

**ROYAL BURGH of WIGTOWN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD IN THE COUNTY BUILDINGS, WIGTOWN,  
ON MONDAY 12 JANUARY 2015 AT 7.30 PM**

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[www.WigtownCC.org.uk](http://www.WigtownCC.org.uk)

<b>PRESENT</b>		
John McDowall	Nick Walker, <i>Convenor</i>	David McAdam
Willie McCartney	Jak Kane	Rob Richmond
Rob Harford	Matt Kitson, <i>Secretary</i>	

<b>IN ATTENDANCE</b>		
Louise Kerr, <i>Galloway Gazette</i>	David Moran, <i>Treasurer</i>	David McKay, <i>Free Press</i>
June Robinson, <i>Mins Sec.</i>	Cllr Alistair Geddes	Martin Green
Scott Kelly, <i>Police Scotland</i>	Cllr Graham Nicol	Shona Heaney
Billy Dodds, <i>Police Scotland</i>	Joe McKeown	Daniel Heaney

<b>APOLOGIES</b>		
Agnes Cluckie	Cllr Jim McColm	

**1 WELCOME, APOLOGIES AND CALL FOR URGENT OTHER BUSINESS**

Nick Walker welcomed all to the meeting and noted apologies.

Betty McGowan has intimated her retiral from the Community Council. Her substantial contribution to the community and the CC was acknowledged, and the CC expressed appreciation for her commitment to Wigtown Community Council for over 35 years. CCllrs will consider options for formally recognising her service.

Joe McKeown asked that recycling collections be discussed. Other issues raised fell within the agenda.

**2 POLICE MATTERS**

PC Dodds reported things went well over the festive season in Wigtown, with no Police concerns. There were no crimes to report. There were no questions for the Police.

**3 APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS BUSINESS MEETING & EGM (8.12.2014)**

Extraordinary General Meeting minutes adopted: prop. Jak Kane, sec. Willie McCartney.

Ordinary business meeting minutes adopted: prop. John McDowall, sec. Robin Richmond.

**4 TASKS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

**Youth Reps.** - Rob Harford reported that youth workers are now aware a number of young people interested in becoming involved with CC, and with community resilience. Agnes Cluckie had sent word that her daughter may also be interested. Matt Kitson is pursuing Young Scots Awards registration for CC, to support youth involvement; this may extend to community resilience also. Regarding community resilience, it was noted that local resilience plans have not been updated but Cllr Geddes' feedback within D&GC was that plans are well-established. Resilience link people previously identified in the CC area are now out of date, and CC is unaware of any updates. Agreed to chase up community resilience status with Wendy Jesson, and continue to pursue Young Scots Awards **ACTION Matt Kitson**. CC pleased to accept youth group offers of help with resilience and other involvement. Agreed to advance possible youth representation **ACTION Rob Harford**.

**Beddie Crescent Play Area** – Since last meeting, primary school children and Parent Council have seen the five replacement layout proposals. School votes showed a clear winning design: HAGS SMP with 32 votes (out of 74, with other designs receiving 19, 16, 5 & 2). This decision will be fed back to Nick Jackson, D&GC. He has also asked for a site meeting about a crash barrier on Lochancroft Lane above the play area, and this was set for 14.1.2014 at 2.30 pm, with Matt Kitson and David Moran to attend. Cllr McColm may also be able to attend. **ACTION Matt Kitson, David Moran.**

**Wigtown Parking** – no feedback from D&GC. Matt Kitson to pursue. **ACTION Matt Kitson.**

**McGuffie VC** – Feedback from Committee: public consultation (on display in County Buildings and will be on website soon) from now until 20.2.2015, and public meeting on 26.1.2015. This is for locals and others with an interest to vote on the location of the commemorative paving stone and possible renaming of the Town Gardens. There will be further consultations on design, dedication event and related activities, once the location is agreed. The dedication will be in September 2018.

