



**Meeting held on 12 October 2021 at 7 30pm in the Community Centre and by Zoom
Approved Minutes**

Attendees

Councillors: David Richmond (DR) (Chair), Robert Dodds (RD), Ruiradh Hesketh (RH), Helen Keating (HK), Jack Pickthall (JP), Fiona Power (FP), Nigel Scott (NS), Francois Van der Zee (FZ)

Minutes Secretary: Susan Miller (SM) by Zoom

Apologies: Peter Cailey (PC)

In attendance: Shaun Burnie (SB) (Item 3), Mike Paul (Gatehouse Community Centre) to advise on technical issues arising from using hybrid meeting equipment

2 Conflicts of Interest

2.1 DR reminded members to be mindful of any potential conflicts of interest and to declare them if necessary.

3 Public Forum (Agenda item 2)

3.1 SB attended on behalf of Richard Gidney applicant for development at the Masonic Arms. He outlined the case for supporting the application citing the benefits in terms of economic development and the nil impact on local housing stock and stressing that the materials and design were sympathetic to the environment. Members questioned SB about various aspects including transport, parking, density and utilities.

3.2 DR thanked SB and stressed that the Council fully supported economic development in the town and that its objections were based on the impact on immediately surrounding areas; thus at this stage, as the application remained as submitted, the Council was unable to withdraw its objections. Through SB he invited the applicant to consider making some revisions to the application to address those objections and to then present these to the Council.

Police Report (Agenda item 3)

4.1 A report from Police Scotland had been received which included information on a quad bike speeding out of the town. It also noted police action in respect of the report on illegal parking on double yellow lines in Digby Street as reported to the meeting on 12 September. DR clarified that the incident had been raised by a tradesman who had asked NS to bring it to the Council's attention as he could not gain vehicular access to the site he was working at. A further similar incident had occurred in Catherine St on 12 Oct when a bin lorry had to make alternative arrangements to get to a property because he could not get past another parked vehicle. Members noted that, because of the narrow streets in the town, illegal and inconsiderate parking at junctions could have a potentially serious impact on emergency services attendance.

5 Dumfries and Galloway Report (Agenda item 4)

5.1 There was no Dumfries and Galloway report.

6 Minutes of meeting on 10 August 2021 (Agenda item 5)

6.1 The minutes of the meeting on 14 September, amended as follows, were agreed.

*9.2 Regarding the application made by the Masonic Arms, the grounds for objection **assubmitted** were discussed: the suitability of the development for the site within the conservation area; the density of the development and its proximity to the boundary with Roseville; noise nuisance; and increased parking in Ann Street. The meeting rubber stamped the earlier decision to lodge an objection*

14.2 NS had been asked by a tradesman to raise illegal parking on double yellow lines in Digby Street as a delivery lorry had been unable to get round the corner. HK undertook to report this to PC John Brown at Police Scotland.

6.2 Approval was proposed by HK and seconded by FP.

7 Matters Arising (Agenda item 6)

7.1 FZ asked that the draft minutes be revised as at 6.1 above.

8 Chair's report and Correspondence (Agenda item 7)

8.1 DR reported that he had been approached by a resident regarding Cardoness Castle not having reopened since March 2020 and had referred the matter to Historic Environment Scotland (HES) for comment.

9 Planning Applications (Agenda item 8)

9.1 FP reported that

(a) there had been three decisions made since the last meeting:

(i) permission had been granted unconditionally for the installation of a replacement window at 21 High Street, Gatehouse;

(ii) permission had been granted conditionally for the erection of four floodlights at the Tennis Club, Laurieston

Road, Gatehouse; and

(iii) permission had been granted conditionally for the erection of a dwellinghouse at 1 Bakers Dozen, Gatehouse.

(b) there had been three new planning applications, for:

(i) the erection of an extension to the east elevation to the dwellinghouse at Killeran Mill Cottage, nr Gatehouse;

(ii) the erection of a detached domestic annexe at Disdow Cottage, Gatehouse; and

(iii) the felling of 5 ash trees, 8 western hemlock conifers, crown reduction of a rowan and lopping of a yew tree at Roseville, Ann Street, Gatehouse.

10 Treasurer's Report (Agenda item 9)

10.1 In the absence of PC there was no report.

11 War Memorial Railings (Agenda item 10)

11.1 DR reported that there had been no progress since the last meeting and the works would clearly not now be completed by Remembrance Day. DR added that advice on Remembrance Day events was still awaited from Royal British Legion Scotland and D and G Council.

12 Cardoness Lights (Agenda item 11)

12.1 DR reported that the bat surveys had been submitted to HES; he had requested the annexes relating to access and maintenance in a suitable format; the GDI had agreed to be co-signatory; and that any funds remaining could be applied to fencing the site. FZ added that in the event of a shortfall of funds an anonymous donor was available. DR asked FZ to thank the individual.

13 Platinum Jubilee Celebrations (Agenda item 12)

13.1 HK reported that she had spoken with Sarah Leigh Cain (SLC) who was happy to support an event and it was agreed that HK would continue to lead on plans in liaison with SLC.

14 AOCB (Agenda item 13)

14.1 JP reported the poor state of Dromore Road opposite the fire station and at Riverbank. DR said a report had already been made regarding Victoria St but asked **HK** to report these new cases via CCES. The Council noted that recent repairs were not holding and needed further work very quickly and that CCES were not responding appropriately. DR stressed the need to keep the pressure on the service to ensure that matters were dealt with properly and in a timely way.

14.2 RD raised the need for a development plan to deal with the lack of suitable housing in the town which would impact on long term and sustainable growth in the town. After discussion it was agreed there was a clear role for the Council in helping to identify the strategic direction and to support partner agencies in its delivery.

14.3 FP reported the broken glass and rubbish in the recycling bin area. DR asked **HK** to report it to CCES.

14.4 HK reported that some trees in Garries Park needed to be checked on safety grounds and she would report to CCES.

14.5 DR reported that the GDI had no objections to siting a defibrillator in the car park.

14.6 DR reported that the Community Resilience Team would meet on 19 October. He had contacted D and G Council's re issues around winter preparedness and the e-mail had been forwarded to officers for their comments.

14.7 DR reported that there had apparently been changes to the bus timetable affecting the early morning service to Crichton Academy. He said the Drop In had secured additional funding from the Holywood Trust for a youth worker who could investigate this in more detail. This was agreed.

The meeting ended at 8:50 pm

Next meetings: 9 November, 14 December, 11 January 2022