

**ROYAL BURGH of WIGTOWN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING FOR RE-ESTABLISHMENT
HELD IN THE COUNTY BUILDINGS, WIGTOWN, ON MONDAY 13 JANUARY 2014**

contact@WigtownCC.org.uk

www.WigtownCC.org.uk

PRESENT		
Andrew Wilson	Nick Walker	John McDowall
Willie McCartney	David McAdam	John Dickson
John Jennings	Agnes Cluckie	Robert Harford
Betty McGowan	Jak Kane	Robert (Robin) Richmond
Carl Davis	Lynn Drysdale	

IN ATTENDANCE		
June Robinson, <i>minutes</i>	Graeme McKie, <i>D&GC - chair</i>	Louise Kerr, <i>Galloway Gazette</i>
Cllr Jim McColm	Cllr Graham Nicol	David McKay, <i>Free Press</i>
Matt Kitson	Alan Wykes	David Moran
Nicola McFadzean, <i>Police Scotland</i>		

APOLOGIES		
Cllr Alistair Geddes	Brian Vogan	

0 WELCOME & APOLOGIES

Graeme McKie, D&G Council, representing Stephen Jack (CC Returning Officer) opened the meeting and welcomed Community Councillors.

1 ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

CONVENOR – One nomination: Nick Walker; prop. John Jennings; sec. Carl Davis. All in agreement. Nick Walker then took the Chair.

VICE-CONVENOR – One nomination: Willie McCartney; prop. Betty McGowan; sec. Jock McDowall. All in agreement.

SECRETARY – One nomination: Andrew Wilson; prop. Jock McDowall; sec. Carl Davis. All in agreement.

TREASURER – No Cllr nominations. David Moran nominated as co-optive Treasurer; prop. Willie McCartney; sec. Jock McDowall. David accepted post. All in agreement.

MINUTES SECRETARY – Agreed co-optive Minutes Secretary to reduce Secretary's duties. Agreed to ask June Robinson to continue in this role, and she accepted.

2 OTHER POSTS / ROLES

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER OF ACCOUNTS – Agreed Treasurer to ask Ray McGinn to provide this service, as he has in recent years, subject to D&GC approval (previously given so not expected to be a problem). **ACTION DAVID MORAN.**

RETURNING OFFICER – Agreed to nominate Stephen Jack, D&GC Area Framework Manager (Wigtownshire), or his successor in office.

MACHARS ACTION LTD NOMINEE BOARD MEMBER – Willie McCartney has had this role for several years and is agreeable to continue. He was proposed by John Jennings, seconded by Jock McDowall. All in

agreement.

WIGTOWN BAY LOCAL NATURE RESERVE COMMITTEE - Jock McDowall willing to continue as CC representative, and agreed by acclamation. A depute may be considered in future.

LICENSING FORUM – John Jennings willing to take on this role from Willie McCartney; agreed by acclamation. Also agreed both would attend next meeting as handover.

WIGTOWN AREA COMMITTEE – These meetings take two forms: monthly business meetings at which public are welcome but may not speak (these alternate between Stranraer and Wigtown, and are normally on a Wednesday), and episodic community meetings also open to the public and where public participation is encouraged (usually evening meetings in various locations, and focused on a specific issue). Any CClr therefore able to attend but CC reps could be more consistent attenders and could take on task of monitoring agendas and minutes to ensure CC aware of relevant issues being discussed, so our Elected D&GC Councillors can be appraised of CC views. Agnes Cluckie, Lynn Drysdale and John Jennings all agreed to attend Wigtown Area Committee meetings as they were able over the next few months to decide how worthwhile attendance is. CC thanked them for this offer.

3 CONSIDER CO-OPTIONS

CC membership is 15 which is the maximum, so no co-option of full voting members possible at present. However, co-option of associates without voting rights, representing specific interests / groups / etc. is possible. For example, Youth representation is encouraged, so all to consider possible Youth Reps. For co-option at future meetings.

4 CONSIDER ADOPTION OF CONSTITUTION

Nick Walker suggested that the Constitution (as amended by the previous CC in October 2012) be adopted for now. Any changes would require agreement at a subsequent General Meeting, and the AGM will be due in May 2014, so all to consider what, if any, changes may be advisable, in preparation for AGM. Note though that the final phase of the review of the D&GC Scheme for the Establishment of Comm. Councils is underway, and once adopted, the revised scheme will require adoption of a revised constitution anyway. This is expected by autumn 2014.

Resolved to adopt constitution per previous Wigtown Comm. Council – prop. Robin Richmond; sec. Agnes Cluckie. All agreed.

5 ADOPT ASSETS OF PREVIOUS COMMUNITY COUNCIL AND CONSIDER NEED FOR FORMAL STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS, ETC.

Nick Walker proposed that assets and accounts of previous Wigtown Comm. Council be adopted and that David Moran not be asked to produce an extra set of accounts, as he was Treasurer previously and continues now. Willie McCartney seconded proposal. All agreed.