**Public Toilets** - Following complaints discussed at last meeting, Alan Mawson D&GC has indicated that interim repairs will be arranged, and that Wigtown will be put forward for consideration for proper refurbishment or replacement when bids next go in for capital works at D&GC. He pointed out that D&GC has cut public toilet funding considerably as part of savings plans in recent years. Agreed to pursue good quality upgrading or replacement, to a standard fitting for Scotland's National Book Town. Cllr McColm and Nick Walker had started this process, and would continue. Cllrs Nicol and Geddes agreed this was worthy of support. Toilets in County Buildings are open to the public when the building is open, but increased access and improved signage may be possible and would be desirable. Agreed David Moran would pursue this. to take this forward. **ACTION Nick Walker, Jim McColm, David Moran.**

**Park Cemetery** - New fence currently being erected.

## 5 UPDATES AND REPORTS

### 5A Planning WP [Cllrs Nicol and Geddes made no contribution to Planning discussions.]

Nick Walker had circulated report prior to meeting:

Current applications

14/P/1/0685 SITING THREE PORTABLE PREFABS. AT TRAMMONDFORD, WIGTOWN.

Presumably temporary. Robin & Willie to check details for meeting.

RECOMMEND – Robin & Willie to discuss at meeting.

14/P/1/0693 ERECTION OF GARAGE, STATION HOUSE, BRAEHEAD.

RECOMMEND – no submission.

14/P/1/0694 CHANGE OF USE FROM HOTEL TO DWELLING, FORDBANK, WIGTOWN.

RECOMMEND – no submission.

14/P/1/0683 - RETROSPECTIVE - CARSEGOWAN OLD MUNITIONS WORKS, CHANGE OF USE TO WORKSHOP, STORE AND GARAGES, AND SITING OF CARAVAN.

RECOMMEND – no submission.

14/D/1/0015 DEMOLITION OF FORMER RAILWAY BRIDGE, NEAR MILDRIGGAN SMIDDY, BRAEHEAD. RECOMMEND – no submission.

14/M/1/0007 FELLING OF TWO TREES, ELMGROVE, STATION ROAD, WIGTOWN.

Sycamore and Sweet Chestnut with tree preservation orders. Unclear whether we have a right to statutory submission, but views could be expressed to Elected D&G Councillors.

RECOMMEND – discuss at meeting.

Update on proposals

14/P/1/0658 NEW APPLICATION FOR 28 NORTH MAIN STREET, WIGTOWN. Submitted CC support for the changes proposed to correct problems with a wall that needed to be

demolished. *SUBMISSION in support per CC meeting 8.12.2014.*

Wind farm proposals

**Shennanton** – meeting of CLG 8.1.2014. Submission of planning application expected February 2015. Keen to come for 15 minutes to February CC meeting to give application details to help CC in considering submission.

*RECOMMEND – invite for Feb. CC.*

**California** – appeal re Met. mast pending – decision overdue and expected soon. Details on website: [www.dpea.scotland.gov.uk/CaseDetails.aspx?id=115342](http://www.dpea.scotland.gov.uk/CaseDetails.aspx?id=115342). CLG meeting apparently well attended but strong view that community unhappy with proposed development, and not keen on CLG being set up at all, at this time. Public meeting by Save Wigtown Bay very well attended, and community view of development appears clearly against. **Public exhibitions by Ecotricity scheduled for 15.1.2015 10.00am - 8.00pm in Wigtown County Buildings** with proposal still for seven turbines, but now 110 metres rather than 126 metres to blade tip due to concerns about visibility from Cairnholy.

**Auchleand, Airriequhillart, Mindork** – no update.

Solar panel proposal Causewayend - no update.

Recommendations

*CC discuss and decide about tree felling item, and otherwise approve report.*

Report was approved. Prefabs at Trammondford relates to SFA rules for Wigtown & Bladnoch FC. Agreed to submission in support of this application. **ACTION Nick Walker.** Agreed no submission for tree felling as trees in dangerous state. Agreed to invite PNE Wind to attend February CC meeting for short presentation on Shennanton Wind Farm proposal (which is expected to be submitted by then). **ACTION Nick Walker.**

Regarding California Wind Farm proposal, Martin Green, Chairman of Save Wigtown Bay added to feedback about public meeting, and raised concerns about the developer's approach to some individuals and organisations but not others, and failing to respond to his own inquiries. Planning matters of potential relevance were listed, but discussion was limited as no application is yet lodged and CC cannot come to an opinion at this stage. Information gathering is helpful however.

