

**ROYAL BURGH of WIGTOWN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD IN THE COUNTY BUILDINGS, WIGTOWN,
ON MONDAY 14 APRIL 2014 FROM 7.30 PM**

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www.WigtownCC.org.uk

PRESENT		
John McDowall	Nick Walker, <i>Convenor</i>	Agnes Cluckie
Willie McCartney	David McAdam	Robert Richmond
Lynn Drysdale	John Jennings	Brian Vogan
Robert Harford	Jak Kane	

IN ATTENDANCE		
Cllr Jim McColm	Cllr Graham Nicol	Cllr Alistair Geddes
Alan Wykes	June Robinson, <i>Mins Sec.</i>	David Moran, <i>Treasurer</i>
David McKay, <i>Free Press</i>	Fiona Marshall, <i>Whauphill CA</i>	Louise Kerr, <i>Galloway Gazette</i>

APOLOGIES		
Police Scotland	Betty McGowan	Matt Kitson
Carl Davis	John Dickson	

1 WELCOME & APOLOGIES

Nick Walker welcomed all to the meeting, and noted apologies. John Dickson has resigned from CC due a change in his work, however, is happy to assist with community activities. Appreciation was noted for his contribution over the years. Other Business for the agenda was noted: noticeboard project (Martyrs' Stake information).

2 POLICE REPORT

Willie McCartney provided a report from Police Scotland. In the last month, there have been reported: two assaults in Wigtown (thought to be drug related), a suspicious red Ford Transit van has been seen, and several bogus telephone sales calls have been received.

3 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (10 March 2014) and TASKS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes from 10.3.2014 meeting were adopted with correction of meeting venue to Whauphill Hall: prop. Robin Richmond, sec. Rob Harford.

Youth Representation: Rob Harford reported that Kaos Cafe is considering youth reps. for CC.
Christmas Costs: David Moran confirmed that payments have been made. Total expenditure £720.94, income £631.00, nett cost to Winterfest account £89.94.

4 UPDATES & REPORTS

A PLANNING WORKING PARTY

Report previously circulated:

Current application

14/P/1/0087 INSTALLATION OF EXTERNAL WALL INSULATION, 19 SOUTH MAIN STREET, WIGTOWN Application relates to house behind, not fronting South Main Street) and is for applying insulating layer over external walls which will then be harled to have similar finish to current walls.

RECOMMEND no Comm. Council submission.

Update on proposals

14/P/1/0050 WIND TURBINE (34.4m TO BLADE TIP) BARNBARROCH FARM, WHAUPHILL
Response submitted per CC meeting 10.3.2014.

14/P/1/0065 CHANGE OF USE AND ALTERATIONS AND EXTENSION TO DISUSED SHOP/STORE MAIN STREET, WHAUPHILL Response submitted per CC meeting 10.3.2014.

Windfarm proposals

Shennanton – Community Liaison Group meeting 16.4.2014 (Nick & John to attend). **Company keen to have CC view on Trust for community benefit distribution – one Trust covering whole area or separate Trusts per CC.**

Airriequhillart, Mindork, Auchleand – no update.

Recommendations

CC approve report, and consider Community Benefit Trust options to remit representatives.

Nick Walker 08.04.2014

CC approved report. Regarding Community Benefit from windfarms, after discussion CC resolved that preference is for separate Wigtown & District fund (however constituted) to oversee community benefits money for our area. Nick Walker and John Jennings to feed back to Shennanton meeting.

Additional item:

Alan Wykes attended to ask again for feedback from the community regarding potential development at Wigtown harbour. Planning WP to gather views.

B CONSULTATIONS WORKING PARTY

Report circulated about imminent consultations. Two major ones which CC agreed to respond to. Consultations WP to coordinate responses.

Dumfries and Galloway Consultation on Open Space Strategy 2014-2019. This consultation is on the strategy that will inform decision making on open space and present the vision for new and improved open space and how exciting, valuable and valued areas are to be protected. It will also set out how the Council will invest in and manage the open space in its area. Whauphill to be excluded because of its size. It was agreed to include in response to consultation that Whauphill is an important part of the community and to question the reasons for its exclusion. CWP to report back with proposed response at May meeting.

