



## Community Council (CC) Minutes

### Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday September 8th 2015

Present: Sue Best (SB), Mike Edwards (ME), Ron Forster (RF), Gerard Mcnamara (GM),  
Helen Keating (HK), Councillor Jane Maitland (JM), Alison Veitch (AV), PC John Brown  
Also Josephine McCombe and Peter Cailey

1. **Apologies** were received from Cecilia Franklin, Kathleen Hamblin, Paula Hamilton and Alan Lowden.
2. **Public Forum:** Gatehouse Golf Club has indirectly expressed concern at the Cally Palace's opening of their golf course to non-residents. When the course was built its limit to the use of residents only was self-imposed, not a condition. It was felt that dialogue between the two parties is necessary for mutual benefit and that perhaps the Golf Club needs to advertise itself more widely. The Provost will contact the Club officials and suggest that they should get in touch with Josephine McCombe at the Cally Palace. Action SB
3. **Police Report:** Jimmy Girgan's complaint about the cars using the Cape has been investigated but police occasional monitoring of the road has suggested no further action for the moment. Concern was expressed over neighbours' disputes at Market Hill and is being kept under review. PC Brown confirmed that the two disabled parking places in the High Street are for any blue badge holders, not assigned to specific residents or properties.
4. **D&G Report:** Councillor Maitland reported the satisfaction of our three Councillors at the fact that the Stewartry has more Community Councils (23) than any other area of D&G. She, Councillors Patsy Gilroy and Colin Wyper will be meeting shortly to discuss items affecting their Ward. Constant savings have to be made and one topic to be discussed is the Gatehouse Library. HK is asked to find out the Murray-Usher Foundation's role in the building. Area Committee funding deadlines are being considered, to be decided within the next two or three months. Action HK  
The Health and Social Care draft has been circulated and members are asked to read it. JM suggested that Stephanie Mottram, NHS Stewartry Locality Manager, could be invited to talk to us.  
ME asked if there could be financial help with the notices planned by the Community Response team, which has been informed that only 50% funding would be available from the Community Funds. JM will investigate and the CC will discuss this further. Action JM  
As far as the replacement of the cattle grid on the B796 is concerned, RF reported that it is promised by the end of this month.  
The Provost expressed her concern that nothing seems to be happening over the garage site, with no reply to her email of June 29<sup>th</sup> so she will send that to the D&G Enquiry Service site.
5. **Grey Squirrels:** Peter Garson was welcomed to talk about the programme for the trapping of grey squirrels in order to protect the reds. Gatehouse is an area of particular interest in Scotland, especially the Fleet basin which should be preserved as a stronghold of red squirrels and is regarded as an area of importance to the Forestry Commission. In April a group of six volunteers was formed and trained to trap and exterminate grey squirrels (which are regarded as invasive vermin) and so far 7 have been caught at Ardwall, six at Rusko, 2 at Killigowan and 1 at Skyreburn. Traps are set (currently at Cardoness, Ardwall, Rusko and Cally) and it is illegal to release a grey squirrel from them so it has to be killed. Some feeders have special pads to catch hairs from animals to be analysed for identification. Pine martens are a great enemy to the greys and fortunately they seem to be increasing in this area. Apparently they are very partial to peanut butter which will encourage them to visit!

Encouragingly Peter Garson reported that at the moment we seem to be on top of the problem but that it will never go away.

6. **The minutes of the meeting** on July 14<sup>th</sup> 2015 were approved (with two small amendments) proposed by ME and seconded by AV and signed.
7. **Matters arising:** (i) We await a quotation for a new town noticeboard from Sam Hannah.  
(ii). It was agreed that the Common Good Fund might be used as match funding for the notices proposed by the Community Response team but they are asked to get further written quotations and numbers required by the end of this month.
8. **GDI Report:** (i) RF has attended the SCVS meeting on our behalf at which the pylon route was discussed and it was agreed that we should lodge objection to the proposed pylon route across D&G, and Marie Jackson advised.
9. **Provost's Report:** (i) SB Banks Renewables had been invited to attend this Council meeting but felt there were not yet ready to do so.  
(ii) She reminded members that nomination forms for the forthcoming CC election should be lodged with Graham Wright by next Saturday.  
(iii) GM will deal with the problems with flying of the Clock Tower flags.
10. **Dean of Guild's report:** No applications have been received that raise any concerns.
11. **Treasurer's Report:** nothing to report.
12. **AOCB:** (i) ME reported that the tourist map at the junction of the B796 is inaccurate and out of date and had researched a replacement, which would cost £220. It was agreed that we should replace it and SB will facilitate this. Action SB

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.45 pm

Next meetings: October 13<sup>th</sup>, November 10<sup>th</sup> and December 8th