



Draft Minutes of the Community Council Meeting held on 12 November 2019 at 7pm

1 Attendees: Councillors: David Richmond (Chair), Danny Alderslowe (DA),

Peter Cailey (PC), Robert Dodds (RD), Suzette Harris (SH), Ruaridh Hesketh (RH), Helen Keating (HK), Jack Pickthall (JP), Fiona Power (FP), Francois Van der Zee (FZ), Councillor Jane Maitland (JM) PC John Brown (JB) Minutes Secretary: Susan Miller (SM) **Apologies:** Nigel Scott, Jonathan Henderson

2 Appointment of Minutes Secretary: The Council agreed to appoint Susan Miller as Minutes Secretary on a trial basis to attend meetings, take notes, draft minutes, circulate to Council members for comment, revise as necessary and send to HK to publish. The formal proposal was made by DR and seconded by HK.

3 Police Report: 3.1JB reported as follows: (a) a car had been stolen and crashed. (b) action was being taken against a local resident for driving offences involving alcohol and drugs. (c) there would be additional patrols over the Christmas period to try and combat anti-social behaviour and shoplifting. (d) there had been an increase in attempts to pass fake £50 notes. (e) police officers would move to use of IT (tablets) rather than handwritten notebooks

4 Public Forum: No members of the public were present.

5 Dumfries and Galloway Report: JM reported as follows: (a) the 2020/21 budget process was now ongoing and significant cuts were likely which, taken together with earlier cuts, would impact on services and the local economy. (b) Council Tax was likely to rise; it was currently the lowest in Scotland: (c) It was not yet clear when the new waste and recycling arrangements would be introduced as they were, to some extent, dependent on budget decisions. (d) There was some discussion of the arrangements for street cleaning and associated tasks and the respective roles of the local volunteer and the D and G operatives. It was agreed that **HK** would contact D and G to clarify. (e) DR reported that 2 out of 3 wheelie bins had disappeared from Cally Drive over the last 3 months or so and he was in contact with D and G about a suitable replacement. (f) DA asked if it was possible for bikes taken to the tip at Castle Douglas to be donated to Wheels of Fleet for refurbishment/spares. JM said that there might previously have been obstacles due to the contractual position, which was now changing, and suggested **DA** raise it formally via her.

6 Minutes of meeting on 8 October 2019: Approved, proposed by FP, seconded by DR.

7 Matters Arising: (1) DR had reviewed the insurance arrangements for the Meals on Wheels volunteers and advised that it was unlikely that they were covered. **HK** undertook to advise them that they carried out their duties at their own risk. (2) DR reported back on the recent public meeting on the waste and recycling arrangements which were yet to be finalised but would involve reduced waste collection and the introduction of kerbside recycling with a choice of bins or bags for recyclable items. (3) JM said that the recent road diversion via the Laurieston Road had been discussed with Transport Scotland and more recent diversions had been better planned and managed.

8 Correspondence: (1) HK reported back on proposed arrangements for a Hub at the school as a welcoming and inclusive space for parents and other members of the community; parents had been provided with more information as they had a number of concerns. (2) HK said that there was positive progress on the garage site and it was hoped that there might be a presentation about the plans at the next meeting.

9 Planning Applications: FP reported as follows: (a) there has been 1 new application for a raised veranda to north-west elevation at Cairnsvie, Laurieston Rd. (b) planning permission had been granted conditionally for 4x1 bedroom houses at Littleton Farm, unconditionally for an entrance porch to front elevation of Laundry Cottage and conditionally for a house and detached garage at Plot 36 Bracken Wood.

10 Treasurer's Report: (a) PC reported that the Admin account stood at £295.35 and the Common Good Fund (CGF) at £119.25 (b) funding of £100 from Stewartry Community Council Network (SCCN) would become payable on presentation of evidence at attendance at 2 meetings within the municipal year. JM confirmed that the CGF was outwith any action by D and G so would never be subject to a cost cutting exercise and it would be useful to publicise both the fund and its uses to encourage donations perhaps via legacies. **DR** would arrange for an article in Gatehouse News.

11 Flower Tubs: HK reported that all but one of the planters had been mended and now needed to be emptied, refilled with compost and replanted and arrangements made for their ongoing care. After some discussion it was agreed to invite the school to be involved with the planting, perhaps each year group taking responsibility for a planter with prizes awarded. **RH** agreed to liaise with school on this and **HK** agreed to contact the headmaster and also with D and G on provision of plants.

12 Citizen of the Year: HK reported that posters and voting cards would be available, subject to agreement, in the Gatehouse Store, the library, the Crafty Crow, the Bank of Fleet, the TBG shop and the YMCA charity shop.

AOCB: (1) SH reported that she had represented the Council at Graham Nicol's funeral. JM said he would be much missed for his ability to work across party boundaries. (2) PC raised the lack of floodlighting at Cardoness Castle and **HK** undertook to contact Historic Scotland.

(3) JP reported that (a) The road at the north end of the chicane in Dromore Road needed widening to prevent tractors and large vehicles encroaching on the soft verges. **HK** agreed to contact D and G. (b) The dykes at Knocktinkle were in a poor state of repair. **HK** said that there was some doubt as to ownership, whether MUF or D and G, but she would contact MUF in the first instance. (c) The lack of representation by the Community Council at the Remembrance Day event was disappointing.

(4) DR said that discussions were ongoing with D and G regarding ownership of /liability for the tunnel under the access road to the Mill on the Fleet.

(5) FP reported that the footpath from behind the Spar car park through Garries Park was flooded and **HK** undertook to raise with D and G.

(6) RD queried the scope for funding for increasing community engagement and social media profile and RH stressed the need for increased overall promotion of the town. After discussion it was agreed to form a Sub-Group comprising **DA, RD, RH and FZ** to explore options and report back to the next meeting.

(7) FZ said that the smiley speed sign had been removed but it was noted that it was only a temporary sign.

(8) DA reported that (a) A Christmas Fair will be held at The Mill on 1 December; 31 stalls have been booked, there will be live music, Santa's Grotto in the Men's Shed; and the wheel will be floodlit. (b) He is working with Sustrans regarding funding for a Bike Conference to be held in February 2020 and with D and G regarding the provision of bike shelters at various locations in the town which was becoming increasingly popular with cyclists. **DR** said he would e-mail the local Sustrans contact to add CC weight to the shelter initiative.

(9) HK reported (a) that there are ongoing problems with fly tipping by the rubbish bins in the Spar Car Park. JM suggested the matter be raised with D and G Community Service Team. **HK** said she would do so and also liaise with the Galloway News to raise the issue.

(b) A request has again been received for a 30 mph speed sign earlier on the approach road from Cardoness Castle. JM said that there was a protocol for speed restrictions but suggested that **HK** liaise with Torthorwald Community Council who had recent experience of dealing with traffic/speeding issues.

(10) DR asked how often the GDI met and when the next report could be expected. SH confirmed that meetings were every 2 months and the next meeting will be in December.

The meeting ended at 8.30 pm

Next meetings: 10 December, 14 January 11 February, 10 March

DRAFT