

# Minutes of the Meeting of Garlieston Community Council

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2015

## Attendance

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

Ex officio: Councillors Alistair Geddes, Jim McColm and Graham Nicol

## Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Doreen Ballantyne and George Houston.

## 1. Resignation

Shaun McNally informed the meeting that he had moved out of the Community Council's area and was, therefore, no longer eligible to be a member of the Community Council. He was, therefore, submitting his resignation with immediate effect. The Chair thanked him for his contribution to the work of the Community Council. Shaun McNally then left the meeting.

## 2. Minutes of the Meeting of 3rd February 2015

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

Proposer: John Swift    Seconder: Roy Walter

## 3. Matters arising not covered on the remaining agenda

a) Ronnie Huxtable reported that there was still little progress in dealing with several works issues raised at the December and January meetings but these were being chased through Colin Forbes. RH suggested that the failure to find any problem with the blocked drain, reported at the last meeting, was due to the council officer looking in the wrong drain. However, CF will send someone down to inspect drains on a day of heavy rain. He will also take up the issue of the toby with Scottish Water, will chase up the owners of the wall regarding the ivy, and will send an application form for a salt bin.

b) although there had been some road improvements carried out, the meeting agreed with the members of the Wigtown Area Committee that closer attention needed to be paid to the A714 as an important road for the Machars. Graham Nicol reported that he understood that South Ayrshire Council proposed to allocate £10 million for such road improvements in the coming year.

c) the proposal to provide community council access to Dumfries and Galloway Council reports was welcomed. It was agreed that receiving the agenda for and minutes of every meeting of the Wigtown Area Committee of the Council was of limited value without copies of the reports and papers which informed such meetings. The Secretary will provide the relevant email addresses to Wilma McKeown, the Area Committee Administrator.

d) although it was confirmed that the Village Hall Keeper was responsible for notifying officers of any issues with the hall, it was expected that officers would visit the village hall to inspect the state of the windows.

e) regarding the state of the breakwater, Roy Walter reported that he still had had no response from any officer to his emails. It was agreed that RW would request the attendance of Simon Fieldhouse, the Council's Countryside Services Manager, at the April meeting of the Community Council to explain the lack of any urgent action to address the problem.

#### **4. Police Business**

There were two police officers in attendance.

There was no crime to be reported from Garlieston or the immediately surrounding area. It was reported that currently there were two projects in operation. The first was to target the theft to order of high value, high performance private motor cars. The second was to liaise more effectively with elected members and community councils by providing a single point of contact.

The officers highlighted reports in the local press of rural crime around Kirkinner and Wigtown and asked members of the community to maintain their vigilance of properties which were vacated over the winter period.

The officers were thanked for their attendance.

#### **5. Public Forum**

There were no members of the public present.

#### **6. Presentation**

There was no presentation scheduled.

#### **7. Winter Resilience Group**

It was agreed that the special meeting with Wendy Jesson would be scheduled for Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March at 7.00 p.m.

Roy Walter reported that the bill for Mr McCutcheon's work at the village hall would be paid by Dumfries and Galloway Council.

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

There were no further matters to consider.

#### **9. Planning**

Retrospective planning applications had been received for the installation of air source heat pumps to the dwelling houses at 3 and 4 Kilfillan Place.

A planning application to construct an earth-banked slurry lagoon at Culscadden Farm had also been received.

As it was anticipated that Dumfries and Galloway Council would arrange the posting of the planning application for Ecotricity's "California" development in the *Galloway Gazette* on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March, it was agreed that it was important that this issue be discussed at the current meeting. As no member present was supportive of this development, it was agreed that Roy Walter would prepare an appropriate submission on behalf of the Community Council.

#### **10. Harbour Site**

Roy Walter reported that Scottish Water and SEPA were to carry out salinity sampling around the high tides of 20<sup>th</sup> March to see if there was any tidal connection with salinity levels.

In view of the on-going discounted sale of the remaining harbour-side properties, it was agreed that Roy Walter would re-approach English Homes on the possibility of the purchase by the community of the derelict listed property at the harbour.

## **11. Federation Business**

The meeting was reminded that the next meeting of the Broader Federation of Machars Community Councils was scheduled for Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March and would be attended by Wull Hawkins, Ronnie Huxtable and Chris Rose.

The meeting was informed that Port William Community Council had withdrawn from the Federation.

Discussion took place on the constitution of the Federation. It was agreed that the proposed arrangements for formal representation of community councils and exclusion of the public would make the Federation a very different kind of organisation from the open strategic community forum which the Community Council had originally envisaged. This was much regretted.

## **12. Traffic Management**

There were no new matters to consider.

## **13. Coastal Protection**

There were no further matters to consider.

## **14. Councillors' Business**

No new matters were raised but the Community Council was reminded that, following the announcement from the Scottish Government on the maintenance of teacher numbers, there was a requirement for some budget allocation to Education to be revisited.

## **15. Correspondence**

The Secretary had received the following:

- a) An email from Brian Templeton, the Team Leader – Flood Risk Management with Dumfries and Galloway Council, on the new arrangements for flood risk management consequent on the implementation of the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009. Consultation on the draft flood risk management strategy will take place both through access to SEPA's dedicated website (<https://frm-scotland.org.uk/>) and through a series of drop-in sessions. The closest of these to Garlieston will be held at Newton Stewart Library on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April between 3 and 6 p.m.
- b) An email from Sheila Dressler, Principal Officer External Funding with Dumfries and Galloway Council, requesting the completion of a survey produced by Edinburgh Napier University on digital engagement.
- c) An email from Grainne Kennedy of the Crichton Carbon Centre requesting the completion of a survey on local energy usage.
- d) An invitation from Planning Democracy to attend a conference on "Planning: the People's Perspective" to be held on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April at the Trades Hall, Glasgow.
- e) An email from P. Lewicki of the Stranraer Branch of the King's Own Scottish Borderers Regimental Association requesting that the Branch be kept informed of local civic events.
- f) Although the Secretary had not received the information in correspondence, the meeting was informed that the Wigtownshire Local Area Profile, which has been prepared for the Dumfries and Galloway Strategic Partnership by the Crichton Institute, is due to be launched on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March.

**16. Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer reported that there had been no change since last month.

**17. Any other business**

Chris Rose advised that he would be away and unable to attend the April meeting of the Community Council. Roy Walter volunteered to take the minutes in his place.

Roy Walter reported on his findings on expenses and tabled Council forms as templates.

Wull Hawkins complained that the safety matting beneath the recently installed play apparatus in the playground had been laid unevenly. Ronnie Huxtable will pursue this.

The sign at the top of Kirkiner hill still needs replacing. Roy Walter agreed to give this his early attention.

Wull Hawkins will organise the re-siting of the Jacquie Swift memorial bench.

Roy Walter reported that the shore path at Rigg Bay was covered with seaweed. It was agreed to raise this matter with Simon Fieldhouse when he attends the next meeting.

Following the resignation of Shaun McNally, the Chair raised his concern about the considerable number of vacant positions on the Community Council. Members agreed to give some thought as to how to recruit new community councillors.

**18. Date and time of next meeting**

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> April at 7.15 p.m. in Garlieston Village Hall.