil at the War Memorial on Wednesday August 4th at 11. Pm to commemorate the start of WW1. We guess that the British Legion will be organising this and will contact Willie McKie.
- (ii) Willie McKie has notified us that there are only three weeks left to send in an item for the Newsletter. It was suggested that the Community Council should advertise a 'One Man's Rubbish is Another Man's Treasure' event in the Car Park on Saturday September 20th between 2 and 4 pm, when anyone can bring goods they do not want (no bedding) and anyone can take anything away. NO money will change hands and anything not uplifted must be removed by the owner at the end of the session.
- (iii) PJ has received an email inviting a design for a logo for Scottish Community Councils. Entries are invited.
- (iv) She will forward the Solway Firth Partnership Report to members.
9. **Dean of Guild's report:** there is only one planning applications this month, for the felling of a willow tree at Roseville, Ann Street.
10. **Treasurer's Report:** PH reported that the cost of insurance is the same this year, the General Account has £318.46, the Footpath account £613.72 and the Common Good Fund £999.16 (though there will be the bill to pay for the Clock Tower notice Board from that.) The Discretionary Fund grant for 2013/14 is still awaited. She wondered if the cost of the hire of the room for Council Meetings could be negotiated.
- It was agreed that we should think of possible ideas for an attractive sign (on granite?) on the beautiful rockery at the A75 turn into Gatehouse.
11. **AOCB :** (i) There *will* be a Community Council Meeting on August 12th.
- (ii) PJ expressed great concern over the state of the town Brickworks and the car park next to them, which is very overgrown. RF and the GDI will be approached for help. PH reported that the Bank of Scotland has the offer of a day's work by employees and possibly some match-funding available for town projects.
- (iii) Since the gate into Garries Park from the Ann Street end has been left open so often recently it was agreed, together with D&G Council Maintenance department, that the gate should have a permanently attached padlock, which ME has kindly offered to provide and attach, with keys provided for those organisations who use it regularly, such as the Gala Committee, the Football Club, Council Services and the Emergency Services, with an emergency key kept at the Murray Arms.
- (iv) GM reported that they would like new recruits for the town's First Responders Group, which has attended 44 call-outs this year. (Please contact Gerrard Macnamara.)
- (v) GM reported that the Clock Town chimes have gone wrong and it was suggested that he should contact the appropriate department of D&G Council to ask for their help.
- (vi) Local residents have reported that the Mill Dam is covered in weed. An informal approach about its clearing will be made to the owner.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.10 pm.

Next meeting: Tuesday August 12th at 7 pm