



Community Council (CC) Minutes

Minutes of the Community Council Meeting held on Tuesday 13th March 2018

Present: Sue Best (SB), Danny Alderslowe (DA), Peter Cailey (PC), Paula Hamilton (PH)
Helen Keating (HK), Jack Pickthall (JP), Nigel Scott (NS), Alison Veitch (AV)
Councillor Dougie Campbell, PC Chloe Ellis

Also present: Fiona Power, David Richmond, Stephen Norris (Galloway News)

1. **Apologies** were received from Tony Fowler
2. **Public Forum:** (i) David Richmond reported his concern about the shape of the junction into Gatehouse from the A75, which is difficult to judge in darkness, wondering if lights or reflective markings could be put on the kerb sides.
(ii) Mrs Power asked what D&G Council's policy was over the recycling of waste. Councillor Campbell reported the history of the 25 year PFI arrangement with EcoDeco. The planned multiple collections will roll out eventually over the region, when the problems with the lorries have been ironed out. He reported that the can bin that was formerly in the car park was operated by a Stranraer recycling firm which is no longer in operation.
3. **Police Report:** PC Ellis's only report was that tools had been stolen from Auchenlarie, thought to be an opportunist theft.
4. **D&G Council report:** Councillor Campbell reported that he would be holding a surgery in the Community Centre on Friday 16th March from 2.30 to 3.30 pm.
He then went through the Council's Budget plans for the coming year, listing the cuts in some areas and the plans to make the Council more efficient in order to help towards the £12 million that have to be saved. The increase in Council tax which will be 3% for the next financial year, while there will be money allocated for the Council's Poverty strategy, the provision of school meals throughout all school holidays and sanitary products in schools, reorganized music provision in schools, £500,000 to be provided to renew the area's play parks (which would mean that match-funding help would be easier to claim,) £90,000 for schools to install WiFi, and £500m for road repairs.
5. **Minutes of the previous Meeting:** the minutes of the previous meeting were approved, proposed by AV, seconded PH.
6. **Matters arising:** (i) SB asked that information about potholes that need to be filled should be sent to her and she will report them officially. (ii) NS has suggested that the chicane planned in Dromore Road (to slow down the traffic at the approach to the school) could perhaps be moved further up the road towards the Fire Station. SB has returned D&G Council's plan with suggested amendments but as yet has had no response. (iii) SB has written again to MUF about the clearing of the grass bank and removal of the tree stump in Ann Street. (iv) JP reported that the building materials left at the corner of Catherine Street have finally been removed. (v) DA reported on the increase of dog fouling and suggestions were made about how we could draw the public's attention to the problem (which can incur a fine of £80). It was agreed that DA would consult the school to see if the children could help in any way, and he would be in touch with Creetown council to see how successful their efforts with the problem have been. The provision of the necessary bags or more bins was also suggested. The public are reminded that bags can be obtained from the Library, Council lorries or Service Centres.

7. **Provost's Report:** (i) SB reported that the storm water down Ann Street was the responsibility of the Murray Usher Foundation, which owns the land on which the now defunct drain stands. (ii) Further communication about Knockendurrick Wind Farm application has been received, that the planning application was delayed for the February Meeting but should be discussed in either the April or May Planning meetings. (iii) SB read a letter in reply to our concern over the siting of the 30mph limit sign at the Castle entry into Gatehouse. Both the police and D&G Council think there is no reason to move it. (iv) It was confirmed that the pavements in Fleet Street are being resurfaced, mostly with Tarmac.
(vi) She had been asked by a resident about the cost and usage of the electric car charging points in the Car Park. Apparently they cost £25,000 to be installed (paid for by the Scottish Government) and in 2015 were used by 5 drivers, in 2016 by 39, and in 2017 by 53, probably reflecting the gradual increase in the number of cars now in circulation that need the service.
(iv) HK reported that the water leaks at the top of Ann Street will be repaired in conjunction with the digging of a new water main and sewer for the two new houses up the road beyond the leak, but it may not be done for another month.,
8. **Dean of Guild:** AV reported that three applications that have been approved including the re-siting of the Men's Shed at the Mill on the Fleet.
9. **Treasurer's Report:** The Common Good Fund stands at £1,004, the Admin Fund at £640.16 and the Footpath account is being closed.
10. **RAF Centenary flower bed planting:** it was agreed that the provision of a sloping flower bed in the Car Park, planted with red, white and blue flowers (which we hope would be supplied by D&G Council) would make a fitting and appropriate acknowledgement of the Centenary of the formation of the RAF.
11. **Citizen of the Year Award:** this will be discussed at the request of TF at the next meeting when he is present.
12. **AOB:** (i) An application has been received for funding from the Bakehouse organisers of the BigLit weekend in April (19th – 22nd), which brings a great many visitors to Gatehouse and it was agreed that we should give them £200 from the Common Good Fund.(ii) JP was thanked for his attention to the Town Sign at the east end of the town and was asked to inspect the one at the Castle end and report on what would be needed to restore the post and paint the sign. (iii) Members were reminded that they have been asked to reply to the survey on the bank services following so many closures. Residents are reminded that often cheques may be deposited at the Post Office using the envelopes provided by the various banks. (iv) SB reported that the intending new owner of Gatehouse Stores is applying to have a cash machine as part of his reorganisation of the store. (v) HJ showed members the posters requested to be put on the notice board, inviting residents to support the Befriending organisation, the course offered on Mindfulness and the day available for anyone interested in beekeeping. (vi) NS reported that the Community Centre railings are in sore need of attention and will suggest to their secretary that funding might be available to repair them. (vii) JP asked whether the Monument was being repaired and SB confirmed that funding was now in place and repairs would start in the better weather. (iv) DA invited members to attend the school funding raising lunch (for outdoor education facilities) on Friday March 23rd (12.30 to 1.30).

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.20pm.

Next meetings: April 10th, May 8th, in the **Community Centre**