



Meeting held on 14 February 2023 at 7 pm

Attendees

Councillors: Peter Cailey (PC), Robert Dodds (RD), Gill Hart (GH), Ruaridh Hesketh (RH), Helen Keating (HK), Amy McCreath (AM), Fiona Power (FP), Nigel Scott (MS) Francois Van der Zee (FZ)

Dumfries and Galloway Council: Cllr Dougie Campbell (DC)

Minutes Secretary: Susan Miller (SM)

1 Apologies)

1.1 John Brown (JB) Police Scotland

2 Declarations of Interest

None

3 Public Forum

None

4 Minutes of meeting on 10 January 2023

4.1 Approval of the minutes of the meeting on 10 January 2023 was proposed by FZ seconded by PC and agreed unanimously.

5 Matters arising from the previous meeting

Review of Resilience Plan

5.1 After discussion as to what was required to review, maintain and manage the Plan, it was agreed that an approach would be made to individuals who might be interested in the role.

Action: RH/NS to approach potentially interested individuals

6 The Legacy Fund

6.1 RH outlined proposals for providing of funding up to £500 groups across the community. There would need to be an open, transparent and auditable process put in place. It was agreed that the first Community Group Liaison Meeting (see item 9) be used as a vehicle to publicise the scheme.

Action: GH/RH/SM

7 Chair's report and correspondence

7.1 None

8 Correspondence and Secretary's Report

8.1 GH submitted a written report advising

(a) SM had represented the CC as well as the Community Centre at Ivan Hill's funeral

(b) DGC had been asked to pause the Casual Vacancy Election to allow time to recruit new members

(c) planning permission was not required for the MacInnes plaque (see also 15.5)

- (d) DGC had stated that the light at the Recycling Station was solar powered and functioned accordingly in winter months
- (e) flooding at the Mill Lade, Victoria Street had been reported and dealt with
- (f) DGC had moved the slab covering the hole in the pavement in front of the noticeboard to cover more of the hole but the slab was still unstable. DGC would monitor the situation but the Council would need to consider the position/condition of the noticeboard at some stage.
- (g) The Nicholas Banting bench and plaque would be dedicated on that 28/29 April depending on the weather with the family in attendance
- (h) agreement had been reached for the Biosphere's SDG Trail Post to be placed in the grounds of the Mill.
- (i) work to progress the Welcome Pack was ongoing
- (j) in the light of enquiries about matters falling outside of the Council's scope there was a need to publicise its role and responsibilities
- (k) rubbish bags around the recycling station had been reported for collection
- (l) Danny Alderslowe had been proactive in salting pavements; it was agreed to get in touch to thank him

9 Community Group Liaison

9.1 SM advised that she and Ivan Hill had been progressing work to implement the decision taken at the November meeting for more effective joined up working with groups across the community through regular meetings with these groups. It was acknowledged that this type of liaison group would support eg managing the Legacy Fund, developing a Local Place Plan (LPP) and broader communication initiatives

Action: GH/SM

10 Dumfries and Galloway Council Report

10.1 DC reported on DGC's budget preparations and advised that very significant savings of some £60 million would need to be made over the next 5 years; although use would be made of the reserves but this was not sustainable over the long term and difficult decisions would therefore be necessary to protect essential services; the focus would be on supporting the vulnerable cope with the cost of living crisis and roads which needed significant investment to bring them up to an acceptable standard; this would include development of an apprentice scheme to address the age profile of the current workforce; major organisational changes would be required but there would be no reduction in teacher numbers

10.2 FZ raised the issue of under use of the DGC estate in the light of the shift to working from home. DC said that a review of all buildings was in progress looking at the scope to dispose, enter into shared use or improve energy efficiency and that evidence to date showed no reduction in efficiency from working from home; he confirmed that all phones were diverted.

