

Minutes of the Meeting of Garlieston Community Council

Tuesday 5th August 2014

Attendance

Members present: Will Hawkins (Chair), Ronnie Huxtable (Vice Chair), Doreen Ballantyne, George Houston, Shaun McNally, Chris Rose

Ex officio: Councillors Alistair Geddes and Jim McColm

Apologies for absence: John Swift

1. Minutes of the Meeting of 1st July 2014

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

Proposer: George Houston Seconder: Doreen Ballantyne

2. Matters arising not covered on the remaining agenda

- *Harbour*

A new directory of Council-operated harbours has been launched by Dumfries and Galloway Council.
- *Broader Machars Federation of Community Councils*

A meeting of the Federation is to be held on Tuesday 12th August at which the Council's Chief Executive Gavin Stephenson will outline the progress on the integration of health and social care and initial thoughts on Council restructuring.
- *DG First*
 - a) The new recycling arrangements will begin this month. Households will be sent information on delivery dates in the week commencing 4th August. Food caddies will be delivered in the week commencing 18th August. New weekly food waste collections will start in the week commencing 25th August. Dry recycling containers will be delivered in the first two weeks of September. The full new collection regime then starts on 15th September.
 - b) The Eggerness Road has been resurfaced and the Council expressed considerable satisfaction with the work carried out.
 - c) The ridge of uncut grass at Forteviot Gardens (Agenda 3/6/2014) remains uncut despite Alistair Geddes having been assured of action. Cllr. Geddes offered to chase the matter up on 6th August before beginning his leave.

3. Police Business

Two officers attended and advised the meeting that there was nothing to report from Garlieston.

However, members were advised of a spate of breaking and entering offences in South Ayrshire and elsewhere in Galloway involving small shops and domestic property and were urged to promote vigilance locally.

It was reported that the transfer of calls from the former Dumfries Control Centre to the Glasgow Centre seemed to have produced no significant problems and that the police had been operating with minimum levels of staffing as officers had been required for duty at the Wickerman Festival and Commonwealth Games.

The issue of a disturbance in Forteviot Gardens the previous week was raised. This had apparently been reported to DGHP but not to the Police. It was agreed that in such cases initial contact with the Police was the appropriate course of action.

Alistair Geddes suggested that the allocations policy and anti-social behaviour procedures of social housing providers should be discussed by the Broader Machars Federation of Community Councils and that the providers should be requested to attend the meeting. This was agreed.

The police officers were thanked for their attendance.

4. Public Forum

There were no members of the public present.

5. Presentation

No presentation had been scheduled.

6. Winter Resilience Group

The Community Council was informed that the generator for the emergency power supply in the village hall would be installed by the end of the month.

7. DG First (Combined Services) matters

There were no new matters to consider.

8. Planning

a) There was an application for the construction of three holiday cottages and septic tanks at Penkiln Farm. Members were not aware of the detail of these plans, so discussion was postponed until members had sight of the plans held at Mac's Stores.

b) a letter and supporting documentation had been received from ecotricity regarding a scoping exercise for a proposed wind turbine development near Carsluith, "California Wind Park". After discussion it was agreed to object to this proposal on the grounds of adverse visual impact and possible adverse impact on tourism (five votes for, one against). Will Hawkins is to ask Roy Walter to prepare the objection.

9. Harbour Site

Discussion took place on the lack of progress on this matter.

Members expressed concern over the lack of clarity about relevant issues such as whether the conditions of planning consent had been breached, and the nature of the initial agreement (if any) between the developer and Scottish Water.

It was agreed that it was imperative to have a meeting with the developer, Scottish Water, SEPA, and the Council's Planning Department as a matter of urgency. It was agreed that a special meeting should be held for this purpose at 7.00 p.m. on Tuesday 9th September. The Secretary was requested to issue the necessary invitations to this meeting. Alistair Geddes suggested that the appropriate representative of the Council's Planning Department would be Robert Duncan, Senior Planning Officer.

10. Traffic Management

There were no new matters to consider.

11. Coastal Protection

Although Members expressed considerable satisfaction with the appearance of the repaired coastal path, it was agreed that the protection the path had been given appeared insufficient and that the path was unlikely to be able to survive long when subject to storm tides. It was decided to request an urgent site visit from Simon Fieldhouse, the Council's Countryside Services Manager. Will Hawkins is to ask Roy Walter to arrange this.

12. Councillors' Business

There were no issues raised.

13. Correspondence

The following had been received:

a) a copy of *Amended Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils in Dumfries and Galloway*.

Alistair Geddes and Jim McColm suggested that some of the “good practice” provisions (e.g. a maximum term of 4 years for office holders) needed to be interpreted with common sense. The key issue is to ensure an effective community council.

b) the report of the Community Council Survey 2014

c) an e-mail from Fiona Ritchie on World War I vigil

d) an e-mail from Fiona Ritchie on Scottish Water Customer Forum

e) notification of the annual conference “Third Sector” to be held on Monday 10th November

f) an e-mail from Nick Walker on superfast broadband

14. Treasurer’s Report

In the absence of the Treasurer there was no report.

15. Any other business

a) Shaun McNally raised the issue of the volume of litter around the tennis court and the children’s playground and the associated behaviour of some adults and children. Alistair Geddes suggested that the most appropriate course of action might be to take the matter up with community wardens in the first instance.

b) Chris Rose voiced concern at i) the dramatic increase in the use of “stop and search” in the Region following the transfer of policing from Dumfries and Galloway Constabulary to Police Scotland, from 19 instances in the last year of D&GC to 3,107 instances in the first 9 months of Police Scotland (an increase of over 19,000%) and ii) the suggestion that about two thirds of that volume was of a “non-statutory” nature which meant that the police neither needed to have reasonable suspicion in order to carry out a search nor were they obliged to tell the person searched of their rights. After discussion, Alistair Geddes suggested that, given the general nature of the concern, it was an appropriate issue to raise at the Broader Machars Federation of Community Councils. Ronnie Huxtable will action this.

16. Date and time of next meeting

Tuesday 2nd September at 7.15 p.m. in Garlieston Village Hall.