



**Meeting held on 8 March 2022 at 7 30pm
Approved Minutes**

Attendees (in person and via Zoom)

Councillors: David Richmond (DR) (Chair), Peter Cailey (PC), Robert Dodds (RD), Ruaridh Hesketh (RH), Helen Keating (HK), Fiona Power (FP), Nigel Scott (NS), Francois Van der Zee (FZ), Cllr D Campbell (DC)

Minutes Secretary: Susan Miller (SM)

In attendance: PC John Brown (Police Scotland) (JB), WPC Amy Baird (Police Scotland), Ivor Hill (IH)

Apologies: Cllr Pauline Drysdale

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 No items

4 Police Report (Agenda item 3)

4.1 JB reported as follows

(a) Male charged with domestic assault and to appear in court in due course

(b) instances of anti-social behaviour as reported to the meeting on 8 February had been followed up by working with the young people involved, their parents and the school to explain the impacts of their behaviour

(c) there was continued emphasis on the need to be aware of impersonation fraud as reported to the meeting on 8 February and to check the ID of anyone stating that were a police officer

(d) Police Scotland (PS) were working with various agencies on an initiative with the Dogs Trust on issues regarding dangerous, lost and stray dogs. It is called Happy Dog, Happy Home.

4.2 DR raised an incident in the car park involving abusive language related to the need for mask wearing. The incident had not been reported to Police Scotland but had been taken up with the contracting company of the offender.

5 Dumfries and Galloway Report (Agenda item 4)

5.1 DC reported on the budget which had been unanimously agreed on 24 February with key points as follows:

(a) despite a funding gap of £8.5m a balanced budget had been delivered with the aid of additional funding from the Scottish Government

(b) 2 bike shelters in Gatehouse had been included in the list of infrastructure improvements to be funded under the Active Travel policy. A 3rd at the school would need to be funded through a different budget feed.

(c) £72m allocated to provide 10 teachers and 14 classroom assistants

(d) £1m for the anti-poverty strategy to support vulnerable individuals

(e) £270k to increase resources working towards zero carbon

(f) £8.7k increase in the foster carers allowance, having lost some 25% of foster carers in recent years

(g) £140k for a strategic review of public transport across the region

(h) £960k for road improvements

6 Minutes of meeting on 8 February 2022 (Agenda item 5)

6.1 The minutes of the meeting on 8 February 2022 amended as follows were agreed

(a) Jack Pickthall (JP) added to list of attendees

(b) 3.1 replace 'early 2020' with '**December 2019**'

(c) 9.1(a)(i): replacement of text with: '**permission has been granted unconditionally for change of occupation conditions applying to previous planning permissions granted for 'Laggan Behind', nr Gatehouse.'**

Approval was proposed by FP and seconded by PC.

7 Matters Arising (Agenda item 6)

7.1 DR reported as follows

(a) patient transport was now managed by Sheila Blair and Pauline Logan and information available at the Surgery

(b) a detailed response had been received from Tilhill regarding the forestation proposals at Glen Farm which confirmed planting would go ahead as planned but addressed all issues raised

- (c) he had raised the issue of water quality in the Fleet with Jim Logan who confirmed that it was good and supporting invertebrates in the river and small flounders in the estuary. Jim would let DR know of the results of future testing exercises.
 - (d) the SOSE meeting planned for 2 March had been cancelled due to lack of numbers
- 7.2 HK reported that the Jubilee trees had arrived and were being distributed. **DR/HK** would meet with Ron Forster to decide on planting arrangements for those remaining with the Council

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

8.1 DR reported that

- (a) he had been in discussion with SM and FP regarding the possible development of a Local Place Plan (as circulated to members on 31 January). Members noted that although the process might require significant initial input there would be tangible benefits in terms of gaining support and funding for local initiatives. It was therefore agreed to consider proposals for taking this forward with other interested parties at the next meeting (**DR/SM/FP**).
- (b) the Mobile Bank would not be available on 18 April and 2 May being Bank Holidays but cash withdrawal services were available in the Spar and Gatehouse Stores;
- (c) there had been confusion as to the start and completion dates for the drainage works in Ann Street but it had been clarified that the start date was to be confirmed with the works taking 5 days

8.2 DR expressed concern and frustration at

- (a) the way various road related problems were handled by D and G Council in particular delays and the poor quality of initial repairs requiring yet further works which also suffered delays. This meant that there were now numerous sites across the town with ongoing problems.

NB: pothole problems could be reported directly to D&G Council at

<https://info.dumgal.gov.uk/faultreporting/Road/Defect>

- (b) delays were also evident in respect of the War Memorial railings which had now been held up by the need for a referral from D and G Council to Historic Environment Scotland (HES) for conservation advice.

He asked **DC** to raise these issues with the relevant officers.