## **5B Consultations WP**

Jak Kane circulated a copy of D&GC Administration Proposed Budget prior to the meeting, and there was some discussion about elements of this. There is concern about the lack of specifics in much of the budget which makes targeted response difficult. CCLrs are asked to complete the D&GC Budget survey in the Library or on line at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/DTR9S8X>. The Broader Machars Federation of Community Councils will meet about the Budget on 13.1.2015. There is a public meeting, an Area Committee Community Meeting, at the Ryan Centre, Stranraer, on 15.1.2015 about the Budget for information, discussion and feedback also. All were encouraged to attend. Any feedback should be passed to Elected D&GC Councillors also, as they make the final decisions on the budget in February.

## **5C Finance & Resources WP**

Nick Walker reported on Dedication of Wigtown Martyrs information monolith. Thanks were expressed to Andrew Wilson for leading the project, Gavin McDowall for its installation, funders (Scottish Covenanter Memorials Association, Galloway Association of Glasgow, Wigtown Community Shop) and those involved at the dedication event (Rev. Boyle & Rev. McGarva; Carol Kerr & Liz Tennant, Catering; Ann Todd & colleagues, drumming). Signatory changes needed with Betty McGowan's retiral, Matt Kitson, Secretary, to take role.

## **5D Christmas WP**

Thanks noted to all involved in Christmas events. Letter of thanks agreed to Community Shop for

grant towards replacement lights. **ACTION Matt Kitson**

Christmas Lights and tree removal to go ahead this week, meeting 10.00 am Wednesday 11.12.2015, coordinated by Jock McDowall and Willie McCartney; volunteers welcome. Further sessions as needed. Cherry picker likely needed for some tree light removal; Craig McClymont to be contacted. **ACTION Nick Walker.** Willie McCartney indicated that electricity for lights was £176.72, and he proposed £200.00 payment to Bowling Club to cover this cost and include a small donation for inconvenience. Agreed. David Moran and Willie McCartney to settle. **ACTION David Moran.** Invoice for tree not yet received; agreed to settle on receipt. Also agreed vouchers in recognition of voluntary support for Craig McClymont.

Debriefing meeting to be arranged for all organisations and individuals involved in Christmas events, details to be confirmed. **ACTION Nick Walker**

## **5E Wigtown Week WP**

Matt Kitson, Willie McCartney and David Moran volunteered to establish Wigtown Week working group. Other CCllrs interested in being involved are welcome, as are volunteers from across the community. Matt Kitson agreed to link in with Common Riding development also.

## **6 COMMUNICATION, CORRESPONDENCE, etc**

Broader Machars Federation of Community Councils. Meeting with Elected D&G Councillors about formal CC representation on Area Committee on 7.1.2015 went well, and proposals are being developed for another meeting on 28.1.2015. Nick Walker will attend. Federation constitution draft was discussed and agreed with one change: for voting, each member CC should one vote (to address imbalance if some CCs had one delegate at a meeting while other CCs had two).

Sundry works. High Vennel wonky sign has been fixed. Resealing shell road, Crook of Baldoon, taking place.

Funding News from D&GC received. Available from Nick Walker.

Cree Valley CC complaints about banners on fences, including at Culquhirk road junction. Agreed no indication for Wigtown CC to raise concerns or take action.

CC website and email switching provider 17.1.2015, to Matt Kitson's system, as current contract approaching renewal date. Email may malfunction for 24-48 hours.

**7 COUNCILLORS' ISSUES** Nothing beyond issues already discussed.

## **8 OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

Recycling collections. Joe McKeown

Joe McKeown reported problems with small bins blowing away. He had emailed D&GC but had no reply; it was unclear who he tried to contact. CCllrs were not aware of other specific complaints. D&GC had indicated originally that every effort would be made to leave emptied bins securely. CC agreed to flag up the issue with Alan Bradley D&GC DGFIRST. Cllr Geddes agreed to gather specifics and pursue further also.

## **9 NEXT MEETING**

**Monday 9 February 2015, at 7.30pm, Wigtown County Buildings**

Subsequently – 9.3.2015 at 8.00 pm, Whauphill; 13.4.2015 at 7.30 pm, Wigtown County Bldgs.