Noted that D&GC provides Public Liability and other insurance for all CC unless we opt out. Agreed to accept cover.

6 ANY OTHER RE-ESTABLISHMENT BUSINESS

Betty McGowan proposed a cut off time of 9.30 pm for normal CC meetings. Agreed to discuss in Business meeting.

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MINUTES OF BUSINESS MEETING HELD IN COUNTY BUILDINGS, WIGTOWN
ON MONDAY 13 JANUARY 2014**

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PRESENT		
Andrew Wilson, <i>secretary</i>	Nick Walker, <i>convenor</i>	John McDowall
Willie McCartney	David McAdam	John Dickson
John Jennings	Agnes Cluckie	Robert Harford
Betty McGowan	Jak Kane	Robert (Robin) Richmond
Carl Davis	Lynn Drysdale	

IN ATTENDANCE		
Nicola McFadzean, <i>Police Scotland</i>	June Robinson, <i>mins sec.</i>	Louise Kerr, <i>Galloway Gazette</i>
Cllr Jim McColm	Cllr Graham Nicol	David McKay, <i>Free Press</i>
Matt Kitson	Alan Wykes	David Moran, <i>treasurer</i>

APOLOGIES		
Cllr Alistair Geddes	Brian Vogan	

0 WELCOME & APOLOGIES

Nick Walker opened the meeting and noted apologies.

1 POLICE MATTERS

Nicola McFadzean gave a brief report – there were few arrests over the festive season but recent bad weather has kept Police busy. The Road Safety campaign continues. Reminder to be aware of suspicious vehicles as we are still the target of rural thieves, and report anything unusual, even if you are unsure if it is important. Note the Police telephone number is 101, and the old 0845 number has been disconnected.

2 CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (11.11.2013)

Minutes from meeting previous Wigtown Comm. Council, dated Monday 11.11.2013 were adopted: prop. Andrew; seconded Nick Walker.

3 ARRANGEMENTS FOR MEETINGS, COMMITTEES, WORKING PARTIES, AGENDA

Nick Walker noted Betty McGowan's concern that discussion in meetings running beyond two hours becomes less effective, and added that the huge amount of business relevant to the CC is impossible to manage by only a few people and impossible to do justice to in ordinary CC business meetings. He proposed a system that involves working parties (small groups of Cllrs who meet between CC meetings to work through items of business to inform the CC better and to recommend decisions, actions, feedback to consultations, etc., and which do not need to meet in public) and committees (groups of Cllrs and other volunteers remitted to handle specific issues with power to make decisions on the CC's behalf up to an agreed level, but which do need to meet in public, just as the full CC's meetings must be open to the public to attend). The main CC meetings should then be more efficient, and aim to finish by 9.15 pm, with time to decide how to manage outstanding issues (extra meeting, defer to next meeting, remit to working party, etc.) in the final 15 minutes. The suggestion was discussed and agreed, for review in a few months, perhaps around AGM in May 2014.

Some issues are clearly important and bound to arise, whilst other areas of CC work are less frequent and /or predictable so several working parties and one committee were agreed at present, with further discussion to happen at a subsequent meeting. The following sub-groups established:

PLANNING WORKING PARTY – Robin Richmond, John Jennings, Nick Walker.

To monitor planning applications, etc. and gather information as necessary, to update full CC prior to meetings and recommend submissions. Once agreed by full CC, to finalise submissions.

CONSULTATIONS WORKING PARTY – Robert Harford, Carl Davis, Andrew Wilson, John Jennings, Jak Kane.

To review consultation documents as necessary, summarise and suggest key issues for CC response, to assist CC in deciding how to respond. Once agreed by full CC, to finalise submissions.

WIGTOWN COMMUNITY FESTIVAL (Wigtown Week) COMMITTEE – Carl Davies, Lynn Drysdale, Robert Harford, John Dickson, Willie McCartney, Agnes Cluckie, David Moran, Betty McGowan. In addition, others may volunteer to assist with the festival.

To decide and manage festival arrangements, within a total budget of £3000, with spend limit per individual item of £500, and aim to raise funds within events to offset costs (as in previous years) as much as possible. To minute committee meetings and share minutes with full CC. To bring any issues that need greater consideration to full CC, where necessary. David Moran confirmed sufficient funds in account to underwrite festival budget as agreed. Committee empowered to seek other sources of funding in addition, with CC being informed of any such applications and their outcome. Matt Kitson indicated that there is a community fund for events around Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games (details will be forwarded to Committee).

FURTHER REVIEW OF CC ORGANISATION WORKING PARTY – Officer Bearers (Nick Walker, Andrew Wilson, David Moran) and representative of Planning WP and Consultation WP.

To consider further how to divide and manage CC tasks, gather resources to support CC work, etc. and make relevant suggestions to CC for decisions.

