

Minutes of the Meeting of Garlieston Community Council

Tuesday 5th May 2015

Attendance

Members present: Wull Hawkins (Chair), Doreen Ballantyne, George Houston, Roy McGarva, 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 Ronnie Huxtable and Councillor Graham Nicol

Members of the public in attendance

Robert Wright

1. Minutes of the Meeting of 2nd April 2015

With the addition of "*This was agreed unanimously*" under Election of Members, the minutes were accepted as a correct record of the proceedings of the meeting.

Proposer: George Houston Seconder: John Swift

2. Chair's Annual Report

This was accepted and will be put on the agenda of the Annual General Meeting of the Community Council in June.

3. Matters arising not covered on the remaining agenda

The meeting was informed that:

- a) the Community Council's application for a salt bin at the Village Hall has been rejected on the grounds that the pavement it is to serve is on a designated salt route and it is assumed that the salt will spread on to the pavement from the road. The meeting felt that this response was both disappointing and foolish and ran counter to the assurances that had already been given. As such it was not acceptable and Chris Rose was asked to contact Colin Forbes, Works Maintenance Team Leader, DGC, directly;
- b) the slates missing from the roof of the public convenience had been replaced on 15th April;
- c) the restoration of the war memorial is being attended to by Alan Bradley, Neighbourhood Services Officer, DGC, and Peter Wilson, Principal Technician, DGFIRST;
- d) the Village Hall windows should be repaired shortly;
- e) the base of the new play park equipment had been designed to be laid to the contours of the land. The meeting deemed this unsatisfactory and Chris Rose was asked to contact Alan Bradley to request an on-site meeting. It was further agreed to ask that the elephant ride be restored to its original orientation.

Wull Hawkins reported that he, together with George Houston and Ronnie Huxtable, had met with Colin Forbes on 23rd April to discuss actions needed in the village including potholes, drains and overhanging bushes. Most of these had been dealt with on Monday 27th April though there had been complaints on the lack of signage to advise motorists that parts of the road had been graded ready to be tarred. However, the work on the junction of High Street and South Street remained outstanding. The potholes in the road from Garlieston to Sorbie are also a cause for concern.

Local resident Robert Wright had written to the Chair about the condition of the wooden telegraph pole between 6 and 8 Culderry Row, which supported overhead power cables. However, as Mr Wright was present at the meeting he was invited to speak on the matter. Following discussion, it was agreed that there was a significant safety issue involved. Chris

Rose was asked to ascertain the appropriate contact at Scottish Power and raise the matter with them as a matter of urgency.

4. Police Business

There were no police officers in attendance.

However, as Wull Hawkins had a matter that he wished to raise, Alistair Geddes suggested that he did so directly with Inspector Campbell Moffat at Newton Stewart police station.

5. Public Forum

There were no further issues raised.

6. Presentation

There was no presentation scheduled.

7. Winter Resilience Group

There were no matters to report.

8. DG First (Combined Services) matters

There were no further matters to consider.

9. Planning

There were no matters to report.

10. Harbour Site

Roy Walter reported that Scottish Water had issued contracts for upgrade work.

He further reported that Scottish Water was proceeding with legal action against the developer.

He agreed to chase up the issue of the restoration of the old store.

11. Federation Business

There were no matters to report.

12. Traffic Management

There were no matters to consider.

13. Coastal Protection

There were no matters to consider.

14. Councillors' Business

Alistair Geddes reported that he still awaited information on progress on the breakwater.

The Councillors reported on the Wigtown Area Committee (Community) meeting held on 28th April which had invited NHS Dumfries & Galloway to attend to provide updates in relation to, among other matters, a) the action being taken to address issues identified in the reports of the recent inspections of Galloway Community Hospital, Stranraer, b) progress in relation to the integration of health and social care provision and c) progress on actions from the June 2014 meeting of the Committee. Given the critical nature of the inspection reports, the Councillors had been disappointed to find the representation of the NHS at the meeting inadequate and the tone defensive. Although NHS Dumfries & Galloway obviously regarded its work on the integration of health and social care "trailblazing", the elected members were more concerned with slow progress on the review of dental services.

Discussion took place on the relative usage of Dumfries and Galloway Royal Infirmary in Dumfries and Galloway Community Hospital in Stranraer for both assessments and treatments. Alistair Geddes reported that the Wigtown Area Committee regarded this balance as a key performance indicator.

15. Correspondence

In addition to items previously circulated by email, Chris Rose reported that the Secretary had received the following:

- a) a letter from Alex Haswell, Director of Community and Customer Services, DGC, regarding the building of beacons to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of VE Day on Friday, 8th May. The meeting agreed that this was a letter that should have been sent out months before as it was now impossible to take any appropriate action.
- b) a letter from Sheila Dressler, Principal Officer External Funding, DGC, setting out the arrangements for the conduct of community council elections. The current Community Council will dissolve and a new Community Council come into being at 8.00 am on Friday 23rd October. If there is a contested election, this will be held on 22nd October. The letter sets out in detail the timetable that the Community Council must follow.

16. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported on what he regarded as a very short timeframe for completing the Community Council's application for its discretionary administration grant. It was agreed that he would contact Wendy Jesson, Principal Officer Partnership Support, DGC, to seek further clarification.

17. Any other business

Doreen Ballantyne raised the issue of the volume of rubbish deposited at the site of the former Breakwater Cottage. Roy Walter agreed to get this removed and raised the related issue of footpath clearance.

Doreen Ballantyne gave her apologies in advance for her absence from the June and July meetings.

18. Date and time of next meeting

Tuesday 2nd June at 7.15 p.m. in Garlieston Village Hall – Annual General Meeting.