

Minutes of the Meeting of Garlieston Community Council

Tuesday 2nd December 2014

Attendance

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

Ex officio: Councillors Jim McColm and Graham Nicol

Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Doreen Ballantyne, Shaun McNally, and Councillor Alistair Geddes.

1. Minutes of the Meeting of 4th November 2014

The minutes were amended so that in item 13g) "Machars Lions Club" was replaced by "Newton Stewart Round Table".

The minutes were then accepted as a correct record of the proceedings of the meeting.

Proposer: Ronnie Huxtable Seconder: Roy Walter

2. Matters arising not covered on the remaining agenda

a) it now seemed likely that the Council would not empty the rubbish bin in the harbour play park. It was suggested that the Council should therefore be requested to fix a rubbish bin to the lamp post closest to the play park the emptying of which would be the responsibility of the Council

b) the blocked drain outside 27/28 Forteviot Gardens would be cleared;

c) the seaweed on the path from the village hall to the beach would be cleared;

d) the old road openings at Mill Bridge and from Mac's Stores over to the bowling green will be dealt with when roads repairs operatives are in the area;

e) the minor potholes in Forteviot Gardens will be attended to with six months;

f) the salt bins will be emptied of water and refilled with salt;

3. Police Business

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

They outlined a local campaign "Operation Advent" which would run from 1st December until 5th January. This aims to provide high visibility patrols to deter and to deal with anti-social behaviour.

They also outlined the national campaign on drink driving and reminded members that the maximum legal blood alcohol limit for drivers was to be reduced from 5th December.

They reported that a new inspector would take up post in January, Inspector Campbell Moffatt.

They also reported the theft of heating oil in the Isle of Whithorn and suggested that increased vigilance was called for over the winter.

The chair asked the officers to convey to their superior officer the thanks of the Community Council for the attendance of police at the ceremony on Remembrance Sunday.

4. Public Forum

There were no members of the public present.

5. Presentation

Anne Matley and Andrew Haye, Community Safety, described the work of the Community Safety Teams which began operating on 2nd April 2013. This service is divided into two Areas, East, with teams based in Dumfries and Lockerbie and West, with teams based in Castle Douglas and Stranraer.

Community safety was defined as an endeavour to ensure that people are safe from crime, disorder, danger, and free from injury and harm and that communities are socially cohesive and tolerant and are resilient and able to support individuals to take responsibility for their well-being.

Accordingly, the Community Safety Teams are responsible for:

- Antisocial Behaviour Case Management
- Investigating and enforcing penalties for dog fouling
- Enforcing penalties for fly-tipping
- Enforcing penalties for littering
- Removing abandoned vehicles
- Recovering discarded needles
- Investigating domestic noise nuisance
- Conducting Council car park inspections and enforcing penalties
- Providing a mediation service

They informed members that dog fouling was the most reported issue.

6. Winter Resilience Group

Roy Walter reported that the wiring for the Village Hall had been completed. All that remained was the installation and testing of the generator and the fixing of the cupboard door. It was anticipated that these would be done within the next two weeks.

7. DG First (Combined Services) matters

There were no new matters to consider.

8. Planning

A planning application has been made by Scottish Water to install a balance tank, access platforms and associated works at the waste water treatment works on South Crescent.

9. Harbour Site

A progress meeting was held on 18th November at which local councillors and members of the local community had met with representatives of Scottish Water and SEPA.

The main points as reported by Roy Walter were:

- Two contractors are submitting tenders for the upgrade work before Christmas. The start date is 16th March and the projected completion date 10th July 2015.
- In the absence of any response to recent communication by the developer, English Homes will be receiving legal notice from the Sheriff's Court under Section 15 of the

Sewage (Scotland) Act. The notice requires that remedial works be carried out on the sewage system at the harbour development. In essence, the problem of salinity must be resolved such that the measurement of salinity is consistently nil.

- It is likely that the notice will require the support of witnessed salinity readings and agreement was made between Scottish Water and SEPA to that effect, i.e., Scottish Water will conduct the readings, and the readings/test protocol will be verified by SEPA (John Gorman). If required SEPA's legal powers of entry will be called upon to facilitate testing.
- Tank emptying will continue until the upgrade works are completed. This service will be paid for from the balance of funds accrued via the Reasonable Cost Contribution and other Scottish Water resources if required.
- Councillor Geddes and others had commended Scottish Water for their efforts to date and further commended both Scottish Water and SEPA for the level of co-operation that was being demonstrated.
- A further meeting to report activity is provisionally scheduled for Tuesday, 3 February 2015.

10. Traffic Management

There were no new matters to consider.

11. Coastal Protection

Roy Walter reported that he had sought the opinion of John Barr regarding the projected cost of supplying armour rock to the repaired footpath. It seems likely that the estimate of £150,000 provided by Simon Fieldhouse, the Council's Countryside Services Manager, was excessive.

In the meantime, damage to the path, both near the harbour site and on the periphery of Galloway House Gardens at Rigg Bay, was such that the Community Council was agreed that the money spent had been wasted and re-repair was urgent.

In addition, a hole had appeared in the breakwater and was growing.

Roy Walter agreed to contact Alistair Speedie, Director of Planning and Environment Services, as a matter of urgency to discuss these issues.

12. Councillors' Business

Jim McColm reported that the Council proposed to cut back support for learning in the Authority's schools by amalgamating the roles of classroom assistants, behaviour assistants and support for learning assistants. It was anticipated that this efficiency saving would lead to the loss of 52 jobs over the next three years.

He pointed out that nearly a quarter of all pupils were classified as needing support for learning.

Graham Nicol reported on a recent meeting with Scottish Power which reassured the local community that rewiring remained on target.

13. Correspondence

The Secretary had received a copy of the email that had been sent by Wigtown Community Council to Ecotricity regarding the proposed California Windpark and requesting a public meeting on the west side of Wigtown Bay. It was agreed that a similar communication should be sent by Garlieston Community Council.

14. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported no change from the situation last month.

15. Any other business

The Chair expressed the thanks of the Community Council to Billy Gorman for supplying the Christmas tree and to all those members of the community who had helped with its erection and decoration.

16. Date and time of next meeting

Tuesday 6th January at 7.15 p.m. in Garlieston Village Hall.