Scottish Government Consultation on Scottish Electoral future. This consultation is on proposed changes to the way that we vote. CWP to bring proposed response to June meeting.

C FINANCE AND RESOURCES WORKING PARTY

Oral report advised simplifying banking by reducing from five to three bank accounts (summer festival, winter festival, and general) with summary of finances setting out any money that is restricted to specific purposes. CC agreed the change. David Moran agreed to provide a short update on account balances and major income/expenditure for each CC meeting.

CC Assets. After extensive searching, John Jennings indicated he had been unable to find any evidence of items belonging to CC with the exception of Christmas lights but even then records of purpose seem to be missing. Further investigation of previous years' statements of accounts to be made by John Jennings and David Moran to clarify this. Clarification is also needed about electrical testing and insurance of Christmas lights.

D COMMUNICATIONS, SECRETARY, ETC.

Matt Kitson provided a short report as he was unable to attend meeting:

Interim website up and running. Facebook and Twitter pages starting to be used.

Sundry tasks:

Pot holes in Beddie Crescent: see under Correspondence

Pruning of cherry trees around Square: to be completed in the Autumn.
Changes to the Household Waste collection: see under Correspondence
Mid Galloway Community Endeavour Awards: see under Correspondence.
Flood Damage Finance Options: not applicable to Wigtown.

E FESTIVAL COMMITTEE

Agnes Cluckie provided an oral report:

Community Festival to be focused on a weekend of activities with a Festival Day proposed for Saturday 12.7.2014, and possible use of MUGA on Sunday 13.7.2014. Some evening activities, mainly for adults, will run during the week commencing 14.7.2014. Next Festival Committee meeting - Tuesday 29.4.2014 at 7.00 pm in the Viewing Room, County Buildings, Wigtown; aim to complete Programme of Events then for printing. It was noted that lots of ideas are coming forward but few volunteers.

F GREATER MACHARS CCs FEDERATION

No report. Next meeting 13.5.2014. John Jennings and Nick Walker to attend.

5 WIGTOWN LIBRARY

Wigtown's comprehensive submission to D&GC led to report from officers for Community & Customer Services Committee suggesting that Wigtown Library opening hours reduce from 40.5 to 28 per week (instead of the originally proposed 17). Indications are that the Committee (meeting 15.4.2014) will agree the report. CC believes that library use must be encouraged as much as possible, with potential input from volunteers, over the next 6-12 months, as funding is expected to be challenged every year when D&GC budget reviews take place.

6 SCOTTISH POWER (site visit 24.3.2014)

John Jennings indicated that he had not attended the site visit. Minutes of the last Community Meeting with Scottish Power are still not available. D&GC being pursued about this, but they are with SP for verification from their representatives. No reports of problems with recent local supply upgrading work.

7 CORRESPONDENCE

A D&GC CCES - Beddie Crescent Surface - Troublesome pot holes attended to.

B D&GC Endeavour Awards - Linked to Commonwealth Games. Nominations to be considered.

C Data Protection Renewal - David Moran to pay £35.00 renewal fee.

D D&GC Waste / Recycling Update

Delay in implementation, with no date agreed yet. DGFirst insist that households will be informed in time, and new collection boxes, etc. will be distributed. People with support for current bins will continue to receive that support. Anyone who may need support with the new system (e.g. frail elderly) should telephone DGFirst on 030 33 33 3000. Options for rural areas (large road end bins) and flats (communal bins) are being considered at present. DGFirst has offered to attend CC to present plans, etc. CC agreed to ask that they attend June 2014 CC meeting; if confirmed, venue will be switched to larger room in County Buildings (Supper Room, probably).

E Corsock & Kirkpatrick Durham CC update on wind turbine moratorium proposal. Noted that majority of CCs in D&G supported their request to Scottish Government and D&GC.

F South of Scotland Broadband update - Noted that the project is going to schedule at present. Expectation of update relevant to Machars by late summer 2014.

G D&G Health Board single room arrangements for new Infirmary

Noted paper arguing against this from a Stewartry resident sent to all CCs in D&GC. No action.

