

# Cree Valley Community Council AGM

**AGM 10<sup>th</sup> August 2020**

**ZOOM 7:00 p.m.**

**Present:**

**Attendees:** Clifford Smithers (Chair), Jim Brown (Vice Chair), Charles Marshall (Secretary), Richard Kay (Treasurer), Alison McCathie, Angela Marshall, Allan Marshall, Ben Palmer, Stephon Bishop, Katie Nizette (Minute Taker)

**Elected Members:** Cllr. D Inglis will arrive later. Cllr. Jackie McCammon

**Apologies:** Ben Askew, Cllr. Katie Hagmann, Rev. Nigel Newton, Cllr. Jim McColm. Morag McIlwraith no word if going to attend

Charles Marshall informed all that meeting will be recorded and enquired if all were okay with this. Confirmed.

**Visitors:** Graham McKee D&G Ward Worker

Chair Welcomed all to the AGM. Allan to read Chair's introduction. Gave apologies for Ben Askew, Cllr. Katie Hagmann, Rev. Nigel Newton, Cllr. David Inglis.

**1. Minutes of last AGM 6<sup>th</sup> May, 2019**

Chair welcomed Graham McKee and asked if it was okay to proceed.

Graham McKee – Acknowledge to proceed.

Enquired if all had read last AGM Minutes. Asked if all were okay with the Minutes. Confirmed around the table.

**Proposed:** Richard Kay **Seconded:** Alison McCarthy

**Chairman's Report** (A short resume of what we have done since the last AGM)

Allan Marshall read out on behalf of Chair.

**Chairperson Review 2019-2020**

Good evening everyone and thank you all for attending the Cree Valley Community Council AGM. The past year has seen us deal with not only our run of the mill Community Council business but also some extraordinary challenges. A year ago, very few would have been

familiar with the term “COVID” however I think we can all agree that it’s hard to say a sentence nowadays without it making an appearance.

I would like to start this report by paying tribute to Councillor Graham Nicol who sadly passed away back in October. He dedicated so much of his time to this ward and his valuable input, hard work and warmth is sadly missed.

This year also saw the resignations of Community Councillors Neil Cairns, Ken Barlow and Antony Berretti. I would like to take this opportunity to thank these gentlemen for their contributions to the community council, their time and all their hard work. I wish them all well for future endeavours.

November seen the long-anticipated opening of the Sparling Bridge. This event was full of community spirit. I would like to thank both Penninghame and Minnigaff Primary Schools for their involvement and Galloway Granite for the sculpture and benches. These efforts are very much appreciated. I would also like to extend my gratitude to the staff at the Belted Galloway for the refreshments that were provided on the day. The Community, whom at times felt our frustration and dismay with the various setbacks, turned out in force to support the event and provided a warm atmosphere which was very touching to us all. I thank all my fellow community councillors for their hard work both before and during the event, it does not go unnoticed. In particular I would like to pay homage to Councillor Inglis and Community Council Vice Chair, James Brown. These two men went above and beyond to ensure our community received an outstanding new bridge and faced numerous challenges in doing so. Without their massive effort and input, we would not have the fantastic accessible structure that stands before us today, so David and Jim, a wholehearted thank you for your valuable time and hard work.

In January, we held a very positive meeting at Glentrool which was very well attended. We received a warm welcome and when we resume our normal meeting format (when ever this may be) I am sure that we shall be visiting again.

On to February and we welcomed SPR who gave a presentation on the Killgallioch Wind Farm Extension. Since this presentation, we have learned that the transport route will be

the same as the original Killgallioch route however I have also received information that the application from Clauchrie has been met with serious objections. We are still awaiting further correspondence on this matter.

