

Minutes of the Meeting of Garlieston Community Council

Tuesday 4th November 2014

Attendance

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

Ex officio: Councillors Alistair Geddes and Jim McColm

1. Minutes of the Meeting of 7th October 2014

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

Proposer: John Swift Seconder: Wull Hawkins

2. Matters arising not covered on the remaining agenda

i. *Outstanding works*

- a) the harbour walls and steps had been pointed where requested;
- b) the water tobies on Forteviot Gardens had been marked ready for repair;
- c) Doreen Ballantyne reported that the residents of the harbour development properties are responsible for the upkeep of the rubbish bin in the harbour play park. Since the play park is used by village children, Alistair Geddes suggested that the Council be approached to empty the bin on a *quid pro quo* basis. The Secretary was asked to contact June McKinstry accordingly;
- d) it was agreed that the soakaway on High Street which blocks in very wet weather would be monitored;
- e) the footpath from Forteviot Gardens to High Street had been marked ready for repair but is the responsibility of DGHP.

ii. *Policing*

a) The response to the Councillors from Chief Inspector Irvine Watson suggested that the police officers attending the October meeting had somewhat misunderstood the Community Council's concerns.

Ronnie Huxtable confirmed that policing will be discussed by the Machars Federation of Community Councils at its December meeting.

There was further discussion of members' concerns about the developing culture of Police Scotland which was seen as more authoritarian and centralist (as witness the approach to this year's Wickerman Festival) with local connections being severed and dedicated community officers being withdrawn.

b) Wull Hawkins reported that it seemed probable that there would again be no policing of Garlieston's ceremony on Remembrance Sunday.

3. Police Business

There were no officers present.

4. Public Forum

There were no members of the public present.

5. Presentation

No presentation had been scheduled.

6. Winter Resilience Group

Members once again 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.

Members expressed the hope for a more preventative approach to maintenance in future.

8. Planning

There were no new matters to consider.

9. Harbour Site

It was agreed that Roy Walter would attempt to convene a further meeting on either 17th or 18th November involving SEPA, Scottish Water, Environmental Health, Planning and the developer.

Although Scottish Water had suggested that they had no readings of saline levels, it was agreed that this could not be the case. If the effluent was being taken to Glasgow rather than Girvan, readings must have informed this decision. Roy Walter would email Scottish Water to clarify this.

10. Traffic Management

Doreen Ballantyne reported a decrease in the number of motorists using the harbour area as a turning point since new signage had been erected.

11. Coastal Protection

Roy Walter reported that he had been advised by Simon Fieldhouse, the Council's Countryside Services Manager, that providing armour rock to protect the newly repaired coastal path would have cost £150,000. RW agreed to seek the opinion of John Barr regarding this figure.

It was agreed that, since the newly repaired path was already deteriorating, an on-site meeting was needed urgently, this time involving Alistair Speedie, Director of Planning and Environment Services, and highlighting the longer-term threat to the harbour itself.

It was pointed out that the Galloway Granite works at Sorbie was in the hands of the Receiver and this could provide a source of armour rock.

Roy Walter reported that the work on the coastal path which fringed Galloway House Gardens at Rigg Bay was nearing completion. Although the newly laid path was fine (for the time being at least) the manner in which the work had been carried out was not cost effective.

12. Councillors' Business

Alistair Geddes pointed out that the next meeting with Scottish Power Representatives would take place in the County Buildings, Wigtown, at 7.15pm on Wednesday, 19th November, to discuss matters of mutual interest with Community Council Representatives. In so far as the development of the Council's Anti-Poverty Strategy was concerned, Ronnie Huxtable complained about the fact that no meetings had been scheduled for Mid-Galloway. Alistair Geddes and Jim McColm responded to the effect that Poverty, regrettably, was a Regional wide phenomenon and that the issues in Mid-Galloway would most certainly not be overlooked/ignored in the development of this Strategy.

13. Correspondence

The following had been received:

a) from the leader of the Regional Council, a leaflet and covering letter outlining proposals for consultation over the development of the Council's budget 2015-16 to 2017-18. Ronnie Huxtable queried the lack of a community meeting in Mid-Galloway. The process was defended by the councillors who suggested that meetings in Annan, Dalbeattie, Dumfries and Stranraer represented a reasonable and genuine attempt to consult. Ronnie Huxtable

suggested that he would, nevertheless, want to try to secure another meeting, possibly in Wigtown.

b) from the Regional Council, a letter regarding feedback to the community safety team on its effectiveness at tackling issues locally. It was agreed to invite community safety wardens to the next meeting of the Community Council.

c) from the Scottish Parliament, a letter outlining opportunities to attend meetings aimed at public engagement with the Parliament.

d) from the Regional Council, notice of a meeting of the Wigtown area Community Councils to discuss data protection and changes to the Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils to be held in Newton Stewart on Thursday 6th November. In view of the short notice, no member was available to attend.

e) from the Regional Council, notice of the closure of a section of the A746 Whithorn to Glasserton road to allow resurfacing work to be carried out.

f) from Sheila Adams Dumfries and Galloway Small Communities Housing Trust an invitation to send a representative to a meeting on Thursday 20th November. Unfortunately, no member was able to attend.

g) from Machars Lions Club, a request for help in Christmas fundraising. Shaun McNally agreed to liaise with David Hunter on this.

14. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported that there was £14,800 in the Community Council's account. £200 was earmarked for the village's Christmas tree and decorations.

15. Any other business

a) It was agreed to erect and decorate the Christmas tree over the weekend 29th/30th November. Shaun McNally and Roy Walter would organise this.

b) It was reported that the drain outside 27 and 28 Forteviot Gardens was blocked. Ronnie Huxtable to seek action on this.

c) Wull Hawkins reported that there had been no response to the flyer distributed around the village attempting to recruit to the four vacancies on the Community Council. It was agreed that a face-to-face approach is now needed to recruit new members

d) Doreen Ballantyne apologised in advance for her absence at the December meeting.

16. Date and time of next meeting

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