

Minutes of the Meeting of Garlieston Community Council

Tuesday 6th September 2016

Attendance

Members present: Julie Carter, Wull Hawkins (Chair), George Houston, Barbara Holmes, Ronnie Huxtable, Carol Lochrie, Roy McGarva, Chris Rose, Roy Walter, Gavin Williams, and Leslie Williams

Ex officio: Councillors Alistair Geddes and Jim McColm

Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillor Graham Nicol and Jim Carter.

1. Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 16th August 2016

These were accepted as a true and correct record of the proceedings of the meeting.

Proposer: Julie Carter Seconder: Barbara Holmes

2. Matters arising not covered on the remaining agenda

a) The Chair paid tribute to John Swift, previously Secretary and, until his death in May, Vice-Chair, and praised his long and impressive record of service to the Community Council.

b) He also honoured the memory of Ian Fraser, one-time member of the Community Council, who had passed away in August.

c) It was agreed that Carol Lochrie should be included as a bank signatory.

Proposer: Wull Hawkins Seconder: Roy Walter

d) It was noted that the completion of data protection forms was not needed since the relevant information had already been submitted.

3. Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 3rd May 2016

These were accepted as a true and correct record of the proceedings of the meeting.

Proposer: Wull Hawkins Seconder: Julie Carter

4. Matters arising not covered on the remaining agenda

a) For the benefit of new members the Chair explained the purpose and distribution of his Annual Report.

b) It was agreed that for next season the sign at Kirkinner should have just one photograph. Roy Walter will arrange this.

5. Police Business

There was no representative of Police Scotland present.

6. Public Forum

There were no members of the public present.

7. Presentation

a) Karen Brownlie, Dumfries and Galloway Council, began her presentation by explaining the restructuring of environmental services consequent upon the reduction of Council Directorates from six to four.

She reported that she was now Community Asset Manager (Western) and explained the scope of her remit. She reported that Ward Workers and Managers were presently being recruited.

It was suggested to her that an organisational chart would be helpful and she responded that, as soon as the Ward Managers were in place, a list of who to contact for what service would be provided.

b) She went on to provide updates on some outstanding issues:

- i) the new play equipment remained fenced off as the rope net that had been delivered was the wrong size and had to be re-ordered.
- ii) the cherry tree on Cowgate was to be pruned in the near future.
- iii) action on the dead tree by the school awaited further discussion with the Council's Estates Department.

Members raised four issues: to which she responded:

- i) *responsibility for tree surgery* – there would be a discussion with the Dumfries and Galloway Housing Partnership to determine the demarcation of responsibilities.
- ii) *the trimming of the roadside hedges from the village to the Sorbie-Whithorn T-junction* – this would be actioned.
- iii) *the Leylandii on Culderry Row* – these were on private land and were, therefore, not the Council's responsibility.
- iv) *street lighting and roads* – these were now the responsibility of Enterprising Dumfries and Galloway.

c) She then discussed the future of village halls. She explained that in 2013 there were 68 community facilities in the region. 29 of these had since either been closed, transferred to the community or transferred to a third party. The Council's Communities Committee (on which the area's representative was Cllr. Nicol) had decided that, of the remaining 39, the 6 largest, such as the MacMillan Hall in Newton Stewart, would be retained for the present. The other 33 would remain under the control of the Council until 31 March 2018 when they would follow the original 29. The objective of the Council was both to ensure the viability and sustainability of village halls wherever possible and to save money to help meet the Council's financial targets. She reported that the cost of Garlieston Village Hall in the last financial year was £3,442 and that, currently, regular bookings accounted for only three hours per month.

It was agreed that

- i) the November meeting of the Community Council should have the future of the village hall as the main agenda item,
- ii) that discussions of the future of the Temperance Hall needed to take account of the role of the Forteviot Hall on High Street and the future of the Primary School.

She concluded by offering to attend any future meeting where her presence was requested if she could, and to provide whatever information or support the Community Council needed.

The Chair thanked Karen for her valuable contribution.

d) Discussion then took place on some of the implications for environmental issues of the Council's restructuring.

e) Carole Lochrie made a plea for a more focused approach in agenda setting and the conduct and minuting of Community Council meetings. It was recognised that there was an important issue here and members would give the matter further consideration before the next meeting.

8. Winter Resilience Group

For the benefit of new members, Roy Walter explained the history, role and organisation of the Group.

There was nothing current to report.