8.3 DR raised the proposal for tree felling at Pibble Hill and said he would raise the impact on local roads particularly the B786 because of the likely damage to the surface. The road condition is already deteriorating again with new areas of damage appearing despite works in 2021.

8.4 DR said he had added a News page to the CC website to pass on community-relevant information received from 3rd parties. The page needed input from someone with both IT and design skills to further enhance the page.

9 Planning Applications (Agenda item 8)

9.1 **FP** reported that since the last meeting:

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

- (i) permission had been granted conditionally for the siting of two staff accommodation pods for a temporary period of 2 years and installation of underground foul-water pipework connecting to an existing septic tank at Laggan, Gatehouse;

- (ii) permission in principle had been granted conditionally for the erection of a dwelling house on land at the rear of The Murray Arms, Gatehouse;

- (iii) no objections had been raised to the felling of a rowan tree at 46 High Street, Gatehouse;

- (iv) permission had been granted unconditionally for alterations including replacement of copper-clad roof with hipped slated roof and erection of single-storey extension to the rear elevation of the flat at 15 Fleet Street, Gatehouse; and

- (v) permission had been granted unconditionally for the installation of a ramp at 14 Pennywell, Gatehouse;

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

- (i) erection of two dwellinghouses at Bardristane Farm, Gatehouse;

- (ii) erection of a detached domestic studio/workshop outbuilding at Shelterstone, Planetree Park, Gatehouse;

- (iii) erection of a detached garden room at Silver Trees, Cally Avenue, Gatehouse;

10 Treasurer's Report (Agenda item 9)

10.1 **PC** reported that the Admin Account remained at £1,118 and the Common Good Fund at £1,724

11 Cardoness Lights (Agenda item 10)

11.1 DR reported that efforts to arrange a site meeting had been delayed due to illness.

12 Garries Park (Agenda item 11)

12.1 HK reported on proposals by Fleet Star FC to develop the pavilion and the pitches and said that the Club would not consider artificial multi-use pitches. DR said the proposal to improve the park was still at a very early stage and options needed to be developed that could be taken to the wider community in a consultation exercise. He believed Tarena Dickie (TD) was happy to develop proposals on that basis and the aim would be to perhaps set up a Council sub-committee formed with widespread representation from all interested parties across the town, D and G Council etc. to consider what might be possible. A community consultation could then take place. DR understood that TD would meet with the GDI in due course and that he would also be present.

13 Mining Issues (Agenda item 12)

DR referred to the local press coverage of the mineral exploration work in the Creetown area in recent months by JDH Exploration, a subsidiary of Walkabout Resources Ltd. There are three exploration licences in existence – around Creetown, St John's Town of Dalry and Gatehouse.

- 13.1 DR reported that he had attended a public meeting via Zoom on 16 February, but a proposed community engagement forum, the main purpose of the meeting, was not set up because the agenda was rearranged to take questions first. The results of the exploratory drilling at Blackcraig were expected imminently but would be reported to the Australian Stock Exchange before any public announcement.
- 13.2 SM said that Emma Harper MSP was holding an online meeting on Friday 11 March at 10 am the link for which could be obtained by contacting Emma.Harper.msp@parliament.scot . Or telephone: 01387 255334
- 13.3 It was noted that the Council was likely to be approached by Walkabout's Community Liaison Officer wishing to attend a meeting with the CC - DR suggested that perhaps a separate public meeting rather than a scheduled meeting would be preferable.
- 13.4 DR also said that, to the best of his knowledge, no exploration work had been done in the Gatehouse licence area to date.

14 AOCB (Agenda item 13)

- 14.1 HK reported that there were still problems with the build-up of clothing items in the recycling area. DR said he would give HK the mobile number for the contractor to enable her to contact him direct to arrange collections
- 14.2 HK said that it was hoped copies of Gatehouse Memories would be on sale during the Cycling festival.
- 14.3 HK raised the need for clarity of roles/close liaison with the GDI. DR and FZ confirmed that as members of both the Council and the GDI they provided effective liaison noting that the GDI role was more concerned with policy development and funding.
- 14.4 NS referred to a further complaint from a resident regarding parking issues at the entrance to Port Macadam opposite Boreland Wood. DR said he would follow this up.
- 14.5 DR confirmed that arrangements for collection of donated items for Ukraine had been cancelled due to lack of space on the convoy
- 14.6 DR had been that Scottish Water had confirmed that the water leak at the garage site was not attributable to them and would now require further investigation with D and G Council in the 1st instance
- 14.7 DR said he would check if the car charging points in the car park were available for use whilst the new charging points were being installed, (DR can now confirm the original charging point is in fact unavailable at present
- 14.8 DR said that SM was unavailable to minute the July and September meetings and he would be seeking a volunteer to cover for her. He would not be available for the May meeting and a deputy Chair would be required,

The meeting ended at 9 15 pm

Next meetings: 12 April, 10 May, 14 June