

Minutes of Garlieston Community Council

2nd November 2010

Members present: Rusty Taylor (Chair), Will Hawkins (Vice Chair), Jacquie Swift (Joint secretary), John Swift (Joint secretary), Roy Walter (Treasurer), Harold Gray, George Houston, Ronnie Huxtable, Nuala Jeffers; Angus Reid.

Ex officio Councillors Alistair Geddes.

Apologies: Gordon Walling, Councillor Sandra McDowell & Graham Nicol.

Absent Sandra Hedley, Members of Public 6

Guest Martin Brown DGHP & Jim O'Neill D&G Housing Strategy.

Minutes of previous meeting 5th October 2010 Correction - Mattes Arising, Wigtown Bay offshore wind farm - line 1 - Kenny Barr. Prop: Nuala Jeffers, Sec: Harold Grey,

Agenda 2.11.2010 Matters Arising (Not covered on remaining agenda):

* DGHP Matters Arising - See Presentation below

* Garlieston Village Hall - G. McShane completed work, invoice sent and to be paid. Community Service made progress on outside of building - problems over availability of key to hall. A Geddes suggested that key should be collected at Stranraer and returned when appropriate, and that Graham McKie might facilitate this matter. Secretary to contact.

* Wigtown Bay offshore wind farm proposal - There is no guarantee of a public inquiry despite previous statements - awaiting response to objections.

* Garlieston Boat Park - White lines painted in boat park and signs to be placed as soon as possible.

* Peoples' Lottery Grant - Sub Group (M McCreath, R Walter, W Hawkins & R Huxtable) examined area for footbridge and planting. Met with representatives of Roads Dept, Headmistress of Garlieston Primary School, and Education Dept. Latter keen to create a safer route to school and access to playing field. At junction with High Street, plinths already in place but extra visibility changes needed to planting and road design. Roads Dept will maintain bridge and would authorise any agreed planning and design. Mill Brig area to be terraced and planted (work already begun); DGHP would support any community project approved by D&G Council.

* Replanting village hall tubs - No report - Gordon Walling absent (see Apologies above).

Police Business:

* Police Officers N. Cawthorne and A McConnick? reported seven calls requesting advice- no criminal matters. Bus shelter damage done many months ago had been reported in the Gazette, but no-one had been forced to recompense community for damage. Present bus stops both recently vandalised. (See DGFirst below).

Public Forum: None

Presentation Social Housing - planning and policy.

Jim O'Neill D&G Strategic Housing and Martin Burton DGHP.
Jim O'Neill spoke of the broad strategy across Councils in Scotland and D&G Council's approaches. A new Council Strategic Housing Policy was in formation to meet backlog of demands in a more suitable manner, a more unified approach with social housing and owner occupier property. Looking at a common set of admission policies to form a Common Housing Register. Present Scottish Government priority is homelessness (60 to 70% are currently allocated to the homeless) but problems with this approach are being identified and a more sensitive approach to local and rural communities and their needs and shortages is made. The importance for local people to achieve social housing (especially for younger people who wish to remain in the village of their birth) and older people whose changed family size requires different accommodation are equally if not stronger cases for priority treatment. D&G Considering Housing Options Approach - a method of screening re. homelessness (which is subject to abuse). 280 properties in last year have ended in tenancy breakdown often within six months. Reasons were little support for needy tenants or wrong type or location of property. A National Housing Trust is to fund housing specific to local people, locally employed, etc, and nine million pounds has been allocated.

Martin Brown spoke of national priorities causing local difficulties, e.g. parachuting in of homeless from outside area - demand greater than number of properties. Garlieston demand was for 42 houses but only 4 were available during last year. There is a duty to address rural properties and rural communities to ensure tenants can cope with rurality and lack of infrastructure available in large towns or cities.

In reply to questions specific instances of ASB should be addressed to ASB team at DGHP immediately. English Councils had far more discretionary powers concerning length of leases, limited tenancies dependent upon behaviour, and codes for eviction than Scottish Councils. Scotland required court orders to

evict - a lengthy and frustrating experience. DGHP advocates a Housing Court to speed this up. Scottish law has a statutory agreement for secure tenancy but exceptions can be made when ASBOs are involved. 'Homelessness' in majority of cases is linked with serious problems, e.g., drug use, alcohol abuse, ASB and small rural communities do not have the local infrastructure (village doctor, dentist, social services) to deal with these. DGHP finds that lack of property for young local people is leading to depopulation of rural areas. There is a high demand for low cost housing. A sensible exchange system should be devised where size of family and local relocation is seen as a priority - not always followed presently. Little new property is being built, mostly property is regenerated, and therefore total number is lower than needed so appropriate Mutual Exchange is encouraged subject to regulations. Specific, needed, local skills can be cited as points for allocation of social housing, e.g., nurses, social workers, teachers, police officers. Current approach is alienating local small communities - last Garlieston response was hostile to social housing because of problems caused by allocation.

Both speakers were thanked for their detailed input and frank answers and Garlieston Community Council would maintain contact with the speakers.

Youth and Young Persons Issues: Technical problems have meant that the Youth's concert planned for 13th November has been cancelled. At a meeting of the Cluster Group on 19.10.10 all four clubs reported good progress with c. 130 young people attending the four groups regularly each week. Agreed that funding would be sought as a Cluster Group, - a funding sub-committee would be formed by Port William Development Trust.

DGFirst (Combined Services) matters:

D. McRobert telephoned to report that he would be on holiday, but that matters raised at last meeting would be accommodated on his return. He raised the problem of the bus shelters in Garlieston - both vandalised and in current reduced budgets he wished to attend next meeting to spell out the implications of costs to the village.

Planning: Wind turbine spread recently. Baltier Farm wished to erect very large turbine, in Gazette planning. GCC to invite John Ferguson or delegate from Planning and Environment to present the views of D&G Council on widespread farmer's use of this 'rewarded' venture and its effect on landscape. GCC took vote on reaction to above example 6 to object, 3 in favour a 1 abstention. Secretary to report result.

Harbour: No feedback

Safer Route to School and Traffic Management: No report. See Matters Arising - Peoples Lottery Grant above.

Coastal Protection: See DGFirst above.

Councillor's business: A. Geddes informed Harry Hay of over lengthy repair of toilets in Garlieston. He would also take up offer to keep in contact with DGHP and Strategic Housing

Correspondence:

IN - Ballot for ASCC approve members and return to ASCC 20.10.10; Jim Fisher award from Navy for his public services to Mulberry Harbour at Garlieston work 21.10.10; John Paddison re. growth of wind turbines in Rhinns and Machars (see Planning above) 24.10.10; Loreburn Newsletter 15.10.10; Stranraer Museum exhibition of Galloway maps 16.10.10; Military Exercise for 9th to 11th November 25.10.10.
OUT - D McRobert 6.10.10; DGHP 6.10.10; G McShane 6.10.10; Jim O'Neill 6.10.10; M Burton 6.10.10.

Treasurer's Report

* Balance £12,8733.63 Including Lottery Grant of £9,400 ad Youth Cluster Group awards.

Any Other Business:

* G. Walling sent concerns over steps to stage n village hall - older people found difficulty in using them- suggested adding handrails and securing their position for usage. GCC approved and would welcome Gordon's further input.

DONM:

* Next meeting Tuesday 7th December at 7.15pm, 2010.

**COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC;
NORMALLY ON THE FIRST TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH
AT 7.15 IN GARLIESTON TEMPERANCE HALL.**