

# **Minutes of the Meeting of Garlieston Community Council**

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2015**

## **Attendance**

Members present: Wull Hawkins (Chair), Ronnie Huxtable (Secretary), Doreen Ballantyne, George Houston, Shaun McNally, Chris Rose, John Swift (Vice Chair) and Roy Walter (Treasurer).

Ex officio: Councillors Alistair Geddes and Graham Nicol

## **Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received Councillor Jim McColm.

## **1. Minutes of the Meeting of 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2014**

The minutes were accepted as a correct record of the proceedings of the meeting.

Proposer: Roy Walter    Seconder: George Houston

Alistair Geddes requested that meeting agendas be circulated prior to the meeting as was previously the case. The Secretary agreed to ensure that this was done.

## **2. Matters arising not covered on the remaining agenda**

a) Both Ronnie Huxtable and Roy Walter reported that their separate approaches over the condition of the breakwater had resulted in little more than an acknowledgement. It was agreed that Roy Walter would contact Alistair Speedie, Director of Planning and Environment Services, requesting urgent proposals for action on this issue.

b) Ronnie Huxtable reported that some of the potholes on the B7004 between Sorbie Farm and Orchardton Farm had been filled in but others had been left. Roy Walter reported that those on the road to Millisle had not yet been done.

c) the blocked drain outside 27/28 Forteviot Gardens had not yet been cleared.

d) Doreen Ballantyne offered to empty the rubbish bin in the harbour play park when it needed if she were present and able.

## **3. Police Business**

In addition to the liaison officer, the meeting was attended by Inspector Campbell Moffatt who has taken over as area inspector.

It was reported that two alleged offences in Garlieston were currently in process. One was a case of theft; the other was a breach of the peace together with an offence under dangerous dogs legislation.

Once again the need for increased vigilance over the dark winter nights was emphasised.

It was reported that the national campaign on drink driving had finished the previous day although monitoring would, of course, continue throughout the year.

There were as yet no local results figures.

However, Alistair Geddes, suggested that that the downward trend in instances of driving with illegal levels of alcohol in the blood had probably continued despite the fact that that the maximum legal blood limit for drivers had been reduced at the beginning of December. He cited a local radio report which had maintained that of 1100 drivers stopped only 5 were over the legal limit.

A brief discussion on the efficacy and accuracy of breathalyser kits, concluded with agreement that the only sensible policy was "don't drink and drive".

#### **4. Public Forum**

There were no members of the public present.

#### **5. Winter Resilience Group**

Roy Walter reported that he would complete the outstanding work in the next two weeks.

#### **7. DG First (Combined Services) matters**

There were no new matters to consider.

#### **8. Planning**

There were no planning applications to consider.

Roy Walter reported on his attendance at the California Windpark stakeholder liaison meeting organised by Ecotricity.

No decision had yet been made on the company's planning appeal.

#### **9. Harbour Site**

No response having been received from the developer, Roy Walter agreed to contact Scottish Water both to confirm that notice had been served and to request the monitoring results.

#### **10. Traffic Management**

There were no new matters to consider.

#### **11. Coastal Protection**

There were no further matters to consider.

#### **12. Councillors' Business**

Graham Nicol voiced concern about the lack of adequate street lighting on Culderry Road. The Secretary is to pursue this.

#### **13. Correspondence**

The Secretary had received the following:

a) a copy of the email that had been sent to Nick Walker by Sheila Dressler concerning the draft constitution of the Broader Machars Federation of Community Councils. Although the Community Council was unable to discuss the detail of the draft constitution, concern was voiced that the legalistic approach being proposed was likely to discourage community involvement in matters of general concern. In particular, the proposals for Membership and Rules for Procedure at Meetings might well stifle open consideration of issues.

A concrete example was a meeting with Police Scotland scheduled for Tuesday 10 March at 7.30 p.m. in the County Buildings, Wigtown. Chris Rose had a particular interest in attending this meeting but the constitutional proposals could frustrate this. It was agreed that the Community Council would wish to send three delegates to this meeting Wull Hawkins, Ronnie Huxtable and Chris Rose;

b) an offer to provide a presentation from Lucy Brown, Community Liaison Officer for Home Energy Scotland. Alistair Geddes urged the Council to accept this offer and try to interest as many relevant householders as possible. It was agreed that the Secretary would invite her to the March meeting and that Chris Rose would organise the distribution of promotional flyers;

c) a letter from Ronnie Nicholson, the Leader of Dumfries and Galloway Council regarding community consultation on the development of the Council's budget.

It was agreed i) that Doreen Ballantyne, Ronnie Huxtable and Chris Rose would attend the Area Committee Community meeting to be held on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January at 7.00 p.m. at the Ryan Leisure Centre in Stranraer, and ii) to convene an Extraordinary Meeting of the Community Council to discuss the budget in the light of report from the three attending the Stranraer meeting.

#### **14. Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer reported no change from the situation last month.

He reported that the Community Council could expect to receive a special allocation of £100 for expenses involved in working with the Broader Machars Federation of Community Councils.

This led to a discussion of expenses generally. Roy Walter agreed to obtain and distribute the relevant guidance.

#### **15. Any other business**

a) Ronnie Huxtable queried the lack of progress with the provision of a bus shelter in Whithorn. Alistair Geddes explained how the public consultation carried out by SWestrans had been flawed and therefore had to be repeated. He suggested that Ronnie Huxtable contact both SWestrans and the Royal Burgh of Whithorn and District Community Council on this matter.

b) The Chair queried progress on the provision of a replacement sign at Kirkinner. Roy Walter agreed to action this promptly.

#### **16. Date and time of next meetings**

An extraordinary meeting to discuss Dumfries and Galloway Council's budget proposals on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> January at 7.00 p.m.

Ordinary meeting on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February at 7.15 p.m.

Both meetings are to be held in Garlieston Village Hall.