



Community Council (CC) Minutes

Minutes of the Community Council Meeting held on Tuesday 14th August 2018

Present: Provost Sue Best (SB), Peter Cailey (PC), Tony Fowler (TF), Suzette Harris (SH), Helen Keating (HK), Jack Pickthall (JP), Fiona Power (FP), David Richmond (DR), Nigel Scott (NS).

Also present: Mrs M. Kirkpatrick and Francois Van der Zee

1. **Apologies** were received from Councillors Dougie Campbell, Patsy Gilroy and Jane Maitland.
2. There was no Public Forum or, in the absence of representatives, Police Report or D&G Council report.
3. **Minutes of the previous Meeting:** after two minor corrections (amended initials) the minutes of the previous meeting were approved, proposed by SH, seconded NS.
4. **Matters arising:** (i) TF reported that SCVS will continue with just its charitable section, in new premises. It was suggested that a visit to ask how Community Councils could help might be appropriate so TF will follow this up. (ii) The Bunkaroo group are reminded that they should apply soon for the funding for the Young People's Day event in Garries Park. (iii) SB has contacted Robert Lowther at D&G Council, regarding grass cutting and the tree felling and maintenance of the lade valley in Garries Park but has as yet received no reply. Posters will be displayed to remind residents that they are at liberty to take away any logs that have been piled up in the area. (iv) It was suggested that any replies to letters, such as those 1,500 received about the Knockendurrick Windfarm application, could be sent by email, thus saving an enormous amount of money on paper and postage.
5. **Provost's Report:** (i) SB has been approached by those at Mossyard who have permission to erect four shepherd's huts and who have asked for the CC's support for their application for Leader funding. It was felt that further information should be sought about whether the application would be for a grant or a loan. SB will contact them. (ii) The Knockendurrick planning application will be considered by D&G planning committee on Thursday August 16th, which meeting SB will attend and has registered that she wishes to speak. (She also recommended the book by David Mackay, 'Sustainable Energy Without the Hot Air'.)
6. **Dean of Guild:** (i) Applications have been received (i) for the erection of a dwelling house at plot 6, Memory Lane, (ii) replacement of single-glazed windows at Knockbrex Castle, (iii) replacement of 3 timber windows with 3 UPVC windows at 22, Catherine Street, (iv) Alterations and extensions of existing outbuildings at Rocky Point, Sandgreen and (v) the alteration and erection of a single storey extension at 6 Hannay Street. The re-slating of Rusko House and reconstruction and installation of new roof-lights is granted conditionally and alterations to windows and doors at 3, Posting Stables is granted unconditionally. (ii) FP reported that she had received a pre-planning notice of an application for the erection of the smart meter pole, which application will now be sent to D&G Council for the site which we had previously suggested, by the telephone exchange. FP will write a letter of support to the applicants.
7. **Treasurer's report:** the Admin account stands at £398.06, the Common Good Fund at £348.70 (after the Bunkaroo cheque is paid out) and the Footpath account at nil. The necessary change of signatures for cheques is in hand.
8. **Empty phone box:** In the absence of Danny Alderslowe discussion will be deferred until the next meeting. In the meantime SH has contacted Scottish Water to ask if they would consider putting in

the box a standpipe so that residents could refill their own plastic bottles, since there is already water in the Clock Tower. Water boards are planning to install such hydrants but, it would appear, only in larger conurbations. It was suggested that D&G Council should be asked to re-instate the drinking fountain on the tower. SH will ask Councillor Dougie Campbell at his open session on August 15th.

The possibility of installing a securely attached defibrillator was also mentioned. There is to be a national census of defibrillator sites and those in Gatehouse will be checked.

9. **AOB:** 1. HK has received a request for help from the newly-formed Gatehouse Meals on Wheels group, concerning the provision of foil trays for the meals. Since they are not expensive it was suggested that perhaps a few pence increase in the price of the meals might cover the cost. (ii) She thought that the Gala Committee should be congratulated on the week's programme – in spite of the weather – and of the clearing of Garries Park afterwards.
2. NS reported (i) that the zebra crossing is in dire need of repainting and refurbishment of the lights. (ii) since Gerard MacNamara is the sole keeper of the key to the Clock Tower it was suggested that a Deputy might help him and make sure that flags were flown on appropriate days – with a list of suggested dates being provided. (iii) He reported that the craze for attaching padlocks to bridges has raised its ugly head on the footbridge at the Mill on the Fleet. JP is asked to remove them.
3. PC reported that the problems at Newton Farm caravan site have not been resolved, with no toilet block yet erected. SB will follow this up.
4. JP reported (i) that the Monument has been repointed and the new lightning conductor has been installed and it looks very good. (ii) He also reported on the very unhappy and unpleasant dispute between neighbours in Riverbank. This is an ongoing situation which we should like to be resolved and will be discussed again with the Community Safety Officers and appropriate departments of the Council and police.
5. FP reported that a care worker at Fleet Valley has complained about the slope on the entry to the Mill on the Fleet when taking wheel chairs there. SB will report this to the Mill board and D&G Council.
10. It was agreed that, in view of parking difficulties at the Drop-in Centre and the size of the room (since we now have more members of the public attending our meetings) we should now hold all our meetings in the Community Centre (and SH has kindly offered to switch on the heating before the meeting in cold weather.)

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.25pm.

Next meetings:

September 11th, October 9th, Nov October 9th, November 13th in the **Community Centre**