9. DG First (Combined Services) matters

It was reported that DG First had disappeared in the recent restructuring of Dumfries and Galloway Council. Responsibility for environmental issues was now divided between the Communities section of the Council and Enterprising DG.

It was reported that there were still problems with some drains the responsibility for which now lay with Enterprising DG. The Secretary would chase these.

10. Planning

No applications had been received.

As a result of teething problems with the new back office system, the current list of planning applications for the region as a whole had been produced in random order. It is hoped that this issue will be resolved in the near future and the next list of planning applications grouped by ward.

Carol Lochrie reported that she had received no list. She was asked to contact Laura Anderson (Laura.Anderson@dumgal.gov.uk) to ensure that all new members of the Community Council were included on the distribution list.

11. Harbour Site

a) It was reported that no communication had been received from Scottish Water on the outcome of the diet of proof determination in 28th July set. Roy Walter agreed to chase this up.

b) Discussion took place on the condition of the old harbour store. Roy Walter reported that neither Dumfries and Galloway Council nor Historic Environment Scotland seemed keen to take the initiative with English Homes Ltd. and the Council did not appear to have any paper trail with respect to their contact with the developer over permission to remove and replace the roof. It was agreed that the Secretary would write to English Homes to request details of the developer's plans for the store. Depending upon the response, Roy Walter would resume contact with Dumfries and Galloway Council and Historic Environment Scotland to try to ensure that the listed building was restored rather than allowed to deteriorate further.

12. Federation Business

A meeting of the Federation was due to be held in the near future.

13. Coastal Protection

a) It was unclear whether the work on the breakwater had been completed. Roy Walter agreed to investigate by contacting Andrew Herd.

b) It was agreed that the boat park and some other areas were in need of strimming. Roy Walter would contact Simon Fieldhouse with a view to setting up a site meeting.

14. Councillors' Business

Jim McColm reported that, although there was no immediate threat to the village school, there were concerns about the longer term future. Already, the role of classroom assistant had gone from the Council's schools and there was pressure on schools to extend the use of school buildings by inviting in parent and toddler groups and craft groups. The policy of attaching nursery provision to selected primary schools also worked to the disadvantage of Garlieston.

It was agreed that there needed to be more effective liaison with the both the school and its parent council. Proposals for achieving this would be discussed at the next meeting.

15. Correspondence

a) Finlay Carson, the recently elected MSP for Galloway and West Dumfries, is keen to meet community councils. Members welcomed this and asked the Secretary to respond accordingly.

b) The Scottish Fisheries Secretary, Richard Lochhead, has encouraged more applications to the European and Maritime Fisheries Fund (EMFF) which is designed to a) help fishermen in the transition to sustainable fishing, b) support coastal communities in diversifying their economies, c) finance projects that create new jobs and improve quality of life along European coasts and d) make it easier for applicants to access financing. The allocation to Dumfries and Galloway is £580K.

16. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported that, because of the hiatus caused by the dissolution of the old and election of the new Community Council, there had been a delay in getting the accounts approved. A full update will be provided at the October meeting.

17. Any other business

a) Gavin and Leslie Williams appealed for funds to help support the Bowling Club with the maintenance and improvement of the bowling green. It was suggested that Wendy Jessop be approached to help with the development of a funding bid. Roy Walter agreed to put Gavin and Leslie in touch with Wendy. The EMFF was seen as one possibility.

b) Ronnie Huxtable raised the issue of the changes proposed by NHS Dumfries and Galloway to transport arrangements to Glasgow and Edinburgh for cancer patients undergoing treatment. It was agreed that these changes would add considerably to the difficulties experienced by patients from the Machars at a time when they were particularly vulnerable. It was agreed that this issue would be raised by Ronnie at the next meeting of the Federation with a view to involving Finlay Carson MSP and a possible press campaign. In the meantime, the Secretary was asked to write to Philip Jones, Chair, Dumfries and Galloway NHS Board, and Jeff Ace, the Chief Executive of NHS Dumfries and Galloway, expressing the Community Council's disquiet.

c) Julie Carter tabled a list of items where action was needed before Easter to ensure that the village was more attractive to visitors. Members would consider the items on the list before further discussion at the next meeting.

d) Ronnie Huxtable raised once again the issue of the provision of a bus shelter in Whithorn. Alistair Geddes stressed the need for sensitivity to avoid conflict with Whithorn Community Council. Members will consider how best to proceed before further discussion at the next meeting.

18. Date and time of next meeting

Tuesday 4th October at 7.15 p.m. in Garlieston Village Hall.