

Minutes of the Meeting of Garlieston Community Council

Tuesday 3rd February 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 Jim McColm

Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillor Graham Nicol.

Roy Walter gave the apologies of Scottish Water who had been unable to cover the presentation scheduled for Item 5 of the agenda.

1. Minutes of the Meeting of 6th January 2015

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

Proposer: John Swift Seconder: Shaun McNally

2. Matters arising not covered on the remaining agenda

a) Ronnie Huxtable expressed satisfaction with the report sent to Dumfries and Galloway Council following the EGM held on 20th January and with the response received from the Leader of the Council.

b) Members reported very little progress on dealing with the works issues raised at the last meeting. No work had been done on the roads. Instead, the response from Council officers had been that road safety was the top priority and work was planned on the basis of priority. Officers had reported that the blocked drain about which the Community Council had complained was in fact clear although, obviously the soak-away was not working as intended. The pavement outside 20/21 Forteviot Gardens had not been repaired. The Council would carry out necessary work "at some time in the future". Meanwhile, Ronnie Huxtable had reported the state of the village hall's windows and been told that the Clerk of Works was to investigate.

Given that the Council officer's response was felt to be unsatisfactory, Alistair Geddes suggested that the Community Council should expect to be advised of timescales and be appraised of the inspection regime for village halls. Ronnie Huxtable would pursue this. Doreen Ballantyne pointed out that the growth of the ivy on the wall between the entrance to Home Farm and that to the sewage treatment works was becoming a nuisance.

c) Ronnie Huxtable reported that he had been in contact with Harry Thomson, Lead Officer for SWestrans, regarding the bus shelter to be provided in Whithorn. The community consultation process was continuing and, as part of this, a public display of options was planned for the next day (i.e. 4th February). Ronnie Huxtable was unable to attend and because of the short notice no other member was available.

d) Roy Walter reported that he had had no response to his email to Alistair Speedie, Director of Planning and Environment Services, concerning the state of the breakwater.

It was agreed that the breakwater urgently needed to be surveyed by engineers. Roy Walter would pursue this.

3. Police Business

There were no police officers in attendance.

4. Public Forum

There were no members of the public present.

5. Presentation: Scottish Water

Roy Walter reported that he had been surprised and disappointed to learn that Scottish Water had not served legal notice on English Homes as had been anticipated.

Apparently there needed to be another salinity reading when the level of sewage was lower. It was agreed that there should, in fact, be a series of readings, including another reading before the end of February. Roy Walter would pursue this also.

6. Winter Resilience Group

It was reported that there was a considerable amount of water in some of the salt bins. This was due to the lids blowing up in the wind. Since the fitting of catches should be relatively easy, it was agreed that the Community Council should organise this itself.

The issue of the gritting of the harbour was raised. It was agreed to ascertain whether gritting had been stopped and, if so, why.

As regards the installation of the generator, Roy Walter reported that the tractor had been booked for Friday 6th February.

7. DG First (Combined Services) matters

There were no new matters to consider.

8. Planning

There were no planning applications to consider.

9. Harbour Site

There were no further matters to discuss beyond the previous discussion [2 d) above]

10. Traffic Management

There were no new matters to consider.

11. Coastal Protection

There were no new matters to consider.

12. Councillors' Business

No matters were raised.

13. Correspondence

The Secretary had received the following:

a) an email from Stephen Jack, Service Manager Area Wigtown, Dumfries and Galloway Council Community and Customer Services regarding an information evening on "Attainment within Schools" to be held at the Douglas Ewart High School on Wednesday 18th February 2015 at 6.30pm. This event had been requested by elected members at the Wigtown Area Committee meeting in November 2014. It will include a brief overview of *Insight* the new toolkit for measuring attainment in secondary schools.

b) notification of a Free Electric Heating Scheme funded by Scottish Hydro which would provide a free heating upgrade for those using old electric storage heaters. The allocation for Dumfries and Galloway is 92 properties awarded on a first come basis. Eligibility is restricted to those on specified benefits. The scheme, which closes at the end of February, provides for the replacement of old electric storage heaters by the more efficient Dimplex Quantum heaters.

c) an email from Muriel Sneddon, Dumfries and Galloway Council, concerning supplementary planning guidance. It was felt that this raised strategic issues and, as such, should be referred to the Broader Machars Federation of Community Councils.

d) a letter from Laurie McNabb, Development Contributions Officer, Dumfries and Galloway Council, regarding windfarm community benefit funds. Again, it was felt that this raised strategic issues and, as such, should be referred to the Federation.

e) an email from Paul Anderson, Community Outreach Manager with the Scottish Parliament giving notice of a workshop to be held on 21st February. This aimed to provide community councils with the knowledge and skills necessary to engage effectively with MSPs and the Parliament. Chris Rose will attend if he proves free of family commitments.

14. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported that the management grant had been received and the Community Council's bank balance now stood at £15,500.

He further reported that he had not yet obtained the relevant guidance on expenses.

However, he thought it important that the community councils locally acted consistently and he would therefore seek further information from the Federation on current practice.

15. Any other business

Doreen Ballantyne raised concern about the long period of time the north of the village had been without power in the recent outage, the lack of information generally about the duration of the outage, and, specifically, the lack of clarity about the use of facilities in the village hall. It was agreed that there should be a simple chain for the cascade of information viz. from Scottish Power to the Dumfries and Galloway Council, from the Regional Council to community councils, and from each community council to its local community.

Jim McColm here stressed the importance of the maintenance of the community's database of frail and vulnerable people.

It was further agreed that although in times of a prolonged outage the generation of electricity using a tractor was feasible, with shorter outages the priority should be ease of access to a source of heating for food. Therefore, it would be sensible to resurrect the idea of providing a gas-fuelled cooker in the village hall.

It was therefore agreed that Roy Walter would contact Wendy Jesson a) to arrange a meeting to discuss the above issues and b) to revisit the feasibility using gas.

It was agreed that when these issues had been resolved, the Community Council should convene a special meeting to formulate a clear policy and detailed procedures which should then be disseminated in writing to members of the local community.

16. Date and time of next meeting

Tuesday 3rd March at 7.15 p.m. in Garlieston Village Hall.