FEDERATION

In the past there was a Machars Federation of CCs including representation from across the area. Given that there are Mid-Galloway meetings about electricity infrastructure and Machars meetings about broadband, and wind farm developments affect all communities in the area, re-establishing a Federation could be helpful. CCs as a collective with one voice may achieve more on some issues than individual CCs each acting alone. Agreed Nick Walker to seek support from other CCs in the area (Cree Valley, Kirkcowan, Whithorn, Garlieston, Isle of Whithorn and Port William).

WORKS ISSUES

For monitoring progress on issues such as street lights, roads, trees, parking, cemeteries, etc. and keep the CC Issues list up to date. Agreed secretary, Andrew Wilson, would coordinate.

4 PLANNING MATTERS

Corsock & Kirkpatrick Durham CC Request

Asking for all D&GC CCs to support their call for a moratorium on wind farm development applications to allow D&GC to reach decision on overall policy for the region (due to the number of actual and proposed wind farms) and to allow development of systems to support properly informed, meaningful consultation with communities, and Comm. Councils. Agreed to advise of our support for their call.

ACTION NICK WALKER

RSPB Crook of Baldoon Proposals

Pre-application consultation on proposed developments at the Crook, with buildings, parking, wetland development, etc. Display in Viewing Room at County Buildings for public to see proposals and lease comments. CCllrs asked to consider this and pass thoughts onto Planning Working Party, and also to encourage residents to contribute to the consultation.

Application 13/P/1/0403 retrospective – new dwelling-house at Faldarroch, Whauphill

Brief discussion and resolved to make submission in support. Planning Working Party to respond.

Application 13/P/1/0366 – Auchleand Wind Farm

Nick Walker circulated several weighty, large scale, key documents (printed for him as a favour) from the 140 plus documents about this proposal from the D&GC e-Planning website. This facilitated preliminary discussion.

The proposal is for seven turbines, 130 m to blade tip, on farm land and in forest, 3 km from Wigtown. Public consultation period ends 17.1.2014 but may be extended. Roads Dept has asked for an extension and for additional information. There are large numbers of individual objections and numerous individual expressions of support. CC has only two weeks to respond but agreed to ask for an extension to develop a more thought out submission. After discussion, a vote decided that the CC would object to the proposal primarily because its scale is out of keeping with the landscape. Votes: in favour – 3, against – 8, abstentions – 3. Planning Working Party to ask for further time to develop formal CC submission. Note, D&GC Councillors McColm and Nicol listened to the discussion but took no part in it. It was noted the the Library would not allow their copy of the planning documents to be brought to the CC meeting in the same building to support discussion.

5 CONSULTATIONS

Consultations on – **draft Community Empower (Scotland) Bill, D&GC Scheme for Establishment of CCs, and draft Scottish Water Business Plan and Charges.** All with deadlines before February CC meeting. Agreed Consultations Working Party to consider how to respond, if possible within the time, and to gather opinion from full CC if necessary by email or phone, if required.

6 COUNCILLORS' ISSUES

Cllr Graham Nicol reported that Wigtown Area Committee community meeting on 16.1.2014 at 7.00 pm in Glenluce Hall was open to the public to gather community feedback about the proposed D&GC budget for 2014-15. He also asked if Wigtown CC had claimed the admin. grant for this financial year, as many CCs have not. David Moran confirmed the grant was received some months ago.

Cllr Jim McColm reported that the proposed budget will cut Wigtown Library opening from 40.5 hours to 17 hours per week. This will result in the loss of equivalent one full time post, and will limit community and CC access including to planning documents and public access computers. It is also proposed to reduce grass cutting, especially in cemeteries with “low usage” such as the cemetery at the windyhill in Wigtown which will have grass cutting reduced from 15 to 3 per year. There may be charges made for fishing and hunting permits also but this may require by-law changes.

7 URGENT BUSINESS

Christmas Lights

Agreed to dismantle these on 18.1.2014 from 9.30 am. Papers will mention this and ask for volunteers. Nick Walker will contact Craig McClymont about cherry picker availability. Jock McDowall will arrange tree removal. Bowling Club electricity charge is £85 and David Moran to arrange payment. Note, Creetown Silver Band not yet paid for Christmas Carols event (£150), and unclear whether Book Festival Company (which led on some Xmas events) will deal with this or not; agreed David Moran to contact Anne Barclay for clarification and arrange payment.

Wigtown Harbour Development

Alan Wykes intends to apply for planning permission again for altered proposals at Wigtown Harbour and is keen to hear from CCllrs and residents on their suggestions and views. Please let people know and pass ideas directly to Alan.

Poppy Collection

Betty McGowan reported total raised by Poppy Appeal locally was £1109.

8 NEXT MEETING

Agreed meetings second Monday of each month, usually at County Buildings, but once a year each at Kirkinner and Whauphill.

Next meeting Monday 10 February 2014, 7.30 pm, in Viewing Room, County Buildings.

Then Monday 10 March 2014, 8.00 pm, Whauphill Hall.