



Community Council (CC) Minutes

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday November 11th 2014

Present: Sue Best (SB), Mike Edwards (ME), Ron Forster (RF) Cecilia Franklin (CF), Kathleen Hamblin (KH), Helen Keating (HK), Alan Lowden (AL) Gerard Macnamara (GM), Councillor Jane Maitland (JM), Alison Veitch (AV). PC John Brown

In attendance: Suzette Harris, Susan Hind.

1. **Apologies** were received from Councillor Patsy Gilroy and Paula Hamilton.
2. **The minutes of the AGM** of October 14th 2014 were approved (with the correction of Alison Steel's name instead of Alan Lowden in item 6), proposed by AL seconded by CF.
3. **The co-option** of Alison Veitch was proposed by SB and seconded by HK and agreed unanimously.
4. **Police report:** PC Brown distributed copies of the D&G Handy Van leaflet about Small Repair and Home Support Service. He reported the theft of tools from vans, an injured cyclist, a crash in the car park, a domestic incident and the theft of a bicycle from the school. The police were thanked for their attendance at the Remembrance Day Commemoration at the War Memorial.
GM drew attention to the speeding of cars through the Cape road which is 'for access only'. It was suggested that speed bumps might be installed to slow down any vehicles using the road and ME offered to talk to the three householders who use the road. RF also reported the theft of a barrow and jacket from the Temple work site, which had not been reported to the police by the contractors, but which PC Brown noted.
5. **D&G Council Report:** Councillor Maitland reported that the Local Development Plan has been adopted. The bus shelter is nearing the top of the list for implementation and planning permission should be sought in the New Year. AL drew her attention to the state of the trees on the verge of the road out of Gatehouse, expressing his concern that the increased rainfall may be causing the boles of trees to fall towards the carriageway which they already overhang in places at present. JM suggested that any queries should be registered on the D&G Council enquiry log of the web-site.
6. The **Minutes of the previous Meeting** were signed as correct, proposed by AL and seconded by RF.
7. **Matters arising:** The presentation at the Community Centre about Garries Wood and Port Macadam Wood, where residents could express their views, had been attended by RF and Suzette Harris. The Provost will follow up the results for the next meeting.
 - (ii) Mike Ashmore had had a holding letter in reply to his letter to Peter Kaye about the garage. It was noted that the sign at the site to the Tourist Information Center needed re-siting
 - (iii) It was noted that the GDI had won its category in the Scottish Parliament Rural Innovator Award but not the overall award. .
8. **GDI Report:** (i) Repairs of the Temple should be finished in about two weeks' time, weather permitting. Landscaping of the area will take place in the Spring.
 - (ii) Volunteers have continued works in the Cally Woods, Garries Park and Port Macadam.
 - (iii) The town pond: the condition is being discussed by the GDI. The water level has been very high over the last few days and water is standing on the Laurieston Road. The Council were called out over the weekend and are investigating the cause. They are to meet the owner of the garage site on November 12th . .
 - (iv) The Bird Cage (the Dovecot) roof is under repair.

(v) Bus stops: Planning application is being submitted on November 11th, with the installation planned to start early next year.

(vi) The GDI had held a walk through the Cally Woods during which prominent features were visited and a brief history of each one was given by David Steel. The purpose of the walk was to inform local residents of features within the Designed Landscape of Cally and which they could show their visitors. It is hoped that those on the walk will now act as ambassadors for the Designed Landscape of Cally.

(vii) Murray Centre: the Forestry Commission are looking for ideas as to what needs to be done to improve the facility. The public are invited to offer suitable suggestions either to RF or direct to the Forestry Commission at Newton Stewart. It is proposed to discuss this matter at the December meeting when we may come up with a common proposal to reflect the views of residents.

9 Provost's Report: (i) The Tennis Club has asked for the Community Council's support in its application for funding to resurface the courts and repair the fencing.

(ii) Concern was expressed about the speed of Broadband; it seems that the communications cabinet at the bottom of the town has been amended, giving much better results but the speed at the top of the town is abysmal. CF volunteered to investigate and write to BT.

(iii) SB asked members to send her suggestions for a questionnaire to be drawn up to ask local residents what they would like in the town. .

(iv) She has now joined the Board of the Mill on the Fleet and updated members on developments. It is proposed to alter the ground floor so that the toilets can be accessed without going into the café area. It is proposed to look at more energy efficient lighting. The inspection by Visit Scotland was generally complimentary.

(v) Members are asked to complete the Safety Partnership survey received by email.

(vi) KH and RF plan to attend the Community Councils' training session on Tuesday November 18th.

(vii) There is to be a meeting on Wednesday November 19th at Twynholm about the proposed Knockendurrick Windfarm project. SB will forward details to ME. Objections are still being addressed. How any funding received is to be distributed is still being discussed.

(viii) A further wind farm project, the California application around Carsluith, is receiving comments. It was agreed that a consultation meeting in Gatehouse should be requested.

10. Dean of Guild's report: There have been no applications affecting Gatehouse.

11. Treasurer's Report: The accounts stand as at last month.

12. Community Response Team: progress has been slow for various reasons. Further information has just arrived and will be considered at their next meeting.

13. AOCB: (i) GM reported that a visitor had expressed concern that there are no signs in the town to the Surgery. The Provost suggested that when the sign to the TIC was replaced it could have a sign to the Health Centre added and will take up the matter with the appropriate authority.

(ii) AL reported that the Union Flag flown in the town is getting very frayed and it was suggested that we should buy a new one (SB to investigate) and she will also look into the possibility of having a copy of the town flag made. GM reported that we shall at some stage need a new lanyard for the flag pole.

(iii) ME expressed his great concern that the proposed logging up the B796 is going to result in a great deal of lorry movement. Planning permission has to be obtained for the harvesting transport and lorries are not allowed to travel in convoy. He will obtain lorry registration numbers of offending transport.

(iv) Suzette Harris reported that the Post Office is hoping to move to Gatehouse Stores. Post meeting note: the consultation period for the proposed relocation will run until 23 December. Comment

forms/email address for forwarding comments is available in the Post Office. There is a concern that if the proposed relocation is not supported, we may lose the Post Office in Gatehouse.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.40 pm.

Next meeting: Tuesday December 9th at 7 pm

DRAFT