

Minutes of the Meeting of Garlieston Community Council

Tuesday 7th October 2014

Attendance

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

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

Apologies for absence: Doreen Ballantyne and George Houston

1. Minutes of the Meeting of 2nd September 2014

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

Proposer: Shaun McNally Seconder: Wull Hawkins

2. Matters arising not covered on the remaining agenda

i. New Constitution

The Secretary reported that he had received a reminder that the new constitution should be adopted at an Extraordinary General Meeting in the near future together with a draft agenda. It was agreed to hold an E.G.M. immediately prior to the ordinary November meeting. The draft constitution had been received.

ii. Pot holes

The pot-holes in Forteviot Gardens have been repaired as far as possible but, as some residents had not moved their cars when the repairs were carried out, there are still some repairs needed. The repairs at other locations have been carried out. Members were agreed that the work had been carried out very well.

iii. Bus stop sign and related work

A sign has now been put on the bus stop by the village hall. The flag pole has been painted.

Alistair Geddes suggested that it would be very helpful to have a named contact at the Council in order to chase work. He provided to the Secretary the phone number of Colin Forbes, Works Maintenance Team Leader.

iv. Library opening hours

Following the consultation exercise in September, the revised opening hours of libraries in the area has been determined.

v. Tree pruning

Trees in Cowgate have been pruned for the pavement repairs but many branches have been left on the ground. The Secretary would take this up with the Council.

vi. Rubbish bin

The bin in the harbour play park is not being emptied, presumably because the play park has not been adopted by the Council. The Secretary was asked to contact June McKinstry to explore how this issue might be resolved.

vii. *Equestrian access to coastal path*

Although there had been concern expressed at horse riding on the path, Roy Walter explained that under the “right to roam” legislation there was no action that could be taken.

viii. *Donation of painting*

A painting of the Mulberry Harbour has been kindly donated by a Janette Halliday from North Yorkshire, who had stayed at the Caravan Club Site. This was to be displayed in the village hall.

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 rural crime in South Ayrshire and urged to be vigilant especially with the longer nights of winter approaching.

The annual drink-driving campaign will target drivers on minor as well as main roads.

Some discussion took place over members’ concerns about the culture that was being developed in Police Scotland. Although it was hoped that the officers attending would relay the Community Council’s concerns to their superior officer, it was agreed that this was properly an issue for the Broader Machars Federation of Community Councils where it was being pursued by Ronnie Huxtable.

The Chair requested the presence of police for the ceremony on Remembrance Sunday, 9th November.

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

Members expressed their dismay at the continuing saga of the installation of the emergency power generator.

7. DG First (Combined Services) matters

There were no new matters to consider.

8. Planning

There were no new matters to consider.

9. Harbour Site

Roy Walter had circulated the minutes of the meeting held on 19th September.

Scottish Water intend to continue the tankering of effluent until the upgrade of the wastewater treatment works has been completed (estimated July 2015 and with ring-fenced money) and the saline intrusion has been resolved.

The latter issue requires the active co-operation of the developer which, to date, has not been forthcoming. In the absence of such co-operation, legal action would be considered.

Roy Walter has asked the developer for two dates on which he would attend a meeting with SEPA, Scottish Water, the Regional Council’s Planning Department and the Community Council. This request has not been acknowledged, let alone addressed.

It was also pointed out that near the end of the harbour there were holes in the harbour wall and steps. The Secretary agreed take this up with the Council.

10. Traffic Management

There were no new matters to consider.

11. Coastal Protection

Roy Walter reported that he had been advised by Simon Fieldhouse, the Council's Countryside Services Manager, that there was no budget for armour rock to protect the newly repaired coastal path.

Members expressed considerable concern especially as a storm earlier in the week had already caused some attrition and slippage of the gravel base of the path.

It was agreed to write to Alistair Speedie, Director of Planning and Environment Services, with a copy to Simon Fieldhouse, requesting an urgent on-site meeting and an explanation as to what work the £10K designated to the path had been allocated.

12. Councillors' Business

Graham Nicol enquired whether recent power outages had affected Garlieston. Although they had not, Roy Walter suggested that Scottish Power should be encouraged to use social media such as Twitter to provide a notification service.

Jim McColm suggested that now Sorbie School had been formally closed, this provided an investment opportunity.

Alistair Geddes reported on a recent meeting to discuss areas of potential flooding. Although the meeting had been constructive, the precise choice of areas was somewhat idiosyncratic.

It was agreed that the new system of refuse collection was generally working well, despite some issues such as the impact of wind on the waste paper bins and the way the communal food waste bin at the entrance to the village was attracting the disposal of all sorts of refuse.

13. Correspondence

The following had been received:

- a) from the Council, a *Harbour Directory* to the harbours of Dumfries and Galloway
- b) from the South West Scotland Sectarian Project, a letter outlining the work of the project and seeking the cooperation of the Community Council. It was agreed that this issue would be more appropriately dealt with by the Broader Machars Federation of Community Councils. Ronnie Huxtable would contact Nick Walker, Chair of the Federation, and respond accordingly.
- c) an e-mail from Lynne Marshall reminding that the new constitution needed to be adopted by the Community Council before the 30th January.
- d) a flyer from Stranraer Museum on an exhibition of everyday gadgets running at the Museum from 13 September to 8th November.
- e) an e-mail from Lynne Marshall inviting community councillors to attend a Scottish Government Community Engagement event in Dumfries on 27th October.
- f) an e-mail from Chief Supt. Kate Thomson of Police Scotland, forwarded by Cllr. Alistair Geddes, concerning the revised arrangements for the deployment of armed officers.

14. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported that there was no change from his last report. An update would be provided at the next meeting.

15. Any other business

a) Shaun McNally raised two issues 1) the state of the footpath from Forteviot Gardens to High Street, which needs repair and 2) the fact that the water tobies outside some properties (e.g. number 21) protrude above the tarmac, creating a safety hazard. The Secretary would raise these with the Council.

b) Roy Walter raised the issue of the state of the Garlieston sign at Kirkinner Hill. It was agreed to go for the cheapest effective option and Roy was asked to action this.

c) John Swift was formally confirmed as Vice-Chair.

16. Date and time of next meeting

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