The March meeting was quiet however as we are all aware, what happened at the end of the month was unprecedented times, not only for our community but for the nation. On 23<sup>rd</sup> March, PM Boris Johnson announced that the UK would enter a full lockdown due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. This presented a massive challenge for our new resilience Chair, Allan Marshall. Unphased and using his various skills and expertise, Allan quickly devised a red card scheme and these cards were promptly delivered to all 2,438 households in Cree Valley. This very simple system had a great impact on the area as vulnerable households were quickly identified and offered support. A phone line was put in place solely for resilience which was personally manned by Community Councillor Marshall for the whole duration of the effort. Allan also recruited numerous volunteers who never faltered in delivering shopping and medication as well as providing telephone support to help combat loneliness and poor mental health. After a little negotiation with DG Council, we secured a room in the McMillan Hall which we used as a resilience hub. This project required a massive effort from Allan and his team, and they stepped up to the mark. I give my full appreciation to all involved and it just shows the community spirit we have in our small area of the world. I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to you all. I am also appreciative of JB Print for the cards, Galloway thistle players and coaches for the deliverance, the Scent o' Galloway for refreshments, DG Council for the hall and for the dedication shown by Alison, Katie and Linda. A massive well-done Allan, we are very lucky to have you as resilience Chair.

Also, this year, as I'm sure all of you have noticed, the Earl of Galloway Monument has been restored and looks absolutely fantastic. I am thankful to Dumfries and Galloway Council for funding and I hope that in the future the project could be extended to cover the Creebridge. This year we also hope to come to some kind solution regarding the Deer situation in Minnigaff as we are still receiving reports of damage to people's property caused by these animals. One final point to note is the implementation of the £40.00 fee to

organisations for the use of the Community Store. This was proposed back in May 2019 to cover letting costs and the general feedback from these groups has been positive.

I would like to draw this report to a close by once again reiterating my thanks to you all for the outstanding effort, dedication and valuable work over this past year. My fellow office bearers Jim, Charles and Richard, I thank you especially for your support and expertise.

Jim Brown – Thanked Chair for all hard work. No one had worked extremely hard in the role as Chair has over this past year.

Alison McCathie – Hear, hear.

Chair – Thanked all for compliments.

## 2. Treasurer's Report

R Kay emailed the Financial Report to all. Enquired if all received. Accounts have not yet been ratified by examiner, separate accounts for different events we have on.

Chair – Any questions on Treasurer's Report? None.

Chair thanked Richard again for his good work over the year.

At this stage Chairman will move off the Chair.

Procedure being taking forward by Graham McKee, D&G Council Ward Worker

## 3. Appointment of Office Bearers

Graham McKee took over role to appoint Office Bearers.

**Chairman –**

Anyone put forward?

Nominations – None confirmed by Secretary.

Anyone coming forward for Chair?

Clifford Smithers by Richard Kay

**Richard Kay proposed Charles Marshall seconded**

Any other nominations? None

C Smithers, Chair accepted the role for another year.

**Clifford Smithers appointed.**

Chairman – **Vice Chair**

Anyone put forward?

Jim Brown by Clifford Smithers.

**Clifford Smithers proposed Charles Marshall seconded**

Any other nominations? No.

Jim are you happy to take on role?

Jim Brown – confirmed.

**Jim Brown appointed.**

Chairman - **Secretary**

Anyone put forward?

Charles Marshall by Alison McCathie

**Alison McCathie proposed Richard Kay seconded**

Any other nominations? No.

Charles Marshall appointed.

Chairman - **Treasurer**

**Anyone put forward??**

Richard Kay by Allan Marshall.

Anyone put forward?

Richard Kay by Allan Marshall

**Allan Marshall proposed Clifford Smithers seconded.**

**Richard Kay appointed**

Graham McKee confirmed all appointments.

Charles Marshall – confirmed he had just received email of apologies from Cllr. J McColm.

Chair - Apologies to yourself Cllr. McCamon for not mentioning you in my report.  
Cllr. McCamon – Thank you. That is perfectly okay.

Chair thanked all for this and takes us to the end of the AGM.