H Wigtownshire Partnership for Health

Indirect notification of a defibrillator being available in Wigtown. Training session for its use scheduled for Tuesday 29.4.2014, 7.00 pm to 9.00 pm, in County Buildings. Anyone interested may attend. Lack of information around town was noted. Nick Walker to contact Partnership to clarify details such as where it will be placed (suggestion of County Buildings could raise conservation concerns) and how it will be

maintained, and ensure other groups are made aware (e.g. school, bowling club, football club, etc.); and consider whether Partnership might attend CC to tell us what they do.

8 COUNCILLORS' ISSUES

Cllr Nicol reported on the proposed closure of the dentistry facility at Newton Stewart Health Centre. NHS D&G has not consulted meaningfully with the community about this. NHS will attend a D&GC Area Committee community meeting at Douglas Ewart High School on 13.5.2014 on this issue. Agreed CC should respond to NHS that lack of consultation and communication is unsatisfactory.

Cllr McColm reported that there will be an Area Committee community meeting on 30.4.2014 at Glentool regarding the Dark Skies Park and the Biosphere, hoping to identify how to get the most benefit from these designations. He also indicated that D&GC Environment Economy & Infrastructure Committee was expected to give final approval to the changes to Wigtown Bay wild fowling permits, so that a charge to cover costs can be levied.

Cllr Geddes reported on the Whithorn & Wigtown Common Good sub-committee, indicating that Wigtown Common Good has £270.00 available to spend in the current financial year.

9 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING PREPARATION

Scheduled for Monday 12.5.2014 at 7.30 pm in Viewing Room, County Buildings, Wigtown. David Moran to ensure statement of accounts for year to 31.3.2014 has been agreed by independent examiner of accounts.

10 OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

Wigtown Information and Signage project

Nick Walker circulated proposal:

Wigtown information and signage project

The noticeboard, replacement finger posts and updated town info. boards were all put in place over the past two years. The remaining element of this project is to establish a permanent information display about the Martyrdom, near the Martyrs' Stake and/or the Windyhill Monument. The costs were such that two monoliths could be excessive, and the Monument carries some information on it already. Getting funding for this element of the project was difficult, with lottery funds being focused increasingly on Commonwealth Games legacy, and many funders wanting very active community learning during projects, which this idea struggles to fulfil, despite considerable engagement with Heritage Lottery Fund support staff and others. Proceeding with a single monolith was considered appropriate. Now there is a good indication that the Galloway Association of Glasgow and the Scottish Covenanters Memorial Association will agree to provide funding, and advice/support for design, if necessary. There was already agreement from D&GC regarding location and planning approval, off the path near the bench overlooking the Martyrs' Stake.

Estimated costs:

Monolith - dependent on detail of information and pictures, etc. - c. £2100.00 plus VAT

Delivery - c. £200.00 plus VAT

Installation - c. £300.00 (may not attract VAT)

Total £2600.00 plus VAT = £3120.00

Proposal:

David Moran and Andrew Wilson oversee the project.

Applications to Galloway Association of Glasgow and Scottish Covenanters Memorial Association for £1300.00 each.

Application to Community Shop for funding contribution.

Local fund-raising for residual contribution (e.g. donations taken at the upcoming Concert at the Kirk, Angel of the Tide, a musical based on the story of the Martyrs).

Request: CC to approve this proposal, and to be updated periodically on progress.

Nick Walker - 2014/04/14

David Moran indicated that approx. £200.00 residual funds remain in the project account from earlier stages of this project. CC approved report: David Moran and Andrew Wilson to proceed, and update CC as needed.

Dog Fouling

This remains a problem in Wigtown. The Town Gardens are badly affected and this has an impact on events such as Rainbows' Easter Egg Hunt, Summer Festival activities, etc. It is rumoured that six fixed penalty notices were issued in Wigtown last month when DGFirst Community Wardens were here. The Press were asked to make this an issue in the hope that fines and the impact of children's event might lead to an improvement. CC was encouraged, again, to report those seen leaving dog poo inappropriately, by telephoning DGFirst Community Wardens on 01776 70 60 30.

10 NEXT MEETING

**Monday 12 May 2014 at 7.30 pm Viewing Room, Wigtown County Buildings.
Annual General Meeting to start, followed by regular CC business meeting.**