11 Review of Planning Applications

11.1 FP reported that since the last meeting

- (a) there had been three decisions made since our last meeting:
 - (i) permission had been granted conditionally for the installation of two timber replacement windows to the front elevation of 13 Catherine Street, Gatehouse;
 - (ii) permission had been granted unconditionally for the installation of an outdoor seating area at Gather, Laggan, Gatehouse (retrospective); and
 - (iii) permission had been refused for the siting of four glamping pods with associated decked areas and parking, formation of internal road and pathways,

installation of sewage treatment plant and soakaway, path-lighting bollards, electric vehicle charging point and landscaping at Court Knowe, High Auchenlarie.

(b) the application for a top-up tap for High Street, Gatehouse has been withdrawn by the applicant (Scottish Water). Application to be resubmitted.

(c) there had been two new planning applications:

(i) for the installation of replacement windows and front door, alterations to the existing window and door opening to form a French-door opening and formation of a new window opening on the south elevation of Fleetbank, Gatehouse; and

(ii) for the installation of four replacement windows and a rooflight and two slate vents and widening of an internal opening at Cally High Lodge, Gatehouse.

(d) there had been a late representation from the Architectural Heritage Society of Scotland (AHSS) regarding the proposed new-build house in the grounds of Fleetbank, Dromore Road expressing concerns about the lack of garden amenity for both houses and that various design features and the 'mutilation' of the old stone wall bordering the property would not enhance the conservation area.

12 Police Report

12.1 JB submitted a written report as follows: there were no reported incidents and Drop In dates at Kirkcudbright Police Station were as follows

Friday 17 February 9 – 10 30
Monday 20 March 3 – 4 30
Saturday 29 April 9 – 10 30

13 Report from the Gatehouse Development Initiative

13.1 FZ reported that

(a) the application for a defibrillator at the Murray Arms had been rejected for failure to include the required plans and would need to be resubmitted.

(b) he was awaiting a quote for installation of a plinth for the Cardoness lights project and asked for suggestions of alternative contractors.

(c) funding had been obtained to conduct a feasibility study for a proposed cycle route from Gatehouse to Auchenlarie. AM said that, so far as she was aware, one of the potentially affected landowners remained reluctant to support the initiative and that it would be important to establish the position this before the feasibility study began.

Action: FZ to confirm position regarding landowner agreement

(d) there were problems with resourcing the work to produce Gatehouse News to a regular schedule; after discussion it was agreed that it might be helpful to set up a small editorial team and as a first step discussions would take place between the Council and the GDI

Action: HK to discuss future arrangements for production of Gatehouse News

14 Treasurer's Report

14.1 PC reported that the Admin Fund stood at £963, the Common Good Fund at £586 and the Legacy Fund at £19414.

15 AOB

15.1 RH said that a community information meeting on the Gralloch cycle event would be held on 25 February at 2 pm in the Community Centre

15.2 PC raised the campaign to save Kirkcudbright Hospital. DC said that the consultation event on 13 February had been very well attended and that it was important for the

NHS to genuinely engage with the Action Group and for the local community to show their support for the campaign.

15.3 HK raised plans to mark the coronation and RH suggested she liaise with Sara Leigh Cain.

15.4 A donation of £50 to the Doddie Weir Foundation in memory of Ivan Hill was agreed

15.5 It was agreed that RH would finalise plans for the Hamish MacInnes plaque

Action: RH to finalise plans for the Hamish MacInnes plaque

15.6 In the light of GH's note of 11 February it was agreed to request access to the Mapping Scotland software and to progress initial proposals to develop a Local Place Plan and report back to the Council. DC offered to provide information to assist.

Action: GH to arrange access to the Mapping Scotland software

GH/SM to progress initial proposals to develop a Local Place Plan

and report back

15.7 It was acknowledged that Ivan Hill would be a very great loss to the Council RH stressed the importance of members working together as a team.

The meeting ended at 20.32

Next meetings 14 March, 11 April, 9 May